



**SHOUT
OUT
FOR
SEND**



ShoutOutforSEND@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

November Reps meeting:

Meeting the SEND Inspectors to hear our experiences

Today's topic



- Meeting Dan & Emma, who are inspecting the council's SEND Service
 - Hearing updates on our new CYP plan
- Meeting Rob – who is leading the Young Inspectors programme
 - Hearing about the national conference we have an invite to
 - Planning our winter social!





Shout Out for SEND – November meeting

 **Monday 24 November 2025**

 **5:30pm to 7:30pm**

 **Risborough Family Centre, HP27 9HY**

Reps (TBC): Joy, Ishaan, Serena, Will, Louise, Molly, Cadence, Iona (with Delphi)

Staff: Sam, Krissie (*chef*), Lucy (*wellbeing lead*), Rob

Guests: Inspectors Dan Carrick; Emma Leavey

Food available: Chicken nuggets & vegan pizza



Welcome, check in, food & news:

Inspectors will join us at 5.30pm



SOFS Updates

CYP Plan, meet Rob, SEND Young Inspectors



Boundaries & space game

Quick game around our group agreement



Share our views (6-7pm)

Upstairs: CQC (Health, waiting times, mental health)

Main room: Ofsted (EHCPs, education options and preparing for adulthood)



Winter social planning

Inspectors leave at 7pm



AOB

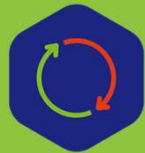
Invite to national conference



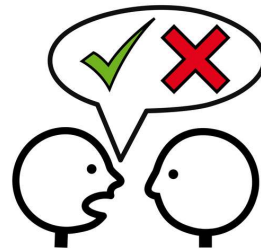
Goodbye



Icebreaker



- After sharing our news, we ran a quick icebreaker game thinking about personal space and boundaries
- We voted by walking to each side of the room, explaining our choices





SEND Young Inspectors



- We also got to meet our new team member Rob, who is leading our new SEND Young Inspectors Programme!
- We have one inspection already planned, and one of our Reps, C, is going to The Waterside to see Jack and the Beanstalk to see how accessible it is for people with SEND and give feedback





Share our view with the SEND Inspectors (Dan & Emma)


- We then split into two groups to meet the people who are inspecting Buckinghamshire Council for their SEND services. They wanted to hear the experiences of children and young people with SEND in Buckinghamshire
- In the next few slides, you can see some of the things we said, all sorted into themes





School and Education

General experiences

- There needs to be more education around SEND. Some people make jokes, especially about physical disabilities.
 - Some young people aren't tolerant of certain traits. They can be blunt or too direct, which is upsetting.
 - Teachers don't always notice what's happening and aren't firm enough when dealing with situations.
 - Teachers sometimes pick on us for "acting out" even when we're reacting to others.
- 

School and Education

Bullying & Trauma

- I was bullied by students and teachers.
- Teachers didn't let me cry for more than 5 minutes.
- Teachers called me "too sad."
- I used to call school "the hell house."
- One teacher smacked me on the head and asked the class, "What is wrong with her?" before sending me to isolation.
- My physical and mental health got worse because of school.
- I had a reduced timetable and one year of no education.
- When I was in hospital, the education was really poor.



School and Education

What Helped / Alternative Provision




- Alternative provision focuses on the majority, not everyone.
- My one-day college course is helping build me back up. Small classes make a huge difference.
- My alternative provision experience was negative - I didn't feel respected or valued.
- After 18, I got into a specialist school and things improved.
- My sixth form is great. I would have relapsed without it.



Health Services & CAMHS

CAMHS Experiences

- CAMHS don't listen. They are rude when you give feedback and they gaslight you.
 - My sister had a good experience - completely different to mine.
 - There are staff who care, but the system works against them.
 - CAMHS referred my family to social services and said my family caused my issues.
 - I used to hate CAMHS, but after getting a specialist psychiatrist, I'm finally getting the help I need.
- 



Health Services & CAMHS

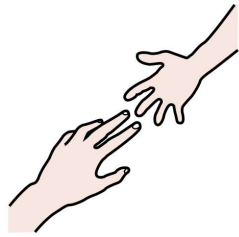
Diagnosis, Hospitals & Self-Advocacy

- We had to go private to speed up my diagnosis, but not everyone can afford that.
- At Great Ormond Street, doctors yelled at me to “get the autism out of me.”
- You always have to advocate for yourself.
- After diagnosis, I didn’t get much support.
- Masking feels like a fizzy drink that’s been shaken up.



