

East Berkshire SEND Participation Event

22nd October 2019

Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust



East Berkshire
Clinical Commissioning Group

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Slough
Borough Council



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A consortium between



contact For families with disabled children

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This report will document the process of development and delivery of the SEND (special educational needs and disability) Participation Event held in East Berkshire on the 22nd October 2019, and offer constructive conclusions and recommendations to further develop work in the area.

This event was requested by NHS East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) through the Department for Education (DfE) funded Making Participation Work (MPW) project which KIDS delivers alongside consortium partners Council for Disabled Children (CDC) and Contact.

Introduction

NHS East Berkshire CCG contacted KIDS to consult on how to progress SEND participation across the three local authorities (LA's) of Bracknell Forest, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) and Slough. After initial discussions with the CCG leads, local area practitioners, and other key partners, key outcomes and the preferred approach was identified. It was felt that a multi-faceted approach would be needed. Initially a small group of young people from across the three LA's (later named Event Makers) were engaged to highlight key topics relevant to increasing participation in the decision making process by young people with SEND. They also explored how this could be delivered in a focused workshop format during a participation event in order to gather views from a wider audience of SEND young people to inform local decision making.

The KIDS participation team (staff and young people with SEND from KIDS co-delivery team) travelled to East Berkshire to work with the eight Event Makers and were tasked to help develop a participation event. The desired outcomes were to gather young people's voices on the key topics, (identified and coproduced with the Event Makers and practitioners), to promote change based on young people's input into:

- What is participation?
- What are the barriers to participation and what can be done to overcome these?
- What is important to young people and what information do they want?
- Transition experiences
- How do young people want to participate and work with the LA's?
- Evaluation and feedback on the event

There were two co-produced Event Maker early evening sessions held for event planning, which were also supported by additional group practitioner meetings. The practitioner meetings included representatives from NHS CCG, LA's, Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT) and Bracknell Forest Parent Carer Forum with a view to this event positively impacting youth voice across and informing change. This group agreed the criteria for the event should be young people who were 11 years old or older and that they should all have an EHC Plan.

Overview of Event

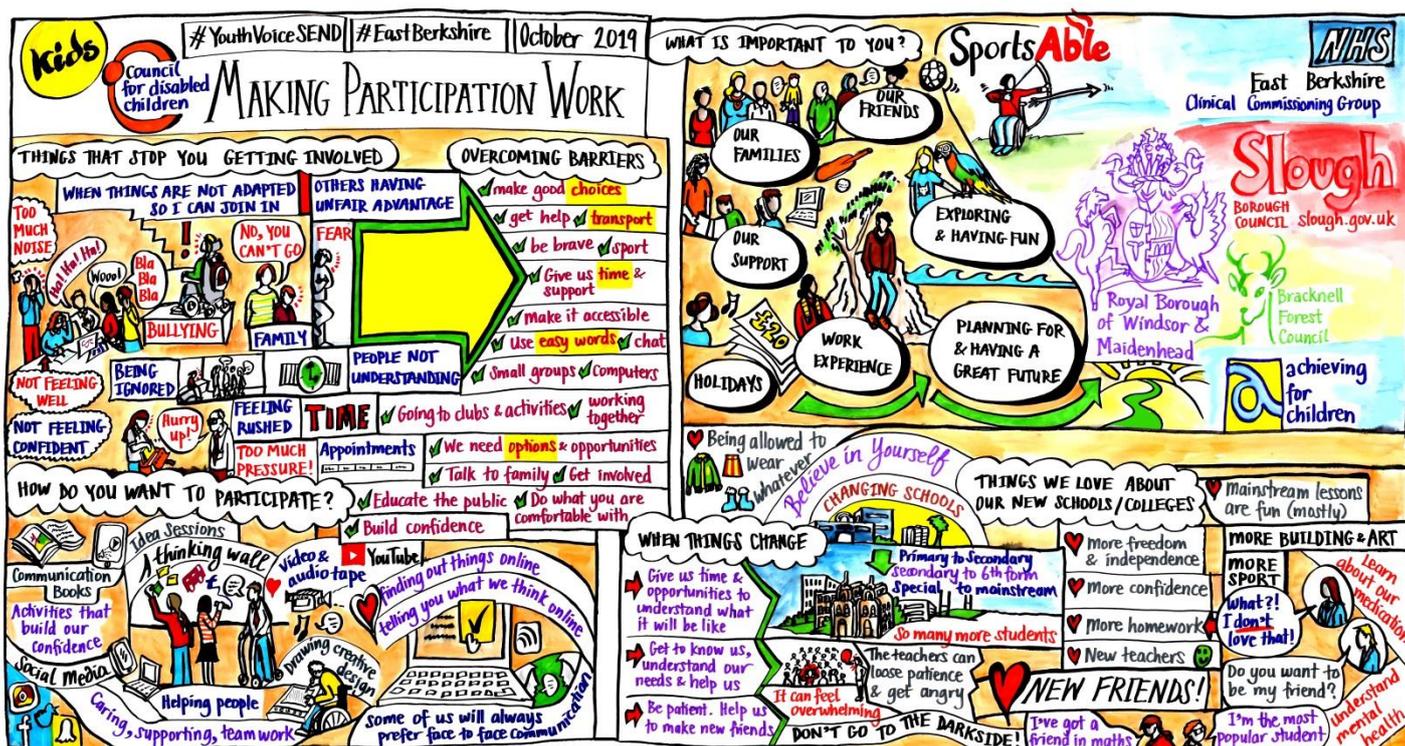
The event itself was held at Sportsable Disability Sports Club in Maidenhead on the 22nd October 2019 and was a half-day session co-delivered by Event Makers alongside the KIDS participation team.

23 young people attended from across the East Berkshire and offered their views and opinions on the six key areas mentioned - What is participation, Barriers to participation, How we want to participate, What's important to me, Transition experience and finally Event feedback.

The young people were supported by staff from their educational settings, although they were encouraged to be as independent as possible. The schools that attended were Manor Green School, Kennel Lane School, Ditton Park Academy and Edgbarrow School. All young people were given a workbook in advance of the day to support their experience at the event. This resource was coproduced by the KIDS participation team and forwarded to all support staff the week before the event to ensure the young people were prepared.

