

Participation Report 2017/2018

Participation With Young People With Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in The Royal Borough of Greenwich

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ANNUAL REPORT: PARTICIPATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES IN THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH



CONTEXT

1. GENERAL PARTICIPATION IN ROYAL GREENWICH

Royal Greenwich Children's Services is committed to ensuring the views of children and young people across the borough consistently inform service development and improvement and children and young people are able to have their voice heard.

There are a number of forums for children and young people's participation in Greenwich including the Greenwich Children and Young Peoples Council, Children in Care Council, Care Leavers forum and the ACE groups (for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).

2. ACE

The structure of ACE has now changed so that we can ensure we represent a diverse range of young people with SEND in Royal Greenwich.

The groups have continued to meet monthly to look at issues from RBG, along with issues they have identified themselves as being important to children and young people in Greenwich with SEND.

OUR APPROACH

ACE groups are held in seven different schools and DSP's within Royal Greenwich – consulting with a total of 35 young people on average each month. All the different schools have supported RBG in this venture with identifying students, accommodation and support staff who are involved directly in sessions.

The Participation team agreed with school to deliver 4 initial sessions to support the groups starting, the groups will then be taken over by an identified member of staff from the specific school whilst maintaining communication with the participation team to ensure a two way flow of information for consultations.

This enables the growth of different ACE groups ensuring that we continue to have a wide representation of children and young people with SEND within the borough.

Each School has;

- Had an individual meeting with the participation team, to discuss this happening
- Half day training on Participation and capturing the voice of the child

- Identified staffing to support this taking place
- Expressed an interest in supporting a group within their setting to be part of the ACE network of participation groups

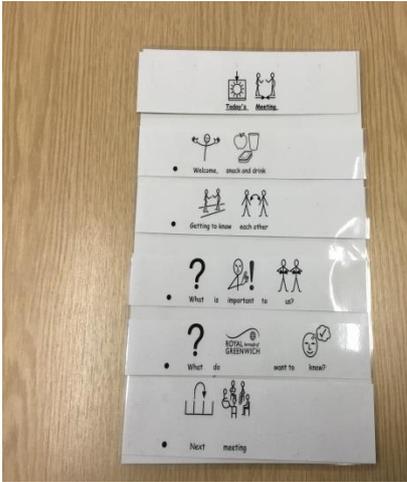
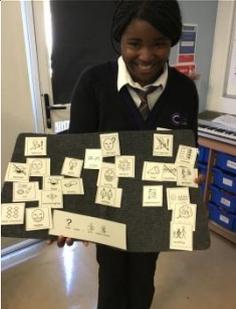
Sessions are flexible and interactive for the young people, so that all young people can contribute in a creative and open way that meet their individual communication and learning needs.

ACE has been involved in various consultations this year:

- Short Breaks – personal assistants
- The Local Offer
- The Royal Borough of Greenwich Culture Bid
- Greenwich Parent Voice – Embracing diversity event
- RBG Participation Strategy

Sessions are designed to break down these topics into a series of tangible activities that the children and young people can understand.

Examples of this can be seen in the following table:

Picture	Activity description
	<p>Session plan/agenda so young people are fully informed about the content of the session.</p>
	<p>A mat based activity to enable young people to show what they believe are important qualities to have in a personal assistant (Buddy scheme consultation)</p>



A “circles” based activity showing what is most important

Royal Greenwich
@Royal_Greenwich

The #ACEgreenwich group for young people with disabilities have been sharing what #Greenwichmeans to them @GDIFestival #mylocalculture



Work that was submitted by one ACE group for the Royal Borough of Greenwich Culture Bid 2017



An evaluation tool for Young People to communicate what they thought about the session, and how it worked for them.

3. WHO HAS TAKEN PART?

The ACE group is made up of young people living in Greenwich aged 12-25 with SEND. There are currently 40 young people who are members.

The members of ACE vary in their level of need, as of September of 2017 we are now in the below Secondary settings;

- Charlton Park Academy
- Shooters Hill – Entry
- Shooters Hill- ASL
- Willow Dene
- The John Roan
- Hallie Academy
- Shooters Hill- Sensory service

4. HOW WE RECORDED OUR INFORMATION

We record information from our consultations in a number of ways.

Method	Picture Description
“The Book”	 <p>We record the purpose and outcome of each session in a large book for the group of young people to review. This helps the young people recall what we have previously covered in sessions and is an accessible record of the meetings for them.</p> <p>The Book includes photographs, symbols, and pieces of “work” from the sessions.</p>
Session write-ups	<p>During the session facilitating staff take notes and photographs of what the young people say or create, and formally record this as a session report following the date of the meeting. IPADS are now being used within the session for feedback and to get pictures and records of the activity.</p>
Wiki	<p>We are in the process of developing our ACE wiki. This will be a creative and accessible way that the young people can show the work that they have done.</p>

5. WHAT DID WE FIND OUT THIS YEAR?

Topic	Key Findings
Personal assistants	<p>What did they say?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people wanted to be supported by personal assistants that

