

Making Participation Work

Sutton: Engaging Young People in the Local Offer

July 2021



Making Participation Work



Making Participation Work is Funded By



Department
for Education

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1. KIDS Foreword

KIDS have been jointly commissioned with Council for Disabled Children (CDC), Contact and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) to deliver a national programme called [Making Participation Work](#) (MPW). This programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and focuses on enabling the effective participation of children and young people (CYP) with a special educational need and/or disability (SEND).

In June 2021, a representative from Sutton local authority contacted KIDS after attending a CDC shared support session where the MPW offer was explained. It was identified that KIDS could support Sutton to gather feedback from young people around their local offer¹. To support in the development and delivery of the project KIDS engage with young people from across England and have an evolving collective of CYP who support this work.² Groups are given opportunities to participate in activities that aim to upskill CYP, enhance their knowledge and understanding of the wider issues affecting CYP with SEND and empower them to exercise their right to be heard.

This report will document the process and delivery of the session attended by young people at Orchard College in July 2021 and offers constructive conclusions and recommendations to further develop Sutton's local offer.

¹ As per the Children and Families Act 2014 (section 30) the local authority must keep its Local Offer under review and make provision for the consultation of children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers

² The Collective is an assembly of forums and participation groups supporting children and young people with SEND to have a voice across England and from outside of KIDS services, funded by Department for Education.

2. Executive Summary

This support offer was delivered through the Department for Education funded Making Participation Work project which KIDS delivers alongside consortium partners CDC, the NNPCF and Contact.

Representatives from KIDS³ worked with local offer coordinator⁴ for Sutton local authority to develop and deliver a support package that met the acknowledged needs of the area (as identified below in the support overview).

Sutton support overview;

1. Guidance and support around working with CYP and legislation to support participation.
2. A young people's session to gather feedback on Sutton's local offer

Information about the session content is in the following section of this report.

2.1 Recommendations

Throughout this report we have made several recommendations based on;

- Feedback and information gathered from young people during the session.
- Our extensive experience of delivering participation including over 5 years working on participation with local authorities through this DfE funded programme
- Input from CYP from across the MPW Collective

Recommendation 1: Local offer officer to continue to build the relationship with the college and YP moving forward from this work.

Recommendation 2: Take action and make the changes to the local offer based on the feedback from young people

Recommendation 3: News and events to publish and promote should be engaging for YP.

Recommendation 4: Ensure opportunities that young people can be involved in are shared; enabling voices of a wider cohort to be heard.

KIDS would like to maintain contact with the Local area, sharing appropriate resources and support from across the MPW network and be kept informed of progress against the above recommendations.

³ Aisia Howard (participation manager) and Heather Harper (participation coordinator) - takepart@kids.org.uk

⁴ Samantha Clark (local offer coordinator) - localoffer@sutton.gov.uk

3. Support Offer

Development

The team at KIDS were contacted by Samantha Clark; Sutton's Local Offer Coordinator, after attending a CDC shared support session where the MPW offer was explained. She described the ongoing issue with the collection of YP views on Sutton's local offer. It was agreed that KIDS could provide bespoke support, through the MPW programme; engaging a group of local YP in appropriate activity. An outline agenda for the engagement opportunity (appendix 1) was developed based on KIDS' previous experiences of involving CYP in the local offer and Sutton's identified priorities. This, along with KIDS training agreement was authorised and agreed by Samantha.

KIDS identified opportunities for Samantha to build relationships with 'gate keepers' improving her future development work with CYP. Following on from this she contacted a local college⁵, a date was set for the workshop⁶ and together coproduction on content continued.

Throughout the development of this support package, KIDS have offered guidance around the legislation that supports participation as well as other opportunities for development across the area; with specific references to the SEND Code of Practice; 0-25 section 4 on the Local Offer. With the support of the college to initiate this work directly with young people who attend their setting, opportunities to develop this further should be maximised.

