

Making Participation Work



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Tyneside: Developing voices work of children and young people with SEND

December 2023

Participation, Information and Advice Consortium

Funded by



Department
for Education

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The Making Participation Work support provided to South Tyneside was delivered through the Department for Education funded Participation, Information and Advice Contract which KIDS delivers alongside consortium partners Council for Disabled Children, the National Network of Parent Carer Forums, and Contact.

A representative from KIDS¹ worked with South Tyneside's Participation Team to develop and deliver a support package that met the acknowledged needs of the area (as identified below in the support overview).

South Tyneside Support overview:

1. Face to face session

- With young people who have SEND needs but are in mainstream school and identified as 'high functioning' from across the locality. The aim was to better understand what is important to them in their lives and support the initial development of a participation plan that will ensure young people's voices are heard moving forwards.
- Senior leaders from across the locality attended; listening directly to young people and committing to positive action to improve SEND participation across South Tyneside.

This session was planned for July 2023 but due to school workloads, was postponed and delivered in October 2023. Thirty-one young people took part from four secondary schools across the area. Three senior leaders attended the event to hear authentic voices and listen to young people's lived experiences and as a result committed to actions identified by themselves.

Information about the support delivered, and content of the event, is in the subsequent sections of this report.

Recommendations

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

Recommendation 1: Continue to build participation network across the area.

Recommendation 2: Share information on UNCRC with schools for young people

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Recommendation 3: The local area should develop a communication matrix² based on young people's preferences.

Recommendation 4: Use information to develop an 'action plan'/'ways of working' for practitioners across the locality.

Recommendation 5: Participation Team within South Tyneside Council to follow up with attendees on actions and achievements.

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

South Tyneside Council will commit to incorporating the above recommendations within the development of their participation work with children and young people with SEND. Additionally, an event to engage students with SEND who attend mainstream settings will be held yearly with an invitation to relevant senior leaders extended to ensure they have the opportunity to provide feedback to young people and hear from them directly.

² A communication matrix is a summary of your communication plan and can include elements like; who will be sharing information, audience they are communicating to, mechanism of communicating, when they will be communicating and highlight key messages to be shared.