

“Your voice can make a **difference**”

Putting the views of children and young people (CYP) and families at the heart of special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

Everyone should be involved and have a say in things that happen in their lives. That’s why we have made an action plan 2022-25 to make sure people working in SEND listen to you.

These are some examples of the ways that your voice can make a difference.

Take part in a survey

Help make a video

Help create a leaflet

Join a group of like-minded people

Help plan events

Help redesign services

Give feedback to those working with you

Attend an event



A Young Person's view

Since 2013 I have been a member of the DRAGONs. The project has helped me find my voice and has shown how much more can be done for young disabled people in Norfolk.

The project has helped me:

- Feel more comfortable expressing my own views
- Helped me become more confident
- Shown me that my voice can change things for the better
- Understand the importance of disabled young people's voices
- Disabled young people should be welcome everywhere
- That we are as important and valuable as everyone else

We've worked at making places more welcoming to disabled young people, suggested ways that disabled young people can be supported better and made sure people listen to us more.

From being a Dragon I have learnt how important it is to listen to every disabled young person. Projects like the DRAGONs are so important as it gives disabled people a chance to be listened to.

As part of the DRAGONs, I have had the chance to meet lots of amazing people who want to help and support young people with disabilities in Norfolk.

Being a Dragon is a lot of fun, especially when we get cake!

Heidi – young person.

The DRAGONs (Disability Real Action Group of Norfolk) are a group of young people with disabilities that are looking to make sure that SEND opportunities, in Norfolk, are accessible and that young people are enjoying their services.



To find out more about the Dragons visit
www.nansa.org.uk/d-r-a-g-o-n-s

Here are some of the places to give your **views**



Family Voice Norfolk - www.familyvoice.org.uk

Our aim is to improve services for our children and young people by making sure that families' voices are heard by planners and decision-makers.



SEND Youth Forum

www.norfolksendiass.org.uk/young-people/youth-forum

Norfolk SEND Youth Forum is an opportunity for young people to share their experiences and work together to improve services for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

You can join the Youth Forum and take part in regular online meetings and share thoughts and feelings on our online pinboard.



SEND Survey

www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/about-the-local-offer/norfolk-annual-send-survey

Used to get the views of as many people as possible through asking a set of questions. The responses are shown visually in graphs and charts. Results help identify what is working well and what needs to improve. The things that need to improve are set out in the [Norfolk Area SEND Strategy](#) and worked on.

You may hear the following words used when people are talking about involving you:

Co-production

This means working together and communicating as equals, understanding and valuing one another's unique insights and expertise to create a plan to bring about positive change.

Participation

This is when all are actively encouraged and supported to work together to improve services and have an equal opportunity to contribute and respond in the sharing of ideas and decision making.

Consultation

This means considering the views, opinions and feedback of all those involved, using these to form next steps and actions to bring about improvement and positive change.

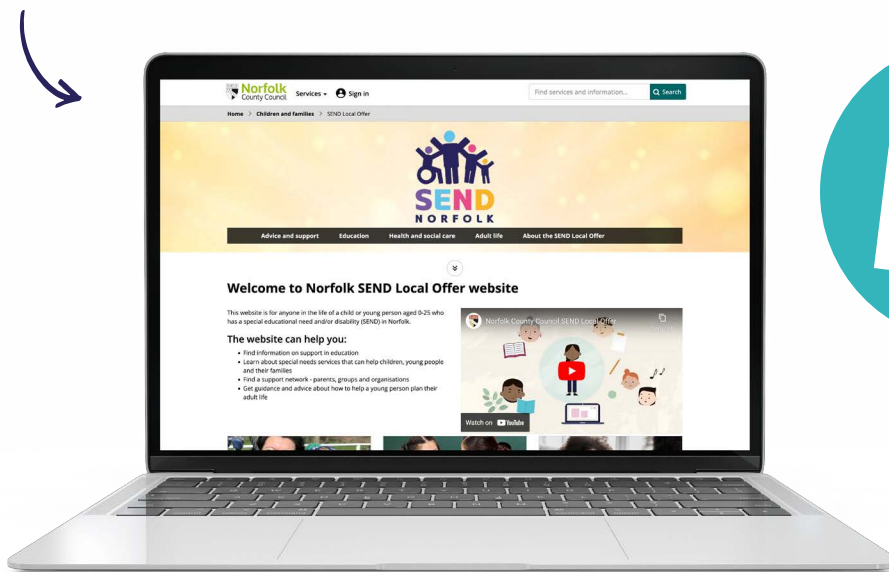
Young people have said this is important so that...

- Services know how to be open and welcoming
- CYP and families can use their voice
- People that use services get as much out of them as they can
- Communication is improved
- People are listened to, and action is taken

When we talk about services we mean things such as schools, colleges, health services, home-to-school transport and social services.

How everyone can get involved

There are opportunities for CYP and families to get involved, find out more using the link below



Visit our SEND Local Offer website for more information
www.norfolk.gov.uk/send