Recommendation 1: Local Offer officer to continue to build the relationship with the college and YP moving forward from this work.

Developing and maintaining this relationship could prove to be fruitful in on going work on the local offer. This should include feedback to young people with updates of developments and improvements to the local offer from their input. Sending information in accessible formats will also facilitate a more responsive relationship.

KIDS sent the college a CYP friendly agenda (appendix 2) and also a workbook in advance of the day to improve engagement during the workshop and support the working relationship with YP/college. The workbooks were coproduced with CYP from KIDS Collective (workbook available on request) and designed to support CYP's understanding, allow time to process thoughts and have proved to be very successful since KIDS adopted this approach.

⁵ Orchard College, Mavis Pert building, Carshalton College Campus, Nightingale Road, SM5 2EJ

⁶ Thursday 8th July 2021 0930-1430

3.1 The Young People's Workshop

The session was delivered on the 8th July 2021 at Orchard College by 2 KIDS staff and 2 young people from KIDS Collective. 6 young people with varying SEND needs attended the session aided by their support staff. Session slides can be found at appendix 3.

The workshop included questions to gather CYP understanding of participation and why it is important they are involved/included.

All responses to these activities and questions can be found in appendix 4.



This first question aimed to identify key priorities for YP and order them for importance. This could support the Local Offer Coordinator in developing an action plan based on the importance placed on subjects by YP.

Q1 - 'what is important to them', these were grouped in to the following categories with some examples from YP below.

- Health
 - *Be healthy, access to gyms, access to sexual health*
- Education
 - *Good grades, Finish university*
- Friends and Relationships
 - *Meeting friends, finding a partner, stop being single, sharing things*
- Having fun
 - *Cinema, bowling, spend time with family and friends, out for meals*
- Getting a job
 - *CV skills, Knowing about money, apprenticeships, interview skills*
- Independent living
 - *Supported living, to live by myself, shopping, cooking, being organised*

We scored the above headings for importance. This was showed by taking steps forward across the courtyard⁷;

1 step – you think about it a little

3 steps – you think about it sometimes

5 steps – you think about it often

Friends and relationships, having fun and independent living all the CYP took 5 steps forward showing that these headings were most important to them.

Recommendation 2: *Take action and make the changes to the local offer based on the feedback from young people*

This recommendation is supported by SEND Code of Practice:0-25 years which states:

*“local authorities **must** involve.....young people with SEN or disabilities in:..... reviewing the local offer, including by enabling them to make comments about it”*

The information gathered in all elements of the session (appendices' 4-6) can be used by the coordinator to develop, change and improve the local offer based on young people's comments. It would be beneficial to log comments, changes and feedback for future reference and evidence.

CYP were asked if they had heard, seen or used the local offer.

- 3 out of the 7 YP had heard of the local offer
- 1 had seen it,
- None of them had used it.

KIDS gave a description of the local offer and showed/demonstrated it on the big screen.

The group engaged in activities designed to promote thinking around the local offer website, how it could be better and how it can be used by others.

The following is a summary of each activity and the information gathered.

⁷ Activity idea developed by YP from The Collective as part of their local area development work.

3.2.1 Evaluating Sutton's local offer home page

The home page was printed on to A2 so CYP could see it and write/draw/circle what they liked and didn't like. (appendix 5 for all comments)

What the CYP liked:

- Liked the pictures and felt the images were suitable
- Easy to read with clear titles and pictures
- What is an EHCP? CYP felt this was a good page on there

What the CYP didn't like:

- It looks complicated
- Too wordy
- Heading 'Sutton's local offer' needs to be bigger
- There were some words the CYP did not understand e.g. 'High needs block review' and 'SENCO' *what does this mean?*
- CYP felt the 'vision' doesn't really say what the local offer is and they could not understand the word 'ambitious'