	<p>were close to their age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people wanted to take part in inclusive activities • Young people feedback that they wanted support on weekends and evenings • Young people feedback that they wanted to be able to spend time with their families
Local Offer website	<p>What did they say?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I want to take this home and show my mum” • “We need more videos” • “Photos! Symbols! Videos!” <p>The groups felt the website was easy to find but hard to use. They would like the homepage to have more accessible buttons. They felt the pages needed less text and more colour to make them more interesting. The groups also feedback that they wanted more images of young people “like us” on the website</p>
Culture Bid	<p>What did they say?</p> <p>Young People spoke about the Borough through their eyes. They spoke about special places they liked to visit in Greenwich, what places they like to visit and how they feel about the borough. The young people were able to do this through creative map making which insured it was accessible to all.</p>
Participation Strategy	<p>What did they say?</p> <p>Some of the feedback that was passed back to the commissioning team;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The photo of the adult representing RBG should be a real employee with an RBG badge • Change “strategy” to “plan” throughout • Change “included” to “be part of” throughout • Change “information” to “words” • Certificate on pg 8 should be more child friendly and colourful • Change community to ‘local area’ throughout (pg8, pg9) • Change ‘participate’ to ‘join in’ or ‘take part’ throughout (including headings pg 8) • Photo on paragraph 2 of page 8 shows a zig-zag arrow – contradicts the words that say ‘move smoothly’ • Boring text, include pictures (pg3)

6. WHAT DID/WILL WE DO?

Topic	What we did
Personal Assistants	<p>We included information that the young people gave us into the service specification tender document.</p> <p>Young people will take part in the commissioning process by interviewing candidates.</p>

Local Offer website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams across Inclusion, Learning and Achievement are looking at developing video's to explain their key services for the local offer. • We have reduced the amount of text on some of the pages • Providers have been encouraged to update information and include pictures/ videos where possible • Social and Key work service have easy read versions of information on their pages. • The ACE page has accessible information in both easy read and symbols
Culture Bid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All work done by the ACE groups was submitted as part of the Culture Bid for Royal Borough of Greenwich
Participation Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All feedback was passed on to the commissioning team. • All changes will be added to participation strategy

7. ANALYSIS

What went well?

All of the ACE groups run well, and plans made last year have ensured that we now reach a wider cohort of Young People across the spectrum of SEND. Running sessions on site has meant that it is easy to access information about the Young People's communication and learning needs and make sessions more accessible.

Young People's input was also recognised formally in the Borough's "Do the right thing awards" (for more detail see achievements section)

The participation work with Royal Greenwich has received recognition regionally with the participation team being given a regular slot at the London regional SEND forum to provide updates on participation and what is going well.

Young people from ACE were invited to attend and speak at the SEND celebration event held by the Council for Disabled Children.

Young people across the ACE groups produced a video showcasing the work that they have done- this has been shown at Inclusion, learning and Achievement team days/ SENCO network meetings and the Disability Champions network forum. This has helped to raise the profile of the ACE groups and the work that they have done.

ACE Charlton Park has been commissioned by health to provide art work for the new Goldie Leigh site. The group produced 9 pieces of art themed around the forest. The money received for their work will go towards a celebration event for all ACE members.

What could we improve on?

There is some work to be done on improving the feedback mechanism to young people who have been involved in participation work to let them know what happened with what they told us. This is important

to ensure that young people see the value of the consultation work and are encouraged to participate in the future.

All the participation networks need to be formally linked together, and work is starting to take place with the participation leads and the development of the Participation strategy.

There is some consideration needed to look at the current model as some schools due to staff shortages are unable to take over the ACE groups after the initial 4 sessions. Alternatives to monthly meetings should be looked at as a way in which to overcome this.

Finally the links between networks for participation activity with families and those with young people need to be created and there are plans to have a joint event in the next academic year.

8. ACHIEVEMENTS

- Video on work that groups have done can be found on the local offer on the ACE page.
- Young people from ACE were asked to present at National SEND celebration event held by the Council for Disabled Children
- The achievements of the ACE group were formally recognised, when group members were nominated for “Do the right thing “award, and were invited to the ceremony.
- Celebration event in October for ACE group members in The Woolwich centre. Open to all participation groups to attend.



9. OTHER PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

GYPC

ACE will be working with GYPC on the delivery of their annual event, the Greenwich Young People's Conference which tackles discrimination.

SEND Work Experience

This year we have hosted several Young people with SEND for work experience within the Inclusion, Learning and Achievement directorate. All these young people have engaged in some participation activity as a part of their placement.

Young Commissioners Project

This year we have continued to work closely with the Commissioning team in Children's Service in the development of the Young Commissioners Project.

This project has recruited 8 young people from across Greenwich to be involved in the whole commissioning process across children's services.

We worked with the commissioning team to support them in making this an inclusive programme and also promoted the opportunity widely amongst SEND young people. We were successful in recruiting 3 young people who identified as having SEND to the programme.

This is a great opportunity to ensure that children and young people with SEND inform commissioning across Greenwich.

Apprenticeships

This year we recruited an apprentice with ASD as the Local offer website co-ordinator. The apprentice has achieved significant professional and personal development while in the role and has expressed that they feel more confident to go into the work environment after the apprenticeship is completed.

NEXT STEPS

- Plan in partnership with the young people in ACE what their focus for the next year will be
- To work with the commissioned providers and the provides forum for other participation activities to ensure that they are confident in making services inclusive to young people with SEND.
- Have a participation conference to include young people and parent participation networks in a single event.
- Continue to develop links with other participation forums for young people across Greenwich

- Review model of ACE groups – what worked well and what we need to improve on.
- Look at how participation team can start to work with children under 12 years olds.