

Norfolk SEND Youth Forum



Minutes to Meeting: 17th May 2023, 6.30 – 7.30pm

Attendees:

Gabriel
Alec
Charlie
Isaac
Charlotte
Reece
Callum
Steph Askew – Senior SEND Adviser, NCC
Maxine Blocksidge – Senior SEND Adviser, NCC
Heidi – DRAGONS (Disability Real Action Group)
Danny Sweatman – Aylsham High School
Dawn Jones (Learning & Inclusion)
Belinda Coxall (Norfolk SENDIASS)
Bridget Robinson (Norfolk SENDIASS)

Apologies:

Katrina

1. Welcome & Introductions

We welcomed members, and our guests, which included a warm welcome to Mr Sweatman from Aylsham High School, who had come along to find out more about the Youth Forum.

2. **Max Blocksidge** – Max made a welcome return to the group to provide an update on the SENDFEST in June, and the NCC SEND Survey.

This is the second year that the survey has been distributed, and children and young people, their families, and professionals are invited to share their experiences. Max has previously explained to the Forum that NNC really want more children and young people to complete and share their experiences of being a child or young person with SEND, in Norfolk.

This is another way for your views and experiences to be heard!

Members were encouraged to complete the SEND Survey, as well as their parents/carers.

As a helpful reminder, please click on the link below to complete, if you have not done so yet!

Max has also provided a widget version (easy Read) of the survey which is attached to these minutes.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/about-the-local-offer/norfolk-annual-send-survey>



Take part in the Norfolk SEND Survey

**Give us 15 minutes of your
time to help make services
better for children with
special educational needs
and disabilities.**

www.norfolk.gov.uk/sendsurvey



3. Heidi – Heidi is a member of the Disability Real Action Group (DRAGONS).

<https://www.nansa.org.uk/d-r-a-g-o-n-s/>

The DRAGONS (Disability Real Action Group of Norfolk) are a group of young people with disabilities that are looking to make sure that SEND opportunities, in Norfolk, are accessible and that young people are enjoying their services.

Heidi shared a new document being produced for Norfolk County Council, an Easy Read version of The SEND Participation strategy.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/children-and-families/send/local-offer/easy-read-send-participation-strategy.pdf>

In this there is information about some participation groups which includes the Dragons and Norfolk SEND Youth Forum



Norfolk SEND Youth Forum.



Heidi shared a page about these groups and asked for more ideas and suggestions of words shown in speech bubbles.

Ideas for speech bubbles in document

- *I feel valued*
- *I feel included*
- *I feel like I belong*
- *I have fun*

Members also suggested using a different colour for font (letters) and said any colour except blue.

4. Steph Askew – Senior SEND Adviser, Norfolk County Council Topic – Home to school Transport

Steph made a welcome return to tell the group about what work had been done since her last visit to the group.

Steph told us that she had spoken to young people at a Special school called John Grant, known as John Grant ambassadors, young carers and the Youth Forum about Home to school Transport.

We shared a discussion about members experiences; and Gabriel raised the concern of very long days for learners due to the distance and travel time required to access specialist provision.

Isaac told us that he is going to have to travel for 2 hours to get to college, in September 23.

Steph said that they will be creating a new Travel survey and intends to include questions about distance and journey times.

Steph said she had come back to tell us about a SEND Passport and Information leaflet created from what young people had told her.

Travel Passport

Below is an example of what has been produced to help young people with SEND, to communicate their needs.

My travel information

flourish SEND MORFOLK

I like to be called:

Full name:

School:

Insert photo

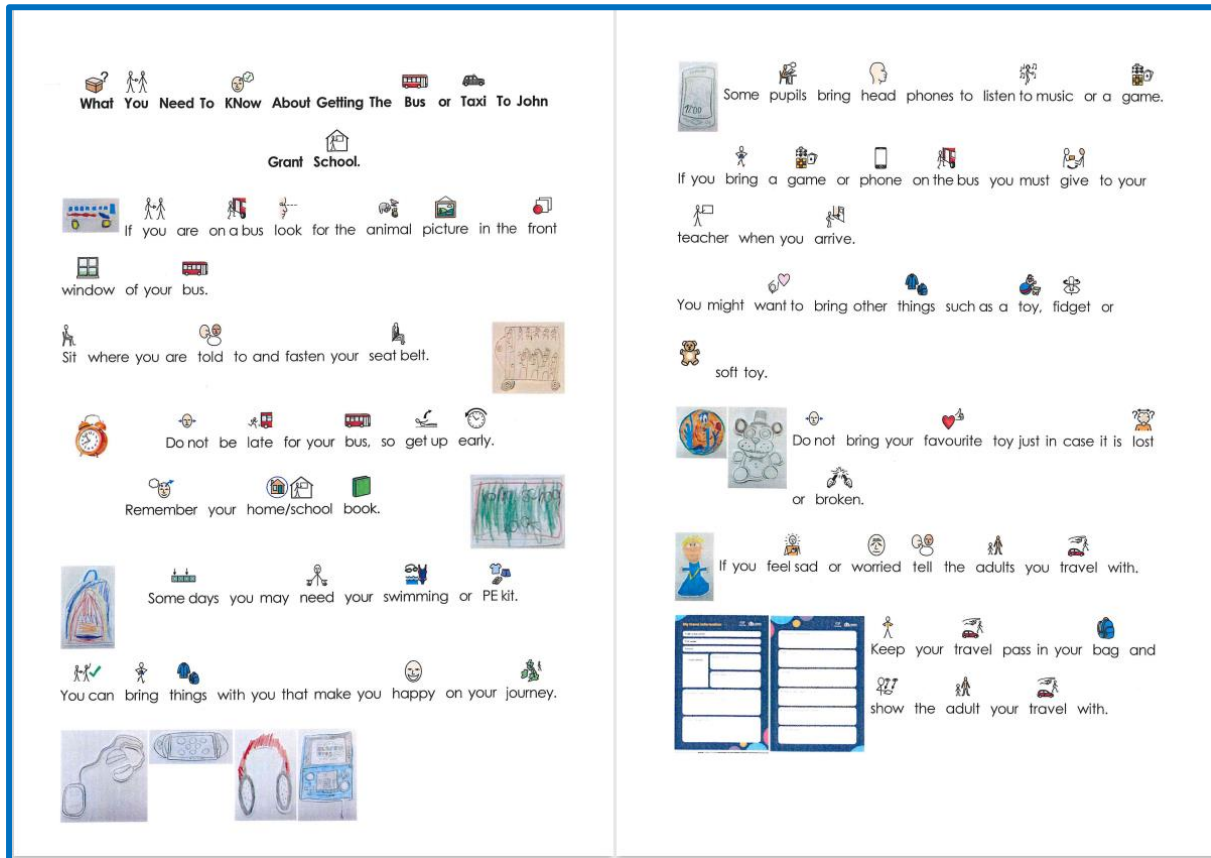
Medical Needs: Type here

Other needs: Type here

Equipment I take to school: Type here

Things I take with me: Type here

Here is a picture of the Leaflet:



Steph was keen for the group to know that what they have shared is helping to change things for the better, for young people with SEND in Norfolk, and wanted to thank everyone for their contributions.



Any Other Business:

Professional requests – members agreed to two consultations:

Andy Tovell - Norfolk SEN Expectations

Josie Raynor - Wells - NCC Inclusion Charter

Date for next face to face meeting was confirmed. This will take place at County Hall, Colman Room, Norwich on 15th July 2023, 10 – 2pm. If you have not done so, please accept or decline by sending an Email to Belinda.

Volunteers – Bridget confirmed that Isaac and Charlotte have volunteered to speak about their experience of the Youth Forum, at a Twilight session to schools on 20th June.

Bridget confirmed that Katrina submitted a poem about her experiences of being a YP with SEND and vulnerable mental health, which was shared with staff from Children's Services, NCC during Practice week.

SEND Survey – A reminder to complete the SEND Survey by the end of June.

Date and time of next meeting – Wednesday 21st June, 6.30 – 7.30pm

Thank you for attending and your contributions!!