3.2.2 Preparing for Adulthood

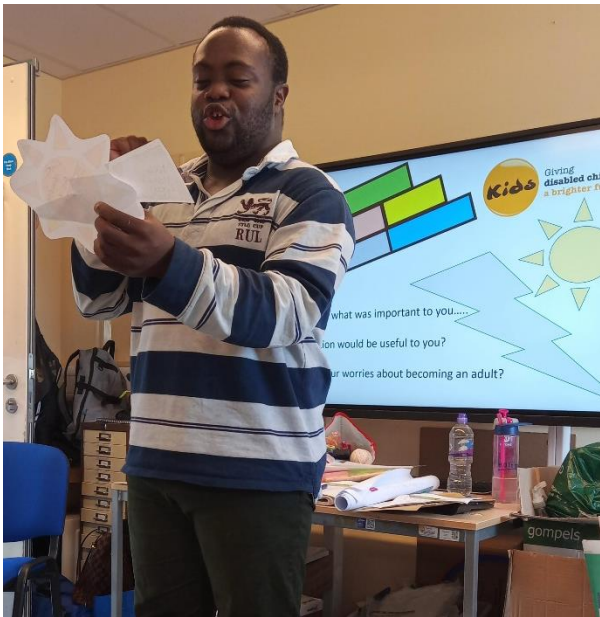
The CYP were asked what is most important to them when preparing for adulthood (Sunshine's) and what are their worries about becoming an adult? (Lightning's)

Sunshine's

- Friends, family, college
- My future
- Living independently
- Supported living
- Stop being single
- Finish university
- Being healthy
- Having fun



- Clubs and day trips
- Happiness (e.g. volunteering)
- Relationships, getting a boyfriend



Lightning's

- Money
- Cooking
- Getting in relationship
- Getting married
- Having children
- Paying bills/ financial issues
- Driving
- Travelling
- Going to university
- Health e.g. dental hygiene
- Finding a job

3.2.3 Create a local offer page



This was an activity for the young people to create their own page for part of the local offer.

Young people started developing pages for; their college, a clubbing / social event and talking about other pages / content they would like.

Further supporting **Recommendation 2** – SEND Code of Practice:0-25 years also highlights that YP should be engaged in “*planning the content of the local offer*”.

Taking action on YP feedback and ideas in this activity and the following will begin to satisfy this recommendation.

3.2.4 Evaluating Sutton's local offer news and events page

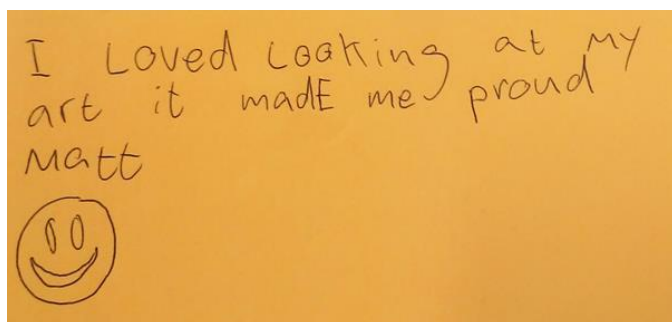
Young people were shown the news and events page on the big screen and they also had it printed out on to A2 so they could write/draw/circle what they liked and didn't like

Some of the group struggled to identify news and events relevant to them and on reflection only 2 out of the 10 items were for YP.

Suggestions for improvement to this area included; audience identification, visual elements and more for young people! (all YP suggestions in appendix 6)

Recommendation 3: *News and events to publish and promote should be engaging for YP.*

One YP had recently visited an exhibition of his and other students art work. This was a celebration event and the group felt this would have been a good feature in this area.



'I loved looking at my art, it made me proud' Matt - young person

Support staff and the young person have offered to write a piece to be included in this section of the local offer.

4. Session Evaluation

Generally YP enjoyed the session and the activities, with support staff and the local offer coordinator feeding back positively.

Young people highlighted their favourite parts of the day as;

- Benefits of participation
- Making changes
- Meeting all of you.

Appendix 7 shows all YP responses to evaluation work.