The event was also supported by graphic facilitator, Pen Mendonça. Her illustration below captures some of the feedback from young people (see **Appendix 1** for a full page version). The event was also filmed and a short video showing an overview of the day can be found [here](#).

Practitioners from LA's, education and health also attended and spent some time together (whilst the young people were engaged in the activities) to also consider current practices for SEND participation and existing opportunities for young people to engage in decision making within their LA areas. Please see **Appendix 2** for this local area breakdown.



Making Participation Work in East Berkshire, Achieving for Children, Kids, Council for Disabled Children, Sportsable, October 2019. Graphic facilitation by www.penmendonca.com @MendoncaPen

The following recommendations will be supported by evidence presented within the report, the appendices and the professional's experience which has been gathered through the MPW project.

1. Consider the barriers to engagement in participation opportunities highlighted and consult further (see page 7).
2. Use key points highlighted by young people to effectively offer information through the Local Offer (see page 12).
3. Give more comprehensive information to young people and their families regarding the transition opportunities (see page 13-14).
4. Each LA should have its own accessible processes for consulting with SEND young people, informed by young people. Careful thought should be given to establishing SEND focused systems, such as local SEND Youth Voice Groups, to work alongside and contribute to more universally focused processes (see page 17).
5. Development of a Pan Authority working group for stake holders and professionals (see page 18).
6. SEND Youth Voice should link in with consultation and coproduction work undertaken with Parent Carer Forums for professionals to review their mechanisms for effective stakeholder management (see page 18).

The Event Makers

The Event Makers were selected by local area representatives and were (in most instances) accompanied by support workers to two development and planning sessions facilitated by KIDS at the Windsor Youth Centre.

The sessions hoped to:

- Develop the Event Makers' understanding of participation
- Help them identify important information that should be shared with other young people
- Generate outline points for the event day agenda

Along with KIDS staff members, the facilitators' also included young people with SEND as part of the KIDS team who were able to act as role models in delivering activities and sharing information and experiences.

The development sessions ran well with Event Makers interacting and sharing their opinions. As in other settings, a slow start soon picked up with some good icebreaker activities and topics to interest the group. The participation team from KIDS were able to jointly support with activity ideas that the group tested out, and then selected a few to include in the event day. Event Makers also began to discuss

who would like to lead different elements on the day, an activity they reported as being very encouraging and motivating.

A number of the Event Makers became confident and were then keen to lead on activities, whilst a few felt less so, yet still wanted to access activities during the event day. Those who accessed the activities were able to support with information which was helpful, and those who lead on activities were inspirational role models for all young people attending.

The Event Makers were keen to continue meeting and supporting with events in the future, hoping that they will be able to see how information and views gathered at the event are used, and being able to report this back to participants and other young people.

The evening before the event, KIDS invited all Event Makers to attend a practise run through session and for dinner as a bonding activity. This had limited attendance but was still a useful exercise.

The Event Day

It was identified early on that it would be useful to present information gained from participants from all local areas attending, but also broken down into local areas. This was achieved by allocating a coloured pen to each individual local area and young people used these when giving information, opinions and feedback during activities.

The event started with icebreakers chosen by the Event Makers to get people talking to each other, followed by table discussions about what participation meant to everyone there. The group created a colourful word cloud using the words and statements suggested by young people (see **Appendix 3**).

The participation team from KIDS introduced the recently coproduced definition of participation. This has been developed following a SEND national conference, held in 2019 as part of the DfE funded Making Participation Work project.

“Participation is having opportunities to be part of decisions that are important to you and may lead to changes”

During the event, young people completed four activities in round robin style groups, based upon their local authority.

The following are activity outlines with summary information gathered, individual LA offerings and recommendations relating to the information gathered.

Recommendation 1

It is essential to continue discussions with young people to identify specific measures which can contribute to more accessible participation opportunities for the cohort.

Young people with SEND can highlight accessibility problems in more detail and offer reasonable examples of activity to improve the current processes or opportunities.

Below are some examples, offered by participants, of what could be done to support them to be involved and heard. These are represented by local authority area:

Bracknell	RBWM	Slough
Be given a chance	Get involved	Transport
Social anxiety – higher confidence	Don't put people under too much pressure	Support
Medicine for depression and anxiety	Take part with people at your level	Subjects that interest young people
Doing things with people that you know and understand you	Get to know me	Build confidence
Talking in a colourful way	Talk to family	Time
Write what you are feeling	Educate everyone about SEND	Give information before
Get to know me	Talk to people	Get to know me
Give choices	Make public and meeting areas easy access	Give choices
Give information before	Maintain access facilities	Accessible
Having support with reading	Therapists helping all young people with needs	Keep in contact
Time	communication	Simple words
Transport	Build self esteem	Small groups
Time to think	Working together	Keep it short
Show that you can be trusted	To have the time to get there	Chat to the person you want
Support the person in need of help	Give options to make choices	
Having support with my feelings	Good public transport	
Make small groups	Go to social activities like youth clubs	
Keep in contact	Support with learning needs	
Get to know each other		
Check if people understand		

From the table it is evident that young people from all three areas have ideas that will support them and others within the SEND cohort to be better heard and included. Across the three local authorities there are some ideas which are synergistic and it may be beneficial to work pan authority to develop some of these ideas, sharing learning and experiences.

