



**SHOUT
OUT
FOR
SEND**



ShoutOutforSEND@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

SOFS February Meeting



Staff: Sam, Kirstie, Rob, Grace, Lucy

Food available: Pizza



Welcome, check in, food & news
5.30pm



SOFS Updates:

- SEND Inspection (Lucy P thanking us)
- I, S, C & L @ National conference
- K & W @ YIP Training
- ████████ @ SENDIAS Interviews
- Will @ SEND Board
- And more



What is Inclusion?

Make messages for leaders in Bucks



Tell the Southeast what we do

Researchers finding out from young people about SEND youth voice



Youth Summit

What our SOFS activity will be



Pippa's Accessibility Resource

Tips for adults to know



Keeping you informed

Share ideas on how the council can tell you about changes



Goodbye
7.30pm





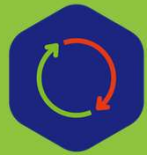
What we did today:

- Hear our **SOFS updates** from Reps in the group!
- Define what **inclusion means to you**, and the people you represent
- Give feedback to an organisation about how young people with SEND **have their voice heard** in Bucks
- **Design our Youth Summit activity**, choosing the issue that matters most to us.
- **Review and improve P's Accessibility Resource** to help adults make things inclusive at the Youth Summit
- Think about **how the council can tell you** about its progress at our meetings



SOFS Updates

- **SOFS @ the national SEND Youth Voice Conference**
- C, I, S (and L) represented us nationally
- We spoke with lots of people including Georgia Gould which was awesome



SOfS Updates

Youth Interview Panel Training!



- K and W attended the Youth Voice Bucks interview training – and now lots of us have been trained and ready to do interview panels 😊
- As always, we will think carefully about who to invite for each interview



Young Interviewer Skills



📅 Tue 17 Feb 2026 (half term)
🕒 11am - 2.30pm
📍 In-person at County Hall, Aylesbury

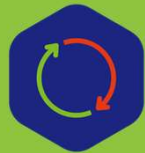
- ➡ Learn to be a confident, professional and welcoming interviewer 🧡
- ➡ Practice through role play 🗣️
- ➡ Meet young people from other Youth Voice forums 🤝
- ➡ Spend the day with the Youth Voice Bucks team 🧑‍🤝‍🧑
- ➡ Help us improve our Youth Interview Panel resources and processes 📝
- ➡ Certificate for taking part! 🏆
- ➡ Secure priority access for future youth interview panel opportunities 🏠

SOFS Updates



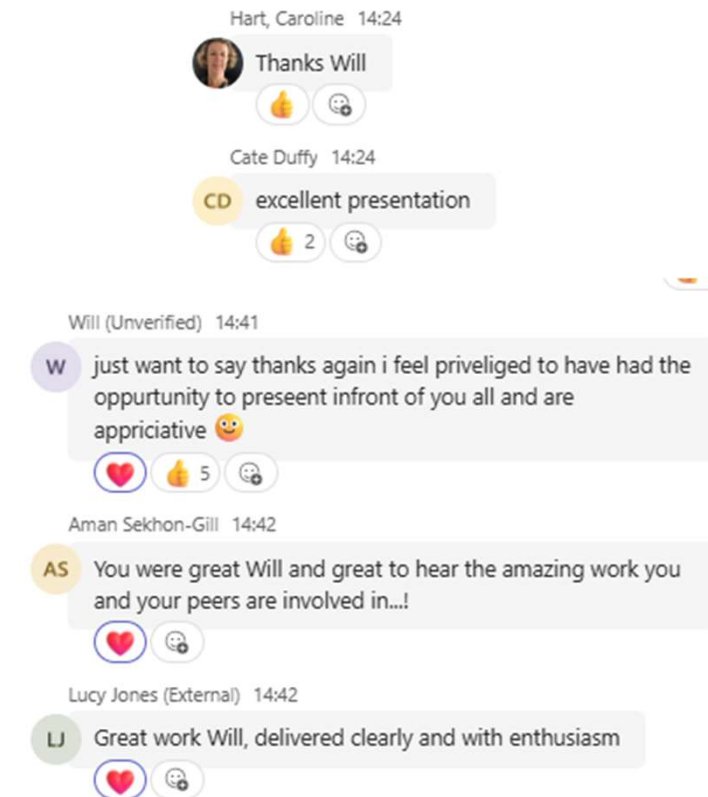
- **SENDIAS Interviews**

- JJ worked with SENDIAS and FACT Bucks recruit two new advisors to the SENDIAS team!
- SENDIAS is a service that gives info, advice and support to people struggling with the SEND system



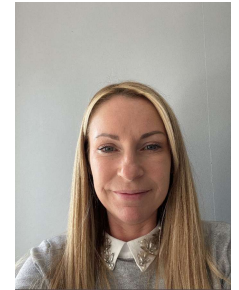
SOFS Updates

- **W presented at the SEND Partnership Board**
- W presented all our updates, and everything we have worked on over the last few months...
- And he absolutely nailed it!