"...it was great to get them involved and we will definitely help out again"

College support staff

Recommendation 4: *Ensure opportunities that young people can be involved in are shared; enabling voices of a wider cohort to be heard.*

The 2 YP from the Collective who supported the session felt that it was ‘fun’, ‘engaging’ and that it was ‘great to see others involved in local offer work’

“Many thanks for helping with Sutton local offer, I found the day really useful and have already implemented some changes”

local offer coordinator



5. Conclusion

KIDS felt there was good engagement throughout the session from the CYP and as a college they are keen to continue to support the development of the local offer.

Moving forwards, Sutton should work to consider and action the recommendations within this report.

KIDS would like to maintain contact with the LO, sharing appropriate resources and support from across the MPW network and be kept informed of progress against the above recommendations.

We would like wish Sutton Local Authority luck on their participation journey and look forward to hearing about their progress in the future.

Appendix 1

Participation session: Date: Thurs 8th July 2021 Sutton

ADDRESS - Mavis Pert Building
Carshalton College Campus
Nightingale Road
SM5 2EJ

- **Sign In**

- **Welcome and Introductions** Icebreaker

- **Why are we here and what we hope to achieve?**

- **What is the local offer?**

Q's – Heard / seen / used LO + Videos

- **What is participation?** Why is it important you are involved? Who wants to be involved? |