EHCPs

EHCP Experiences



- We don't have the funding or time. An EHCP would have saved trauma.
- My EHCP hasn't been updated for five years. I'm completely different now.
- Different areas do things differently. Your views aren't always heard by the right people.
- I wasn't allowed into my own EHCP meeting. It made me feel less valued.
- Delays mean I'm one year behind my peers, and it's isolating.
- It's hard explaining my EHCP situation to people.
- My EHCP isn't updated enough.





Preparing for Adulthood

- My friends weren't given the skills or opportunities they needed.
- Transition phases haven't been very good.
- Preparing for adulthood lessons are either too vague or too specific — like a seesaw.
- Preparing for adulthood needs to reflect real life: jobs, housing, renting, job applications.
- We need more business education in school.
- Some Preparing for Adulthood sessions feel childish — they need to be more personalised.

Safety, Activities & the Local Area

Safety & Things to Do

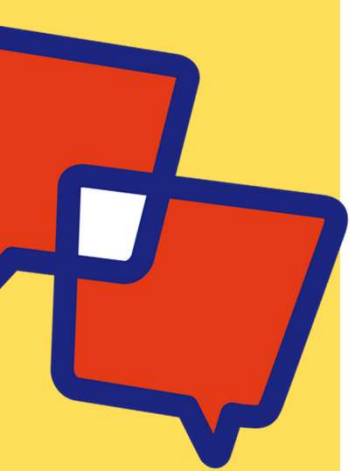
- You're only safe in Bucks if you know where the safe places are.
- Schools don't teach us much about keeping ourselves safe.
- In Aylesbury there's just bowling, the cinema, and one youth club.
- After 16 or 18, there isn't much to do.
- Some people say, "Crime is cool; cops are lame."
- There's not enough for young people to do in Bucks.



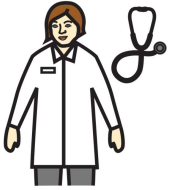
Youth Voice, Feedback & Local Offer

Being Heard & Influencing Change

- Sometimes we don't see the results of what we say.
- I told Sam we needed goals and outcomes - now we have the Young People's Plan.
- I asked for travel reimbursements at Shout Out for SEND, and now it's covered.
- We're launching SEND Young Inspectors to review activities.
- Shout Out for SEND has improved - more young people, more diversity, and people really care.
- We need better updates when visitors come.
- Some of us have not heard of the Local Offer.
- We'd love to strengthen and co-produce the Local Offer.
- The Kaleidoscope Group should be added to the Local Offer.

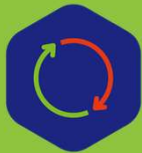


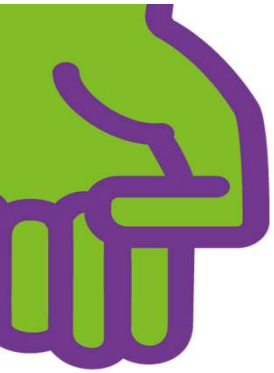
Transitions & Independence



Transitions

- Primary to secondary worked well because of transition days.
- Some of us need more support — like buddy systems or tutor support.
- My move from residential to semi-independence didn't go well. I missed my independence.
- Professionals kept changing — it was a huge disruption.





Anything Else

Other Reflections

- We're glad you're here and listening to us.
- There's not enough SEND education.
- People don't speak positively about SEND.
- People joke about things like stimming.
- People aren't tolerant; some personalities clash.
- Teachers aren't strict enough with people who bully us.
- The more delays we face, the more we're left behind in school.
- Alternative provision gives flexibility and empowers us.
- We need Section 17 aftercare.
- We're not always consulted on the things we should be.



Thanks from the Council



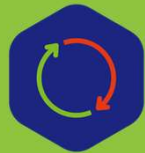
Lucy Pike:

Head of
Improvement and
Transformation

Hi SOfS! Just wanted to take a minute to say thank you so much for talking to the inspection team about your experiences in Bucks.

The inspectors were buzzing about the session the next day and thought you were all amazing. I'm not able to share the inspection outcome just yet, but I'm absolutely positive that the discussions you had were fully heard by Dan and Emma and I'm pretty sure SOfS will get a big 👍 in the final report.

Thank you for giving up your time to be part of making improvements, we couldn't do it without you. 😊🙏😊🙏😊
Lucy





Winter Social!



Our ideas for the winter social:

- **Party food**
- **Piñata**
- **Pass the parcel**
- **Party games**
- **Just dance on youtube**
- **Karaoke**
- **Quiz**
- **Bop it**
- **Board games**
- **Gingerbread biscuits**
- **Decorating biscuits**
- **Marshmallows**



What next?

- On Monday 15 December, we have our Winter Social, so join us for some festive food, fun and games!

- Thanks for coming today!