Activity 2 – What is important to young people and what information would be helpful

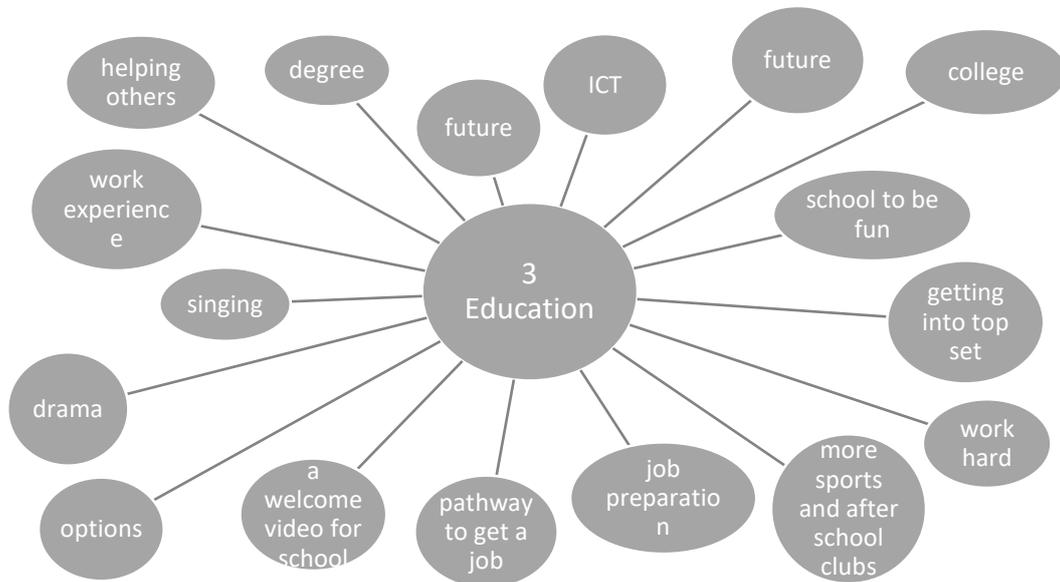
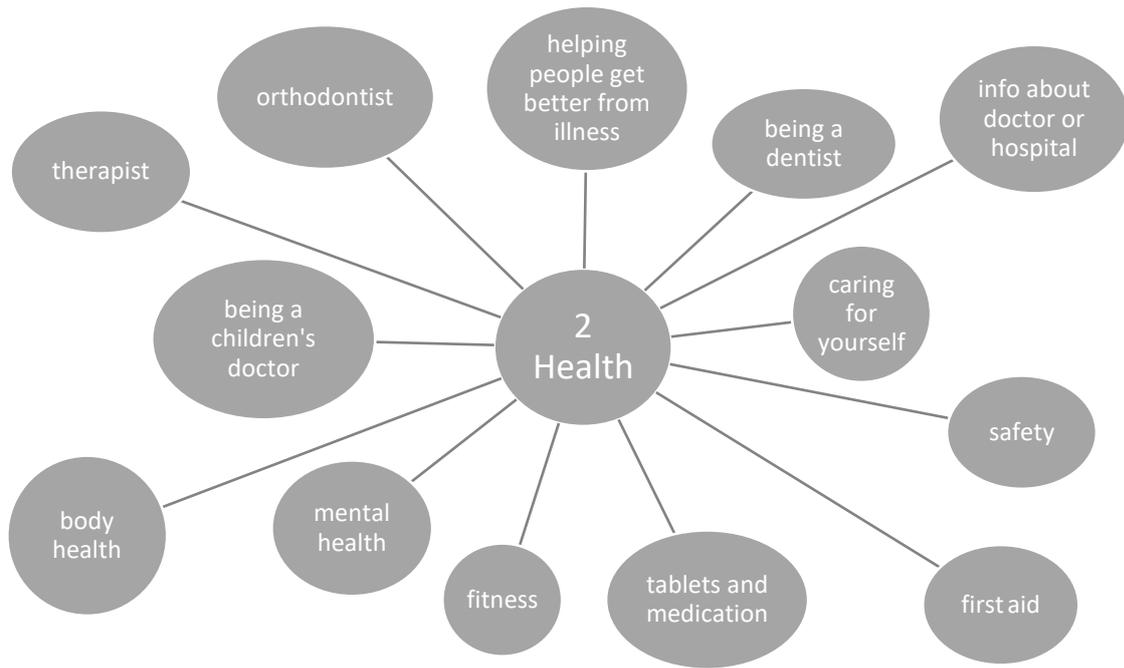
Eight key headings were presented to participants. These had previously been coproduced by young people with SEND engaging with the KIDS participation team, drawn from experiences of Local Offer engagement within their own and other LA’s.

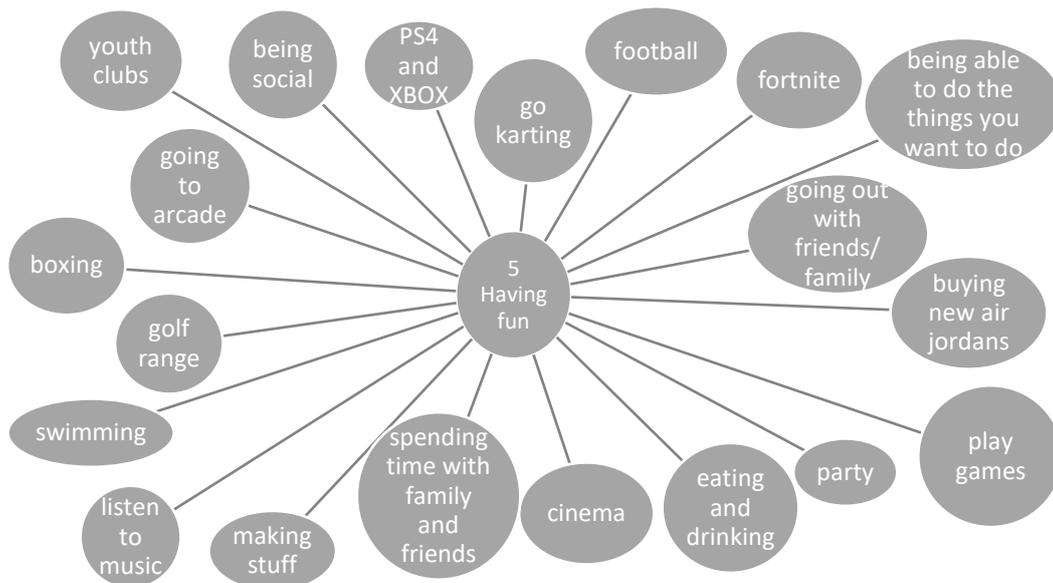
1. Getting out and about
2. Health
3. Education
4. Independent living
5. Having fun
6. Getting a job
7. Friendships and relationships
8. Anything else