- Break + Energiser

- **Young people's involvement in the Local Offer.**

- **What is important to you?**

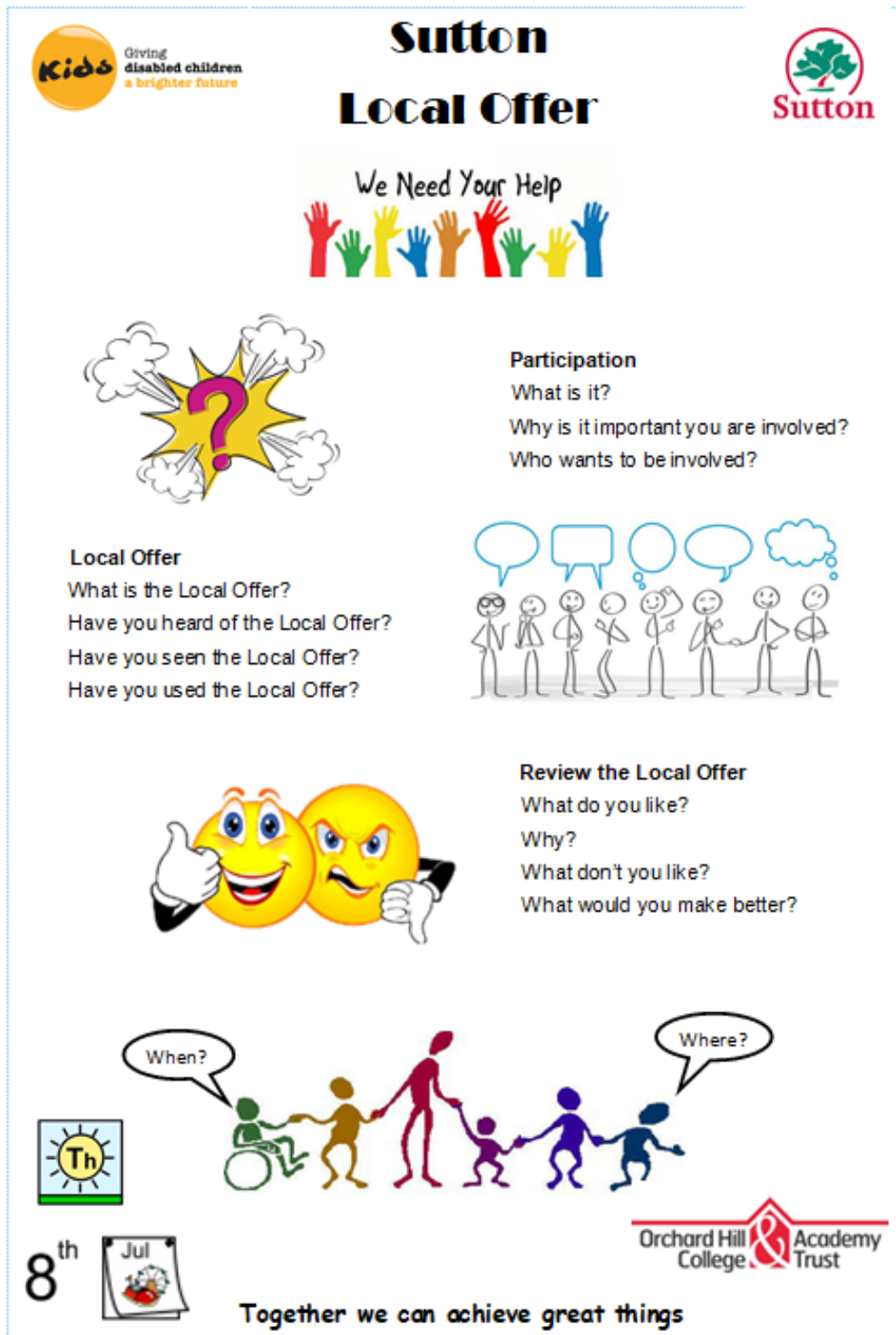
- **Lunch**

- **Local offer activities.**

- **Let's get creative!** Posters to share what you have been doing

- **Feedback and final thoughts / What next!**



Finish @ 1430




Kids Giving disabled children a brighter future

Sutton Local Offer


We Need Your Help




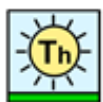

Participation
What is it?
Why is it important you are involved?
Who wants to be involved?



Local Offer
What is the Local Offer?
Have you heard of the Local Offer?
Have you seen the Local Offer?
Have you used the Local Offer?



Review the Local Offer
What do you like?
Why?
What don't you like?
What would you make better?



Orchard Hill College & Academy Trust

Together we can achieve great things

Appendix 3

Sutton Local Offer

Thurs 8th July 2021

Together we can achieve great things

Orchard Hill College & Academy Trust

Who are KIDS?

KIDS Giving disabled children a brighter future

- KIDS are a charity who work with children and young people aged 0–25 years who have a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) and their families.
- We are making sure that young people are given the chance to be heard and have a say on matters that affect them.

Sutton approached us to gather your views on the Local Offer

Who are we?

KIDS Giving disabled children a brighter future

Aisia, Heather, Bethan, Carys

HELLO!

Icebreaker

KIDS Giving disabled children a brighter future

- Say your name
- Pull a face or strike a pose showing how you feel about today

Plan of the day.....

KIDS Giving disabled children a brighter future

- 1: Participation
- 2: What is the Local Offer
- 3: Review Local Offer

What is Participation?

KIDS Giving disabled children a brighter future

Can you tell us anymore?

Sometimes participation is called YOUTH VOICE.

having a voice

team work

Benefits of participation

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Why is it important you are involved?!

having a voice

making a change

Can you think of any others?

Benefits

Getting involved

KIDS Giving disabled children a brighter future

Making decisions on what information is important to you.....

Who should be involved in making decisions?

I'D RATHER NOT

Maybe

Do you want to be involved?

ME ME ME

What is important to you?

Kids Giving disabled children a brighter future

Young people have told us these things are important in their lives.

- Education
- Health
- Friends and Relationships
- Having Fun
- Getting a Job
- Independent living

Energizer


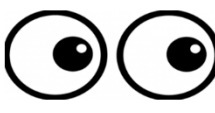

Kids Giving disabled children a brighter future

1 step – you think about it a little
 3 steps – you think about it sometimes
 5 steps – you think about it very often

WE CAN DO IT

Local Offer

Kids Giving disabled children a brighter future

Have you heard of it?  Have you seen it?  Have you used it? 

