



Say YES, Wokingham's SEND youth forum meeting 19 March 2025

Fifteen young people joined us to talk to:

- Emma Cockerell, Director of Children's Services in Wokingham and
- Julia Bedser, Wokingham SEND Local Offer Coordinator.

Emma invited 2 young people to attend the SEND Partnership Board to ensure that Wokingham Borough Council have regular input from young people. It is usually on a Wednesday afternoon but young people can join online. Emma will send more details to Me2 Club and then young people can think about whether they want to attend.

Young People's Views

- ✚ Some young people have been bullied and school/college don't seem to be able to fix it. It means that young people miss school and they loose out on their education.
- ✚ One young person said that she didn't get support at school. They only got support when they had a diagnosis when they were at college.
- ✚ One young person had their Annual Review of their Education, Health and Care Plan months ago but still have not heard from the SEN team. A parent carer had a similar experience. They said that their young person had 4 changes of SEN case worker in the last year. Emma said that there had been a lot of agency staff but the team are nearly all permanent staff now.
- ✚ Some found college too much and they have to get up early to travel there. The canteen is very loud but they want to be with their friends. Headphones or a quieter room to eat with friends might help.
- ✚ Some young people were a bit nervous starting college but enjoy it now.
- ✚ Speech and Language therapy at Reading University is good.
- ✚ One young person has a good Adult Care Social Worker.

Parent Carer Views

Support needs to be offered without an EHCP or while waiting for an EHCP. One young person's secondary school have said they don't have funding until the EHCP is agreed. Emma will follow up with the Area SENCo. Another parent has been told their child can't get speech and language therapy at school unless their child has an EHCP. A third parent also had difficulty getting speech therapy for their child when they were younger.

PINS (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) is about to start in 30 Wokingham primary schools. Emma said that this means that there will be some therapies available to these schools.

Emma will follow up the individual difficulties described above.

Julia discussed possible photos for the Local Offer website as young people want more visual information. Young people preferred photos that had no background but were relevant to the subject (a bus for transport, for example).

Next session

Wednesday 14 May 6 – 7:20 pm with a Sushi takeaway.

RB 22/03/25, ramona@me2club.org.uk