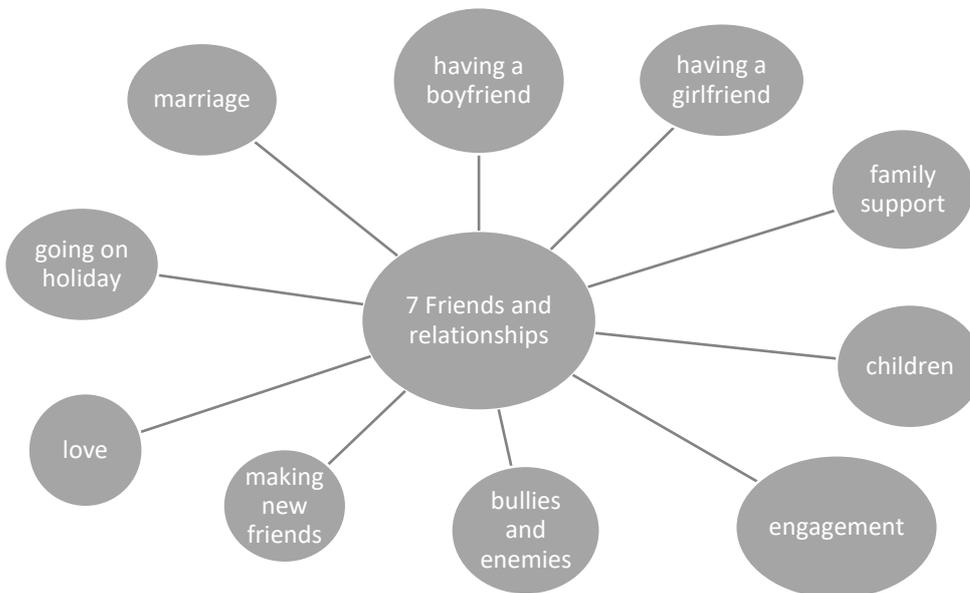
Young people’s responses to each category can be found in this section. Many young people highlighted matters previously mentioned by other young people, demonstrating synergy between all the local areas represented.

The answers below were given at the event on what is important and also information that would be useful.











Recommendation 2

Use the information gathered within this activity to effectively support the LA obligations to consult with children and young people on the Local Offer.

As per the Children and Families Act 2014 (section 30) the LA 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.

This consultation should include, but is not limited to, the services and information children and young people require, how this information is to be published and how they can comment on the Local Offer. It also states that the LA must seek children and young people’s comments on the content of its Local Offer, the accessibility of the information, and how it consults with them.

During this activity young people were given the opportunity to comment of how they like information presented. It was made very clear that simple language, images and videos were the most preferred presentation methods and many would be happy to support content creation on areas they are interested in.

It has proven effective in other LA’s to share content that is generic, especially if videos and pictures are utilised. This can save time and money and still offer valuable information in desired formats to children, young people and parents/carers.

Activity 3 – Transition experiences

Young people were first introduced to the term “Transition” and then given examples of points of transition they may have experienced. The KIDS participation team coproduced an information gathering sheet as a tool to collect young people’s experiences of transition. Most attendees focused on an experience underpinned in education (see **Appendix 4**).

From across the 3 LA’s there was a good level of information given on:

- What worked well?
- What didn’t work well?
- What could improve the transition?

Highlights shared from across the areas included:

What worked well?	What didn’t work well?	What could improve transition?
Taster Days / Visits before starting	Didn’t know much about the school before	Shown around the school more times (video)
Meeting the new teacher	More teachers and high expectations	Get to know the teachers and them to know us (booklet)
Being with friends or someone I know	Lots of people (big people)	Having a key person to talk to
Having more freedom	More / Too much homework	Easing in to the workload
	Different lessons and busy timetable	

Recommendation 3

Children and young people, along with parents and carers, need comprehensive information about transition opportunities to facilitate them to run smoothly.

Local authorities should take note of experiences young people say are working well and increase the frequency and availability of these.

Young people gave examples of what hasn’t worked well for them and also gave examples of what could improve the experience. This information should be shared across services and educational establishments to enable them to work with young people, to positively progress.

Key examples given where young people expressed a willingness to engage included:

- The schools creating an information video for prospective or new students to help them find their way around new settings. This should be available to be watched multiple times if needed.

- “A Student’s Guide to Teachers” - All teachers can write a small biography and include a recent photograph. This can then be pulled into a bespoke document relevant for particular students (Easy Read and Brail versions).
- “A Teacher’s Guide to the Student”: A brief ‘All About Me’ could be created before the student transitions and this shared with all the teachers they will engage with (Easy Read and/or Brail version).

Again, this development work can be useful pan-local authority, sharing the videos to the Local Offers and supporting young people and families to have more choice across neighbouring authorities.