What is a local offer?

Kids Giving disabled children a brighter future

The **Local Offer** is where you can find information about health, education and social care services for children and young people from 0 - 25 years old who have a special educational need or disability.

- Local services
- Health
- Education
- Social Care
- Information

Sutton's Local Offer Home Page

Kids Giving disabled children a brighter future

Let's look at Sutton's Local Offer Home Page

Does it tell you what it is??



Colour Jacuzzi

Kids Giving disabled children a brighter future

What makes you angry?

What is your favourite food to eat?



When Boris says we can go on holiday, where would you like to go?

What is your favourite TV programme?

Plan of the afternoon.....

Kids Giving disabled children a brighter future

- 1: Preparing for adulthood
- 2: Your service page
- 3: Page review

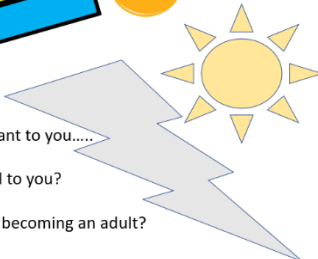



Preparing for Adulthood

Kids Giving disabled children a brighter future

Think back to what was important to you.....

- What information would be useful to you?
- What are your worries about becoming an adult?





Create a local offer page



What are the best things?

What facilities are there?

What is on offer?




Page review: News and Events




Look at the News and Events page:

- What do you like?
- Why?
- What don't you like?
- What would make it better?




Feeding back to others




What have we talked about?

What have you enjoyed?

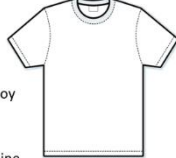
What is happening next?



Tops and Pants



PANTS – Any thing you did not enjoy

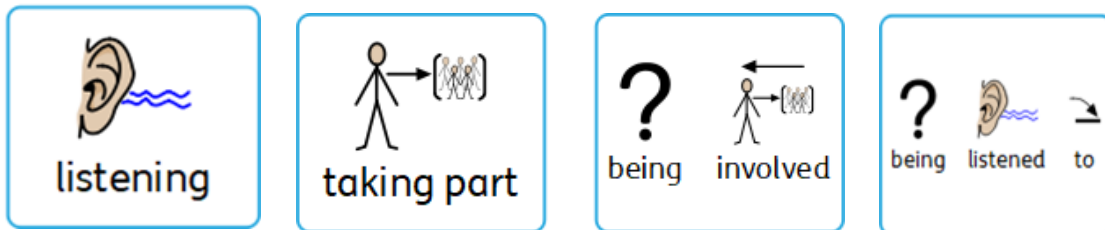


TOPS – Any thing you did enjoy

Peg them on our evaluation washing line

Appendix 4

YP top choices for 'what is participation?'....



Top choices for 'benefits of participation'....



What is important to you?

Please write or draw what is important to you under these headings

- Health** (with red cross icon)
- Having Fun** (with bowling ball icon)
 - crema
 - Pharpe Parts
 - Chessington world Of Adventres
 - Restants
 - Go out go away
 - Fast Food
- Education** (with school icon)
 - Dogs walking
- Independent living** (with house icon)
 - Living with your friends Of boyfriend
- Friends and Relationships** (with two people icon)
 - Go out with friends
 - Boyfriend boyfriend
- Getting a Job** (with two people icon)
 - Have a he IP

Please write or draw what is important to you under these headings

- Health** (with red cross icon)
 - eat healthy
 - Appels
- Having Fun** (with bowling ball icon)
 - Going to the beach
 - Going to the gym
 - performance (Kilometers)
- Education** (with school icon)
 - Studying
 - Doing well in exams
 - Good grades
 - Art & Design (Creative)
 - Mechanics
 - Getting course work done
 - Want to be a pilot
 - Patterns
 - Training on to paper
- Independent living** (with house icon)
 - Housework
 - Shopping
 - Spending money
 - Cooking
 - Money skills
 - Opening accounts
 - Being organised
- Friends and Relationships** (with two people icon)
 - Meeting people
 - Fun + jokes
 - Seeing family (sister)
 - Sharing things
 - Going to friends
 - Quality time
 - Spending time with off by
- Getting a Job** (with two people icon)
 - CV Skills
 - Art & Design
 - Computer skills
 - Knowing about money
 - Qualifications CA levels
 - Mechanics
 - Getting apprenticeships
 - Job skills