SOFS Updates

SEND Inspection



- Support for young people with SEND is improving, but it's **still inconsistent**, with long waits for assessments, diagnoses, school places and clear EHCPs.
- Some services are **getting better** (like therapy, early years and choices for 16-year-olds+), but changes **aren't reaching everyone** yet.
- **Shout Out for SEND was praised** as an inspirational group – but we want clearer feedback on how our input is actually used.
- The council must **improve communication, speed up support, fix long waits** and **strengthen transitions** into adulthood.
- Inspectors told the council, we are one of the best participation groups **they had ever seen!**

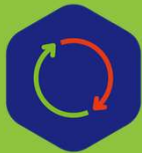


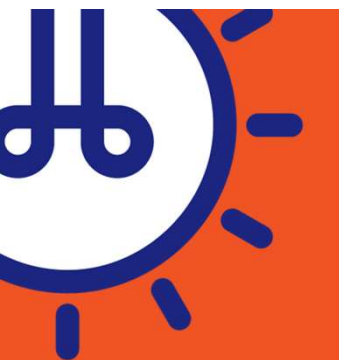
SofS Updates



Other updates

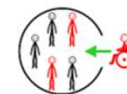
- SEND Young Inspectors:
 - R is working with Rob to visit Kew Little Pigs on 6 March
 - L will be inspecting GP surgeries soon
 - P will be inspecting a National Trust property soon
 - And we have lots of other things in mind! (We will make sure it's shared out fairly)
- A friend of ours has written a mental health blog for our website
- Sam has made friends with Oxfordshire's SEND Youth Forum – and they will be coming to a meeting soon to learn how we do things
- Sam has been advising a big project with an organisation called SESLIP, trying to learn more about SEND Youth Voice in the Southeast





Our activities today

- We have lots of tasks today that we need your help with!
- We will work in groups to share our thoughts
- The next few slides quickly say what they are about



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Youth Summit

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Pippa's Accessibility Resource

Tips for adults to know



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Tell the Southeast what we do

Researchers finding out from young people about SEND youth voice

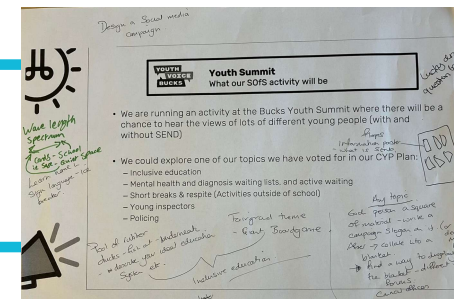
- Young people often feel listened to but not heard, especially in EHCPs, school groups and by peers.
- Sharing views sometimes leads to change, but rarely for themselves, and action is inconsistent.
- They can make a difference when given platforms, but want better feedback loops and consistency.
- Decision-making involvement varies – good in Shout Out for SEND, poor in services like health and school.
- They want more inclusive opportunities post-16/18 and leaders who listen in varied, open-minded ways.





Youth Summit

What our SOfs activity will be



- We came up with loads of creative ways to hear everyone's views, and we chose the rubber-duck lucky-dip as our main activity.
- Each duck links to a question about school and support, and we can pick whichever question we feel comfortable answering.
- We write our thoughts on a post-it and stick it on the big board so everyone can see the ideas building up.
- It's a fun, low-pressure way for all of us – with or without SEND – to share what school is really like.
- The wall of answers will help us show what matters most to young people and will help us in our April meeting working with Inclusion Teachers!

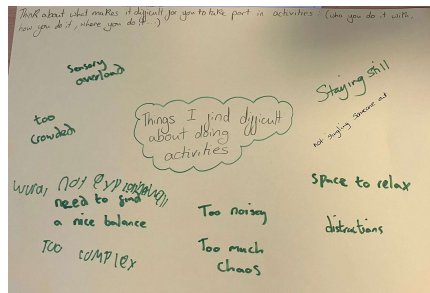




Pippa's Accessibility Resource

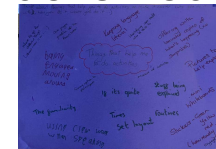
Tips for adults to know

- We shared our thoughts on what helps and doesn't help me take part in activities for P to write a guide for staff for the Bucks Youth Summit:



Things I find difficult about doing activities:

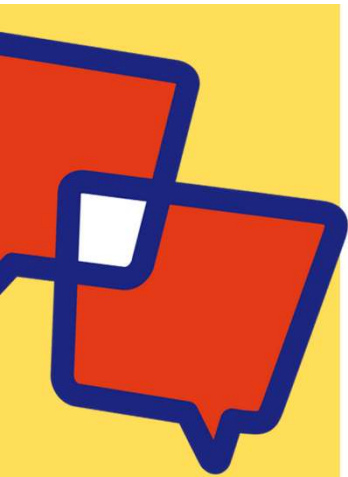
- Sensory overload
- Staying still
- Not singling someone out
- Space to relax
- Distractions
- Too noisy
- Too much chaos
- Too complex
- Need to find a nice balance
- Too crowded



Things that help me to do activities:

- Keeping language literal
- Identifying care staff who I talked to
- Offering written laminated copies of what's happening (no surprises)
- Pictures to help explain
- Mixture of activities
- Stuff being explained
- Mini whiteboards
- Routines
- Stickers: green, yellow, red (how ready to engage you are feeling)
- Times laid out
- If it's quiet
- Giving the option to participate
- Familiarity
- Using clear voices when speaking
- Being engaged and moving around
- Where to go for different things (e.g., the quiet room is...)
- One page profile of the facilitator





- This is what P made!



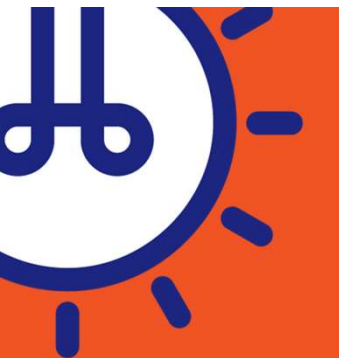
Accessibility top tips for facilitators

Conferences, workshops and summits alike can quickly become overwhelming for anyone but especially for those with disabilities. Read these top tips for making things more accessible so that we can all engage disabled people in ways that work best for them, allowing all voices to be heard.

- **Explain activities**—any activity should be explained clearly before you begin, follow up explanations can be used to break down the activity step by step to make things more manageable. Written instructions are also helpful for some who can process information better that way or struggle to hear.
- **Allow people to use their own accommodations**—whether it be sensory tools (fidget toys, headphones, sunglasses...) , their own writing equipment or an adult/ friend to help, doing this allows everyone to engage at their best and requires you to change nothing!
- **Plan alternatives**—not everyone can access and engage with things the same way. So with every activity, plan a simple alternative before hand that gives a different experience with the same outcome.
- **Give options**—if you notice someone struggling to engage, give them 2 options to get started. And don't take it personally if they don't get involved, your activity may be brilliant and they may just be having a hard time.
- **Ask questions**—simple and closed questions (yes or no answers) like 'do you mind if I write this down for you?' or 'is it easier/ better to do it like this?' can reduce anxiety for both sides of the conversation

Many thanks to Shout Out for SEND and their reps for contributing to this document, allowing it to support a wider range of people with special education needs and disabilities.

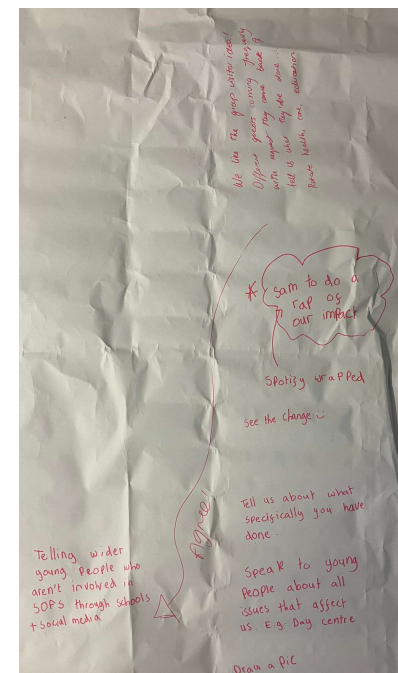




Keeping you informed

Share ideas on how the council can tell you about changes

- We like the group visitor idea different guests coming frequently with requests **they come back** and tell us what they've done... Rotating health, care and education
- Sam to do a Spotify Wrapped of our impact, where we the change
- Tell us specifically about what you have done
- Speak to young people about all issues that affect us weren't with the day centre changes)
- Telling wider young people who aren't involved in Out to SEND through schools and social media





Next meeting

- Monday 20 April – No March meeting as we are running the Youth Summit!



**SHOUT
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A dark blue silhouette of a megaphone, positioned to the left of the word 'FOR' in the central text.

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Thanks for coming!