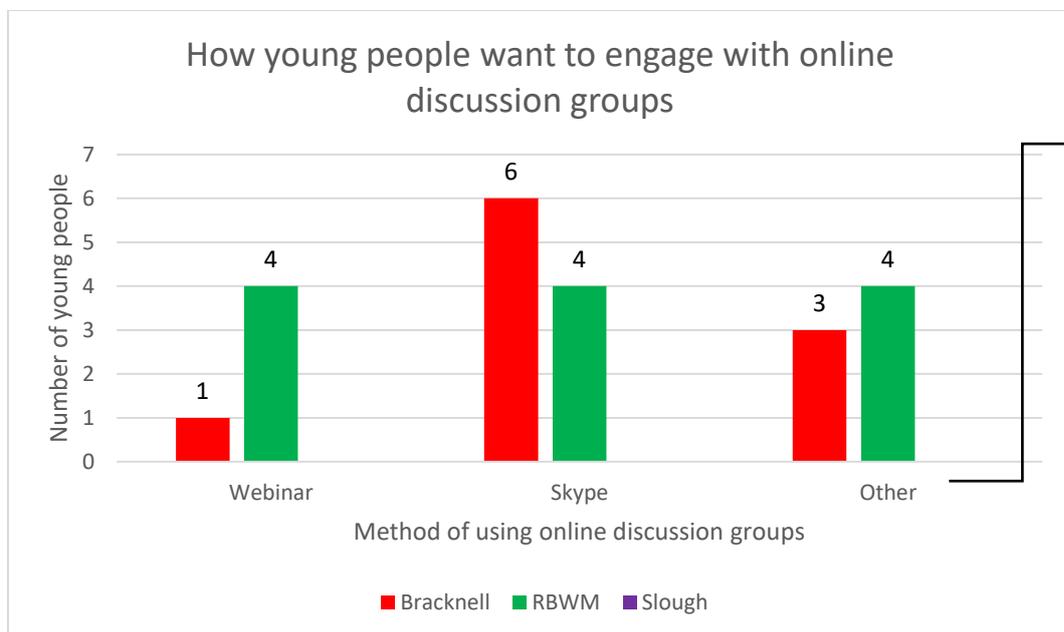
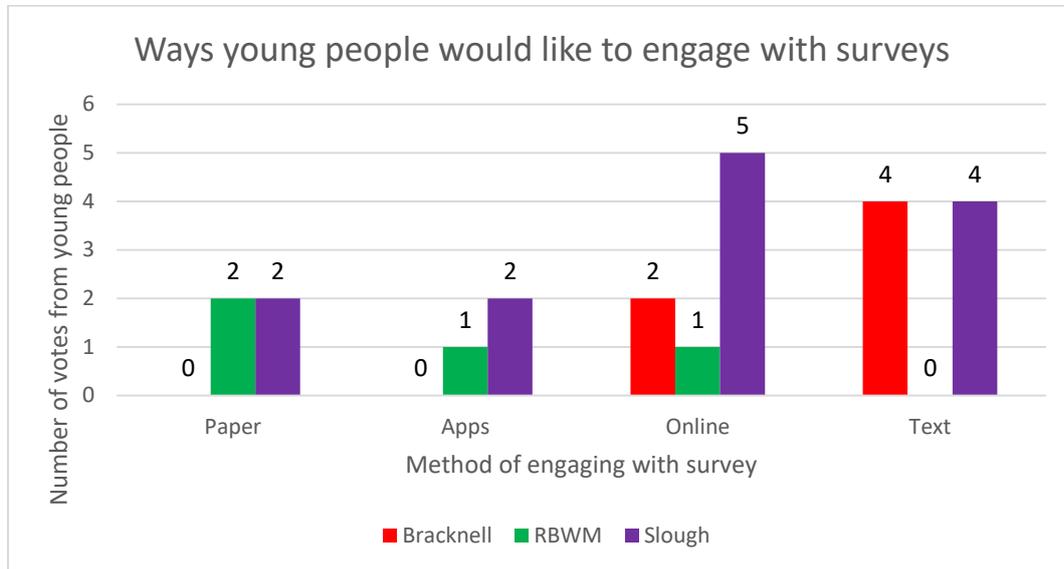
Activity 4 – How do young people want to participate?

The aim of this activity was to find out from young people their preferences for continuing participation opportunities in their local area.

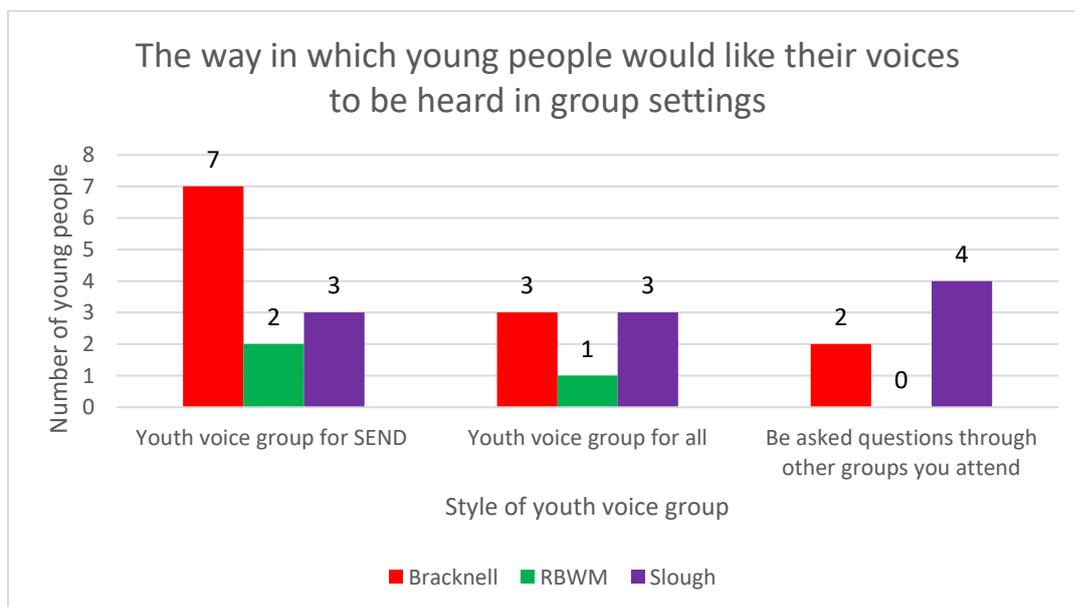
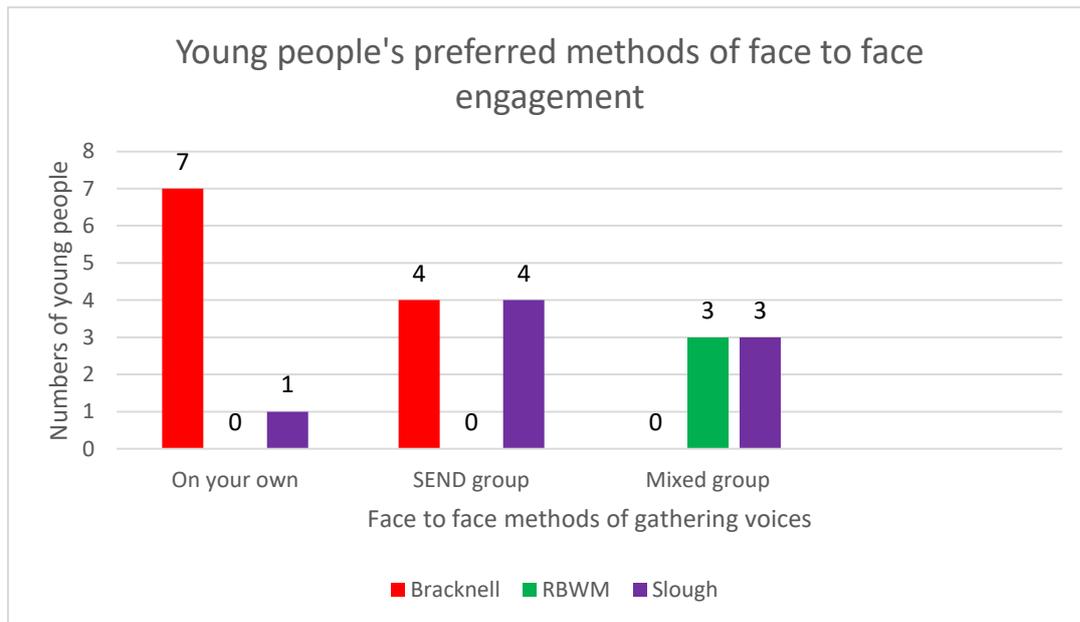
Activity 4’s main findings were:

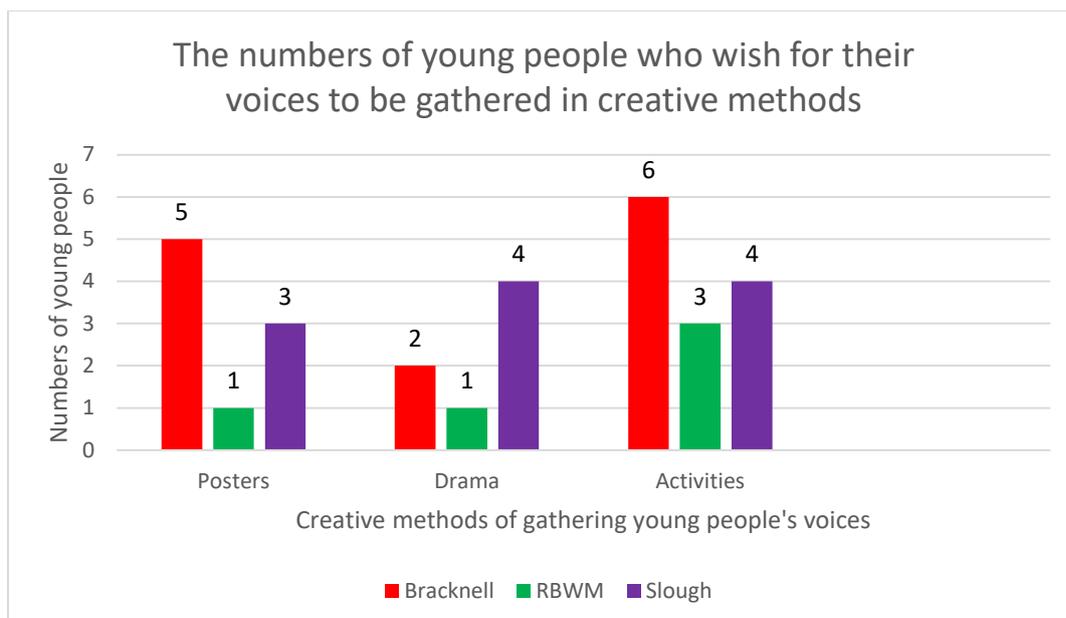
- Young people preferred face to face opportunities. Highlighting that a SEND participation group was preferable, but felt it needed to feed in to other opportunities that include all youth voice.
- Young people will undertake surveys, with online platforms and via text being preferred. Attendees recognised the need to be given time to complete these and to be given appropriate support. Surveys must not be too long or complicated as they will not be completed.
- Online and virtual groups were acknowledged as useful for young people’s ongoing interaction. Some were happy to watch webinars while more liked videos, and some would engage with Skype based meetings. Other interactive applications were suggested by the young people, including WhatsApp, Discord and Facebook. These were how young people felt best to interact between potential meetings.
- Young people made it very clear that they prefer fun and active opportunities for engagement. Participation needed to be more on their terms rather than ‘boring adult meetings’.

The following tables show young people’s responses to the respective questions, although discussions supplement the evidence and support identified recommendations.



Other options given by young people were face time, WhatsApp, discord and Facebook





Recommendation 4

Young people are keen to remain engaged and to be active in participation.

Each LA should have its own processes for consulting with SEND young people. It should be clear what these are and information presented on how to access these for young people. The use of a participation strategy to define these processes and indicate opportunities that will be available to young people across the local authority is advised. If a participation strategy is not already in place, or does not consider the engagement of SEND young people, this should be considered. An example inclusive strategy from the Council for Disabled Children can be found [here](#).

The methods used for engaging young people in decision making should be informed by young people and the use of virtual engagement, as well as face to face engagement, should be considered.

If SEND specific participation groups are desired in local areas, be aware that there may be support available in the development of these from KIDS. Through the Making Participation Work project, the KIDS participation team are seeing a drive in the building of a SEND youth voice network and the facilitation of SEND young people playing a meaningful role in local authority decision making. KIDS are exploring how to enable such a network, including coproduction of common values and shared ways of working across groups.

There should be conduits for linking participation activity across all cohorts of young people - Including but not limited to LAC forum, youth forum and youth parliaments.

Recommendation 5

Pan authority and regional working.

The joint local area SEND inspection framework identifies the need for local authorities to consult and engage children and young people, and parents and carers, along with working with key partners such as health, education and social care.

Having the NHS CCG sit across East Berkshire gives scope for LA's within to work together to create effective mechanisms for stakeholder engagement, although investment is needed from all parties. The Making Participation Work project has seen excellent potential fail to deliver through a lack of real buy in from certain departments within local areas. Currently there is good interest and motivation with the East Berkshire cohort, and this is available for harnessing and expansion. East Berkshire NHS CCG is already creating a local network of participation workers so this can be developed there.

Recommendation 6

SEND participation groups can also link to parent carer forums, offering lived experiences and sharing ideas for participation and local area service development in line with need.

