

London Borough of Brent

The support given to Brent local area, working directly with Brent Parent Carer Forum 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 Parent Carer Forums, and Contact.

A representative from Kids⁸ worked with Brent Parent Carer Young People's Participation Consultant to develop and deliver a consultation event that met the agreed objectives as identified below in the support overview.

Brent Parent Carer Forum secured funding to commission their consultant to develop young people's participation across the area, this was commissioned by Brent Parent Carer Forum from Elevate fund main grants. The request for Making Participation Work support is part of this wider work the partnership have identified and was endorsed by Brent local authority.

Brent Support Overview:

- 1. Share interactive participation ideas to better understand young people's priorities to Brent, which supports the focus groups prior to the event.**
- 2. Produce a video to be shared with young people inviting them to the main event in November.**
- 3. Support to develop and deliver a consultation event (workshop) to engage with young people with SEND from Brent, to dive deeper into the local area, where young people feel is most important to them.**
- 4. Create an easy to read highlights write up for young people**

Kids supported 2 focus group workshops in August engaging local young people to help build relationships and to understand their priorities and provide information for a much wider participation event.

Using the information gathered from the young people we developed the 5 different activity stations, covering what was important to them, this included mental health, employment, independent living, and social activities, which we then dived deeper into at the What Matters To You participation event on Saturday 2nd November.

This event was attended by.

- 18 Young people aged 12 to 24 with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND)
- 6 siblings
- 22 parents/carers.

The event was jointly organised and delivered by Brents Parent Carer Forum and Kids charity. Urban Forest Tribe also supported the stations to help the young people to share

⁸ Heather Harper (Youth Voice Coordinator) takepart@Kids.org.uk

their interests, views, and future aspirations. We also had Brent's project officer⁹ for inclusion from Brent's council attend the focus groups and the main event to engage with young people and build relationships to start Brent's participation group in the area. There were opportunities for parents/carers to have their views heard within the event.

Among the comments from young people who attended the workshop at Chalk Hill Community Centre were:

"The best thing was talking about what we need and want".

"Everything was my favourite part."

Information about the Making Participation Work support and event content is in the subsequent sections of this report.

2.1 Recommendations

Throughout this report we have made recommendations based on the development and outcomes of the session, combined with nearly 10 years' experience working on participation with local authorities across England.

Recommendation 1: Review current careers opportunities for young people across Brent and identify where provision would meet the needs identified, or how commissioning could meet needs moving forwards.

Recommendation 2: To create a plan which outlines the council's response to embedding the voices of children and young people with SEND from this event. Including young people's comments on more opportunities for social engagement and independent living opportunities.

Recommendation 3: Develop a comprehensive strategy to engage with young people and young adults in the local area youth forum and ensure meaningful participation.

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



⁹ Natalie Bissah Project Officer for inclusion Brent Council Natalie.bissah@brent.gov.uk