

# Making Participation Work



*City of*  
**BRADFORD**  
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Bradford: Understanding and Developing SEND Youth Voice

2023

Participation, Information and Advice Contract is funded by



## **Executive Summary**

The support provided to Bradford was delivered through the Department for Education funded Participation, Information and Advice Contract which KIDS delivers alongside consortium partners CDC, the NNPCF, and Contact.

A representative from KIDS<sup>1</sup> worked with Bradford's SEND transformation and compliance coordinator to develop and deliver a support package that met the acknowledged needs of the area (as identified below in the support overview).

### **Bradford's Support overview:**

1. Guidance and support to engage young people with SEND in the recruitment process for a new position in the locality 'SEND Participation Officer'.

Initially providing a range of job descriptions from other areas to support the Bradford in developing the role specification, then supporting young people from Bradford to engage in the recruitment progress. This included delivering an online session with activities to develop understanding of recruitment, YP thoughts on the role, and what sort of candidate they would like to see appointed.

2. Face to face session with practitioners from across the locality to better understand the current picture within Bradford and potential development opportunities around the voices of children and young people with SEND.

This was co-produced with the newly appointed SEND participation officer and co-delivered with young people from the Collective. There were representatives from the local authority, health, education, parent carer forums, the voluntary sector and young people with 54 attendees including operational staff and strategic leaders.

Across both elements, KIDS engaged local young people with SEND, including those from SORM and young people engaged on Healthy Minds apprenticeships.

Information about the support and content is in the subsequent sections of the report

## **Recommendations**

Throughout this report we have made recommendations based on the development and outcomes of the session, combined with over 7 years' experience working on participation with local authorities across England.

***Recommendation 1: Participation officer to use information collated to support the development, implementation, and monitoring of the action plan***

***Recommendation 2: Utilise practitioners' ideas for action to create area wide commitments to children and young people with SEND.***

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<sup>1</sup> Aisia Howard (Participation Manager) [takepart@kids.org.uk](mailto:takepart@kids.org.uk)

***Recommendation 3:*** *Utilise resources shared to support a safe online environment and young people to access this.*

***Recommendation 4:*** *Participation officer to follow up with attendees on actions and achievements.*

KIDS would like to maintain contact with the local area, being kept informed of progress against the above recommendations.