The development of parent carer forums over the last 10 years, and changes in the way LA's work with these key stakeholders, has been significant. SEND youth voice is at an early stage of this journey. The Making Participation Work project has identified numerous benefits of young people's participation. These benefits impact children and young people, local areas and communities as well as the local authority itself. Shared learning from the local parent carer forums can support SEND youth development. There are other synergies at play, and KIDS is currently coproducing a resource that can help parent carer forums, and the professionals that may support them, explore and consider utilising them.

Evaluation and feedback on the event

The plenary session was an opportunity for young people to hear key points from each session, feedback on their experiences, and to think to the future. The Event Makers and KIDS participation team young people fed back to the group the key points they had heard from their respective activities. This gave attendees and LA representatives an opportunity to hear general comments given and reflect on what they had seen/done over the day.

Attendees were asked to give feedback through a tear off sheet at the back of their workbook, as well as leaving any comments they felt they would like to offer. These were very positive and overall highlighted the success of the event. Young people clearly enjoyed the day and engaged well, sharing views and experiences.

Conclusion of the day

There is so much usable information that has been gathered from young people across the event that this is a great starting point to grow the SEND participation agenda in East Berkshire, especially considering the desire of so many of the attendees to continue participating moving forwards.

This event gave opportunity for not just young people but also practitioners to reflect on current opportunities for participation and think about possibilities for the future.

The contribution and development of the Event Makers should serve as inspiration for the future. They were fantastic on the event day and demonstrated their passion to keep this movement growing. The local authorities should consider continuing this group's advancement and how they can be part of offering feedback to young people and practitioners across East Berkshire in the future.

It is vital that the event day isn't a tokenistic offering and that it must have an impact. Those who attended need to see the difference their voice made, how it has been used and by whom. We recommend a further event, facilitated by the Event Makers, is brought together as part of the action planning for utilising the information gathered.

This is an exciting time for SEND youth voice in East Berkshire.

The post event press release can be found in **Appendix 5**.

Report Recommendations

The following recommendations are supported by evidence presented within the report, the appendices and professional experience gathered through the MPW project.

1. Each LA should consider the barriers to engagement in participation opportunities highlighted by young people and consult with young people further on how to implement changes to overcome these issues.
2. Young people have highlighted key points that are important to them across different headings. These should be used to effectively offer information to young people and families through the Local Offer with on-going reflection opportunities provided.
3. Support for young people's transitions seems to be less effective as young people move through 'the system'. LA's should draw on support from educational establishments as well as services to give more comprehensive information to young people and their families regarding the transition opportunities.
4. Each LA should have its own processes for consulting with SEND young people. It should be clear what these are and information presented on how to access these for young people. The methods used for engaging young people in decision making should be informed by young people and the use of virtual engagement, as well as face to face engagement, needs to be considered. There should be conduits for linking participation activity across other cohorts of young people – including, but not limited to, LAC forum, youth forum and youth parliaments.
5. Inclusive practice is vital in all processes for engaging Youth Voice (e.g. Youth Forum). However, careful thought should be given to establishing SEND focused systems, such as local SEND Youth Voice Groups, to work alongside and contribute to these inclusive, yet more universally focused, processes. Experiencing barriers to engaging in universal offers is an often found observation from young people in the SEND cohort.
6. Development of a Pan Authority working group where shared work could benefit all LAs, as well as including all key stakeholders.
7. SEND Youth Voice is important and vital for each LA to offer well designed and supportive services. This should link in with consultation and coproduction work undertaken with Parent Carer Forums.

Next Steps

The report will be shared with SEND Partnership groups across the three local authorities and the schools.

The local authorities involved will take the recommendations forward and NHS East Berkshire CCG will produce an easy read document describing the work that has taken place, along with the recommendations and next steps.

NHS East Berkshire CCG is setting up a Participation Network with the first meeting in February 2020 to bring together professionals leading on the youth voice programme. This will share best practice and also explore specific training opportunities such as working with vulnerable young people and inclusive practice.

Appendix 1 – Graphic of feedback from the day

#YouthVoiceSEND | #EastBerkshire | October 2019

MAKING PARTICIPATION WORK

THINGS THAT STOP YOU GETTING INVOLVED

- WHEN THINGS ARE NOT ADAPTED SO I CAN JOIN IN
 - TOO MUCH NOISE
 - NO, YOU CAN'T GO
 - FEAR
 - NO, YOU CAN'T GO
 - BULLYING
 - FAMILY
 - BEING IGNORED
 - FEELING RUSHED
 - TIME
 - TOO MUCH PRESSURE!
 - Appointments
- OTHERS HAVING UNFAIR ADVANTAGE
 - make good choices
 - get help
 - transport
 - be brave
 - sport
 - Give us time & support
 - Make it accessible
 - Use easy words
 - chat
 - Small groups
 - Computers
 - Going to clubs & activities
 - working together
 - We need options & opportunities
 - Talk to family
 - Get involved

OVERCOMING BARRIERS

HOW DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

- Educate the public
- Do what you are comfortable with
- Build confidence
- Idea Sessions
- thinking wall
- Video & audio tape
- YouTube
- Finding out things online
- telling you what we think online
- Communication Books
- Activities that build our confidence
- Social media
- Helping people
- Caring, supporting, team work
- Some of us will always prefer face to face communication

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

- OUR FRIENDS
- OUR FAMILIES
- OUR SUPPORT
- WORK EXPERIENCE
- HOLIDAYS
- Being allowed to wear whatever
- Believe in Yourself
- CHANGING SCHOOLS
- Primary to Secondary secondary to 6th form Special to mainstream
- So many more students
- The teachers can lose patience & get angry
- It can feel overwhelming
- Be patient. Help us to make new friends
- DON'T GO TO THE DARKSIDE!
- I've got a friend in maths

SportsAble

EXPLORING & HAVING FUN

PLANNING FOR & HAVING A GREAT FUTURE

THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT OUR NEW SCHOOLS / COLLEGES

