



Norfolk SEND Youth Forum

Wednesday 18th June 2025 - 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

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

Apologies

Isaac
Charlie
Gabriel
Steven
Ben

Welcome and Introductions

SEND Participation Workshop in Half-Term

Lily and Reece gave their feedback about the SEND Participation Workshop they attended: -

- Very good
- Lots of fun
- Lots of food – pre-ordered sandwiches and snacks in advance
- About 10 people attended
- Worked together and made a video with art in the background
- Time went very quickly
- Would do it again

BR said a video has been put together, and the young people will be able to see it first for their feedback and any edits before it is shared with everyone else.

BR said she had received feedback from the professionals and there will be more of these smaller events in the future. Bridget and Dawn said 'Well Done' to Lily and Reece for taking part and said they made a difference.

Flourish Awards Judging Panel

There was one place for a member of the Youth Forum to be part of the judging panel this year and five members were interested in taking part.

Charlotte's name was drawn out of the hat and Bridget will confirm all the details with Charlotte.

Review Day at County Hall – 12th July 10am – 2pm.

As in previous years County Hall has been booked for our review day to go over our work from this year and plan for the coming year.

There will be a takeaway lunch delivered, and an email will be sent out for everyone to choose which one.

Kelly (SENDIASS) and Kristina (NCC) have been invited to come along and to take some photos and do some filming to promote the work the group does. Consent forms will be emailed to everyone before the event.

If you are unable to attend in person but would like to join remotely via TEAMS details will be sent out later.

SEND Roadshow

Lily, Isaac and Charlotte have volunteered to speak via a recording/in person. Bridget will support with preparation and rehearsal and will be sending emails on Thursday. For more information, here is the link: -

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/40579/Making-Sense-of-SEND>

Professional Consultation – Norfolk SENDIASS.

Bridget has been asked by Niamh Keane, SENDIASS Manager to share a presentation to ask the group if they know who we are and what we do?

Bridget showed some slides and explained what SENDIASS meant and talked about the law: -

What is a SENDIASS – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service

The Law - Children and Families Act 2014:

32. Advice and information

(1) & (2) A local authority in England must arrange for children and young people, and parents of children, to be provided with advice and information about matters relating to the special educational needs and disabilities.

(3) The authority must take such steps for making the services known to—

(a) the parents of children in its area.

(b) children in its area.

(c) young people in its area.

(d) schools and post-16 institutions in its area.

(4) The authority may also make the services provided known to such other persons as it thinks appropriate

Chapter 2 of the SEND Code of Practice (Guidance)

It states in the Code that Norfolk SENDIASS must provide “Impartial and confidential information, advice and support”.

Bridget asked the group what they thought the meaning of impartial and confidential was: -

- Meaning of impartial – don’t take sides
- Meaning of confidential – will not share information and not allowed to talk about you without your permission.
- Only time we can break this rule and share information without your permission is if you are at risk or unsafe.

What We Do



Telephone helpline open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday for 51 weeks, ability to book own appointment via our website – booked slots for an adviser to call parent/carers, young people and professionals



Casework and one-off support



Bitesize training, resources and booklets for parents/professionals on our website



Work closely with LA and Health to inform and influence policy and practice



Attendance at outreach, community events, conferences, nursery/school/post 16+ events and more!

There is lots of information on the SENDIASS website for young people, here is the link <https://www.norfolksendiass.org.uk/young-people>

Bridget asked what the group wanted from SENDIASS and what do other young people want from the service such as: -

- Information videos you can watch on our website
- E-newsletter for young person
- Easy Read Information
- Training

The group discussed how to promote SENDIASS to young people but thought everything was aimed at parent/carers: -

- The SENDIASS e-newsletter sent to schools and families and not always shared with young people.
- The letters sent with the EHCP documents mention SENDIASS but are read by parents and not young people.
- It is difficult to know how to find things on social media if you do not know what to look for
- I found a phone number for SENDIASS and was very nervous calling. I was struggling, asked for help and I was glad I called. Young people need to know how to do this and that it will be easy.
- When I was diagnosed with autism, I received a contact list of people who could help and may be SENDIASS could be on this list.

The group did not know they could contact us direct for help i.e. about college issues, for casework etc. and Bridget asked how we could promote SENDIASS to young people: -

- Posters in schools/colleges with QR code to click on
- How about having posters in places young people would go for clubs and stuff? Like youth centres, parks, community centres?
- Family Hubs
- Maybe have drawings or pictures to make it stand out and make people go 'ah that might be for me/ related to me'
- I work in a school, and I don't think I have ever seen anything for SENDIASS
- In schools and colleges promote on screens with QR code to click on
- Young people talking about SENDIASS in podcasts/videos so other young people will be more interested if they see someone like them

After the consultation the group knew more about SENDIASS and what we do and how to contact us directly themselves.

Bridget thanked the group for their ideas and will take these away to try and improve our message to young people about how to get help and advice from SENDIASS.

Professional Request – You Decide. The Neurodevelopment Service are seeking to consult about their Transformation Project. Here is the link :-

<https://www.norfolkcommunityhealthandcare.nhs.uk/neurodevelopmental-services-transformation-project/>

Bridget said this is a new project that will offer support to young people and their families while waiting for a diagnosis for autism or ADHD as the waiting lists are very long e.g. five to six years wait.

The group agreed to this consultation especially as one young person got misdiagnosed and had no contact or information after diagnosis and a project like this would have been very helpful.

Bridget will book this consultation in for the new term meetings starting in September.

Any Other Business

Bridget reminded everyone that SENDFEST is on 20th July, and it is a ticket only event. The Youth Forum and Norfolk SENDIASS will be there so come and see us on our stand.

Employment

Lily and Charlotte to share their experiences about how difficult it is to get a job/employment. Bridget suggested discussing this at our next meeting to look at ways to share this issue with a wider audience and may be do a campaign.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at County Hall on 12th July 2025 from 10.00 to 2.00. Details to be emailed to everyone.

Thank you for all your contributions!