Please write or draw what is important to you under these headings

- Health** (with red cross icon)
 - Be healthy
 - Eating healthy
- Having Fun** (with bowling ball icon)
 - meet friends
- Education** (with school icon)
 - Finish University
 - Study english
 - Study maths
- Independent living** (with house icon)
 - Flat
 - supported living
- Friends and Relationships** (with two people icon)
 - meeting friends
 - finding a partner
 - stop being single
- Getting a Job** (with two people icon)
 - getting a partner
 - going to work and get paid

Please write or draw what is important to you under these headings

RosKayleigh Fadder

- Health** (with red cross icon)
 - Sexual Health center
 - the hessington c.c.
 - bowling
 - pub going
 - out meals
 - Spending my family
- Having Fun** (with bowling ball icon)
 - crema
 - trons w. un...
 - foot ball
 - cooking
 - sports
- Education** (with school icon)
 - Nescot college supported living
 - Living by myself
- Independent living** (with house icon)
 - Living by myself
- Friends and Relationships** (with two people icon)
 - Kerry med path
 - procesa
 - my boyfriend ryan
- Getting a Job** (with two people icon)
 - I like working
 - animals

Scoring importance to you.

- Health
- Education
- Friends and Relationships
- Having fun
- Getting a job
- Independent living

1 step – you think about it a little

3 steps – you think about it sometimes

5 steps – you think about it often

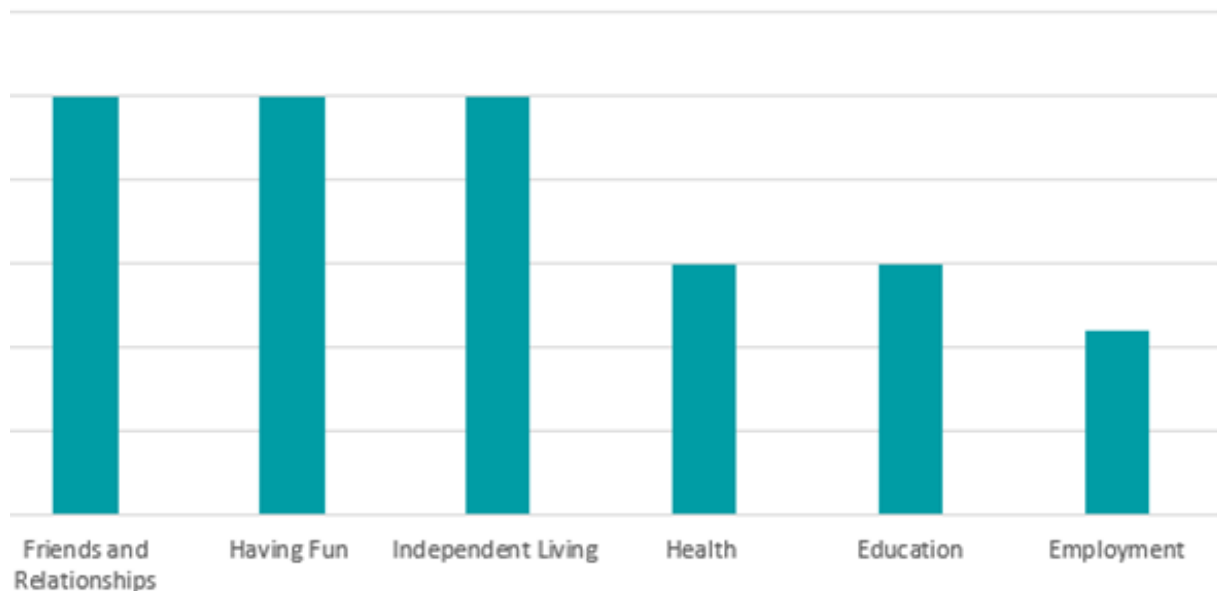
Friends and relationships, having fun and independent living all the CYP took 5 steps forward showing that these headings were most important to them.