- Mainstream lessons are fun (mostly)
- more freedom & independence
- More confidence
- More homework
- New teachers
- MORE BUILDING = ART
- MORE SPORT
- Learn about our medication
- What?! I don't love that!
- Do you want to be my friend?
- I'm the most popular student!
- understand mental health

Logos: NHS, East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Slough Borough Council slough.gov.uk, Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Bracknell Forest Council, achieving for children

Making Participation Work in East Berkshire, Achieving for Children, Kids, Council for Disabled Children, Sportsable, October 2019. Graphic facilitation by www.penmendonca.com @MendoncaPen

Appendix 2 – Existing Participation Opportunities

Bracknell Forest	RBWM	Slough
SilSip (Say it loud, Say it proud) – Children in Care Council	Kickback (12+) -Children in Care Council	Reach Out- Children in Care Council
Bracknell Forest Youth Council	Youth Ambassadors (11 – 19)	Youth Council (Slough Youth Parliament)
Bracknell Forest Council questionnaires and consultations	RBWM questionnaires and consultations including via Achieving for Children	LA Focus groups, surveys and consultations including via the Young People’s Service
Student Voice Newspaper	Peer Education (Drugs and alcohol)	SEND careers information advice and guidance (CIAG) on preparing for adulthood (PFA) agenda)
School Councils	School Councils	School Councils
BOOM (Because Our Opinion Matters) – Council for children with disabilities	SEN Group	Active Slough steering group
Bracknell Parent Carer Forum	PaCiP Parent Carer Forum	Special Voices Parent Carer Forum
UK youth parliament representation	UK Youth Parliament (currently being set up)	UK Youth Parliament representation
Young Health Champions	Young Health Champions (due 2020)	Young Health Champions
Youth Voice within annual reviews, feeding into EHCPs	Youth Voice within annual reviews, feeding into EHCPs	Youth Voice within annual reviews, feeding into EHCPs
Kids Play and Leisure Scheme	Girls Policy Forum (11 – 19)	Young people attending Thames Valley Police “keeping Slough safe” community forum, & other police local area forums
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)
The Short Breaks Inclusion Fund	Inclusion Charter	Young people co-opted onto local strategic boards in LA
		YES (Youth Engagement Slough) steering group & Aik Saath volunteers

BHFT also has a CAMHS participation group made up of service users, ex-service users and any young person interested in mental health and well-being.

Appendix 4 – Activity 3

The following tables give detail from activity 3 which focused on transition experience. This is presented per LA.

Bracknell		
What went well?	What didn't go so well?	What could be done to improve it?
Being in a class with someone I know	Morning	More choices
More freedom	Moving building	More freedom
More life skills	DT	More independence
Being in my own clothes	PE – more sport	Changing the timetable
Got a copy of timetable	Too much work to begin with	Changing class
Work experience	Didn't know a lot about secondary	More break time
Met new teacher	Many people we didn't know and got scared	More opportunities for breaktimes and lunchtimes
Met new friends	Teachers too strict	Getting the timetable earlier
Summer school (Edgbarrow)	Teachers expect too much	Ease into the work
Having a red card to be able to leave class	More homework	Tell us more about it in primary
Taster days	Too boring	Talk to a teacher
ASD centre	Too much going on at home	Ask people if they want to be friends
Good to choose own options	School nurse needs to be more understanding	Teachers getting to know us and our abilities
	Behaviour around seizures	1 key person who knows me and can talk to others if needed
	It's bigger	Nurse needs to know more about mental health
	More adult like	Get to meet all teachers before starting
	More students	Somewhere quiet to sit
	Work is more difficult	Quiet safe space in main building
		Booklet with teachers, classrooms and map of building
RBWM		
What went well?	What didn't go so well?	What could be done to improve it?
I had a lot of friends moving with me	There were more new teachers to know everyone	People could be more helpful
I had a good class	Getting used to the new timetable	Be shown around more times
More freedom	When you move you are shown once	Make sure all groups included in events
Used time well	Quite a long drive	More transition visits

Less crowded	Missed old friends	More activities
Moving to a better school	Getting to know people	More people in classrooms like TAs (more staff)
I met new people	I had more lessons	
I met new (favourite) teacher	I got bullied	
Slough		
What went well?	What didn't go so well?	What could be done to improve it?
I have lots of friends	Teachers get angry	I felt more popular
New lessons	Homework	Teachers to be more patient
Made friends from other places	Scared by big people	Manage behaviour
New teachers	Crowded	Getting to work by myself
More confident/ brave		Getting to make cupcakes again

Appendix 5 - Media release post event including quotes

<https://www.eastberkshireccg.nhs.uk/young-people-send-future-services/>

Local young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) came together, supported through their schools to attend a local event planned by Young Event Makers, who are local young people that are really passionate about helping other young people from schools really grasp the idea of participation and voicing change.

The event was facilitated by the children's charity Kids and the aim of the event was to gather feedback from SEND young people on how they'd like to shape services and policy decisions. A number of local professionals from across health and local authorities were also present to listen to views of the young people.

The event was hosted by NHS East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group working in partnership with Bracknell Forest Council, Achieving for Children (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Slough Borough Council and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

A representative from the KIDs Children's Charity said 'It was a really productive event. The young people were really engaged and gave us some great constructive comments.'

Some of the key conversations for the sessions included understanding the barriers to getting involved, as well as accessing services and hearing from young people about what is important to them and how can they influence and be an active part of decision making in the future.

Issac Okine one of the Young Event Makers said 'I found the event so amazing and want to get involved in future events.'

The event also gave an opportunity for support staff/teachers from education and professionals from health and local authorities to exchange information and share best practice

Janette Fullwood, NHS East Berkshire CCG Head of Children, Young People and Families said 'The event was a great example of partnership working across health, local authorities and education. It was so positive to see a range of SEND young people all actively taking part and being provided with a chance to offer feedback'

One of the teachers that attended said 'This is a fantastic event! The young people are really excited and enjoying the inclusivity. They would really like to be involved in any future events.'

Feedback from the event will be shared with key decision makers to improve young people's participation and ensure their voices are included locally.

The whole event was visually captured by Dr Penelope Mendonça, a graphic facilitator and cartoonist which illustrated what really matters to our young people in East Berkshire.