



## **Norfolk SEND Youth Forum**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Attendees:**

Bridget Robinson (Norfolk SENDIASS)  
Dawn Jones (Inclusion & SEND, NCC)  
Belinda Coxall (Norfolk SENDIASS)  
Gabriel  
Katrina  
Isaac  
Reece  
Charlotte  
Callum  
Lily

#### **Apologies:**

Alec  
Charlie

### **Welcome and introductions**

Zoe Thompson, SENDIASS Officer, SENDIASS West Northants joined the meeting as an observer to see what we do in our Youth Forum meetings in Norfolk.

### **Cooking Workshop – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

The cooking workshop is booked for 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

There will be a choice of three menu options for the group to prepare, cook and eat and an email will be sent out for the group to vote for their preferred choice. The menu option with the most votes will be the one chosen to cook on the day.

## **SEND Participation**

Bridget talked about the Practice Week and how changes are happening, and young people will be more involved in the future in running conferences and making videos.

The next Practice week will take place in May 2025, and will have the Flourish theme of 'Understood' .

The group were interested in taking part in this, and felt it was positive that young people will be more involved. Bridget will find out more and report back.

## **Two Professional Requests to Consult with the Group**

### **Ruby Pinner – Arts Festival – Story Telling**

Ruby will be running a series of storytelling workshops, designed specifically for young people aged 18-25 with learning disabilities and Ruby would like to come and ask the group: -

- About ways they would like to be creative, if they have a particular interest in storytelling, either through writing, oral storytelling or other art forms
- Whether they are interested in getting involved, either as a participant or a facilitator?

The Group agreed to this professional consultation and said they would be interested in taking part.

Bridget has invited Ruby to the March meeting. To be confirmed. (TBC)

### **Paul Webb – Norfolk Area SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy (NASAPS) Action Plan**

Paul Webb would like to come to one our meetings :-

- To get some feedback from young people at the SEND Youth Forum around their experiences of education and learning, which will feed into our work with schools across Norfolk.

- For the SEND Youth Forum to have the opportunity to be part of some self-help and confidence building resources we are coproducing.
- To promote the Flourish Awards again for 2025 and invite two members to be judges and honoured guests

The group agreed to this professional consultation and would be interested in taking part.

This has now been confirmed with Paul Webb, and has been added to the April agenda.

### **SEND Survey**

Bridget talked about the SEND Survey (Group version) and discussed their experiences and feelings.

The group talked about their experiences and put forward their views on two questions from the survey: -

#### **Q10: Am I happy with the help I get to learn?**

**(Prompts given:** Mention good things, negatives, can be school, college, volunteering etc)

- Yes, but only since I started college (CCN). I don't know why my needs are difficult...maybe ignorance, or their passion is not there. Teachers get on with teaching the whole class, and individual needs are not a priority. At the college the teacher said your needs are easy to meet and did not understand why the schools found it difficult.
- I am at CCN (independence/employability pathway including maths and English). This is a pilot, where I have a bespoke package...I like it because the course is all about me. But I don't like the changes (room changes) which are annoying.
- I am super happy (Lapwing – tutors provide 1:1 at home). The tutors come to me and help me with everything and focus on my interests. If I had had these years ago, I would have been in a different place now. We just need different, and less not more.... less stress...less noise.... (Going on trips out and learning lots of things which she has not been able to do in the past.) they want us

to achieve their goals, but we don't fit into their boxes. In my case less is more, and I thrive on it.

- There may be a lack of staff training under reasonable adjustments under DD law.
- Person centred courses need to be offered more often but mainstream school did not suit me at all.
- I agree! I think school is still too old fashioned and need to know more kids need more help now.
- I agree because not everyone is alike in every way, everyone is different.
- In my volunteering roles, I feel supported.
- I am very happy.
- I agree because not everyone is alike in every way everyone is different.

#### **Q29: What would make my life better?**

- Having a job
- Having friends
- Finding people that like what I like
- more jobs that don't need driving licence as some people with LD will Not be able to drive at all and will rely on parents or transport, but these jobs still need a driving licence as a requirement.
- having kids be taught about disabilities in school so teachers and kids can be taught and have a better understanding.
- Having places to hang out without my mum
- Just because we are disabled some people think we shouldn't have a job. We get pushed aside just because we have a disability as well.
- More jobs that don't need driving licence as some people with LD will Not be able to drive at all and will rely on parents or transport, but these jobs still need a driving licence as a requirement.
- Support in work (reasonable adjustment requirement under DDA law and less strict drug testing as some of my drugs will give a positive result even though I'm prescribed them
- The MNR is a charity and relies on volunteer work and is not paid but yet equivalent crossing keeper on mainline do not have access to staff support unless required. You are expected to work without support.

- Having kids be taught about disabilities in school so teachers and kids can be taught and have a better understanding.
- I have been struggling and finding it hard to get a job, as some don't give much information or get back to you. I also get worried about what will happen in that job and what the workers will be like towards me.
- Applied for a job at Costa and Deepdale stores, one didn't get back and other didn't accept my CV because I wasn't old enough even though they didn't state that on the advert.
- I definitely worry about how other work people will think about me, if they hate me or aren't nice, that will worry me into coming into work.
- I also overthink a lot, so if I have talked to someone in a job I would prob overthink of what they think of me.

Bridget thanked everyone for their contributions and will pass their comments on to the relevant people.

### **Any Other Business (AOB)**

A member asked if SENDfest 2025 was happening this year and Bridget will check and update the group as soon as possible.

A members asked about the Dragons and meeting up with them. Bridget to contact the Dragons and arrange this.

Next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**Thank you for all your contributions!**