Health 2 CYP took 5 steps forward, 1 took 3 steps forward and 2 took 1 step forward.

Education 1 CYP took 5 steps forward and 3 other CYP took 3 steps.

Job 3 CYP took 1 step forward, 1 took 3 steps forward and 1 CYP took 5 steps forward.

Total No.of Steps taken by the group



Appendix 6

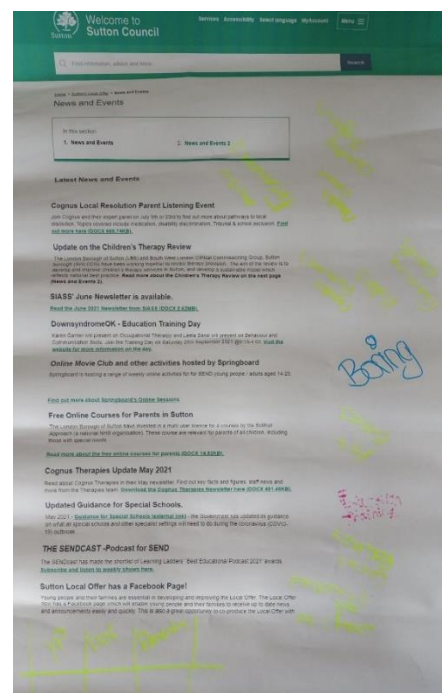
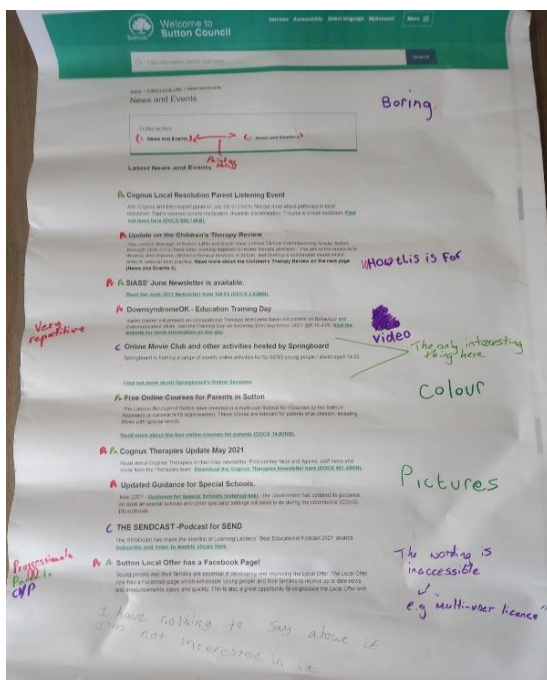
News and Events page suggestions

What works:

- They liked the 'online movie club and other activities hosted by springboard'

Suggestions:

- Needs pictures
- Videos would be good
- They would like to see gaming events
- It's boring when it should be a fun page
- They are interested in music festivals
- Needs some colour so it looks interesting
- Catchy slogans
- They would like to see art events
- It was suggested that there was a separate events page for CYP/Professionals and parents.
- There was only one event listed that they would be interested in
- There were only 2 events listed for CYP out of 10 events listed



Appendix 7

YP evaluation comments

Tops

'Making changes'

'Benefits of participation'

'Meeting all of you'

'Improving things for young people'

'Learning what people like'

'Talking to you'

'I enjoyed the colouring in the workbook'

Pants

'I don't think it would be helpful to me it was boring honestly' YP commenting on the local offer