

Voices Newsletter Nov 2025



Welcome

This is the second edition of this newsletter. This newsletter was co-designed and co-produced with children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in Worcestershire. This newsletter will contain some symbol and widget icons to support with reading accessibility, if you are using a screen reader they may be described as decorative by the device.

For more updates on co-production visit our webpage: [Co-production and how to get involved \(SEND\) | Worcestershire County Council](#) or our Facebook Page: [Voices United Worcestershire](#)



Photo updates

The photos below capture a variety of workshops and projects that children and young people have been involved in over the past few weeks. Highlights include:

- Two members from *Voices United* attending the Executive Board meeting
- A workshop at *Wyre Forest School*
- A *Voices United Forum* meeting
- A meeting to co-design a co-production impact measuring tool
- An *Early Years* workshop
- *Genuine Partnerships* workshop with practitioners from health, education and local authority.





SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) Reform Rally by Shanelle

WE ARE NEVER AS STRONG THAN WHEN WE ARE ONE

SEND RALLY

SEPTEMBER 15th

11:30AM-1:30PM

PARLIAMENT SQUARE GARDENS,



I attended the 'SEN Reform' Rally outside Parliament in Sept 2025. It was a rally for SEN families to protest about Governments proposed changes, which could potentially be removing EHCP's, tribunals



Sir Ed Davey Liberal Democrat's leader, in support of SEN families as a SEN Parent Carer himself



Helen Hayes. Government Chair of Education





Concerned parents and children protest outside Westminster on 15 September 2025 against the possibility of scrapping EHCPs. Pic: Sky

By Shanelle



Language around Neurodivergence

Young people were asked to share their lived experiences of the language that has been used to describe them. Here is some of the feedback gathered:



Incorrect or inappropriate language

Question 1: Has anyone used language about neurodivergence e.g. autism/ ADHD around you that you felt was incorrect or not appropriate?

- Saying we're all on the spectrum or everyone has autistic traits.
- Said things about making choices when it isn't a choice.
- High functioning, severe autism
- You're so autistic
- Rewarding me for masking my feelings.



- Stop wriggling so much
- She doesn't like speaking
- Don't say I suffer with autism.
- treating us like aliens, thinking about stereotypes (e.g. that they are very smart) and expecting that of them, expecting them to be able to follow a way of learning that isn't fit for them.



Acceptable language

Question 2: What is acceptable language to use when talking about neurodivergence?

- Autism or autistic are both okay, but I prefer to say I am autistic.
- Is autistic
- Extra support needs
- Autistic, ASD/C Or just use my name
- Special educational needs

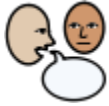


Quotes directly from young people:

"People should choose their language carefully or if not sure ask the person what their preferred name/label is"

"People need to understand that although the condition is named "autism spectrum disorder," there is no concrete spectrum, diagrammatically, that someone could point at and go "you are here on the spectrum, you are there on the spectrum, etc." I interpret the spectrum as referring to the diverse nature of the condition"





Projects for children and young people to get involved in

Full list of projects are on our webpage: [Projects \(SEND co-production\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Have your say on different projects that link to health, education and council services in Worcestershire! Some of these projects include:

- Helping the library improve their services: [What do you know about libraries? feedback form](#)
- Big Quality Conversation survey for 2025-2026 to help health services understand what the experience is like for people when they come into our hospitals. Have your say here: [Big Quality Conversation survey](#)

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) Project

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership's, or WSCP for short, job is to help keep children and young people in Worcestershire safe, happy, and healthy.

We are made up of different teams who work with children, including:

- Social workers from Worcestershire County Council
- Police officers from West Mercia Police
- Doctors and nurses from the NHS
- Teachers and schools

We all work together to make sure children are protected from harm and get help when they need it.

What We Do

We work together to:



- Share ideas and information
- Learn from serious cases
- Train people who work with children
- Make plans to improve how we keep children safe

Every year, we write a report to show what we've done, what we've learned, and what we want to do next.

What We Want to Achieve

We want every child in Worcestershire to:

- Feel safe
- Be healthy
- Grow up happy

We want to stop abuse and neglect before it happens, and make sure children and families get the right help at the right time.

We'd Love to Hear from You!

You are the expert in your own life, and we want to listen to you. We're trying to find the best way to hear from children and young people so that your ideas can help us decide what's most important to work on each year.

So, here's our question: How can WSCP hear your voice to decide what we need to focus on?

We'd love to hear your ideas! You can share them by filling in our short form here: [WSCP Would Love Your Help! – Fill in form](#)



Dissertation on Disabled People's Experiences in Education by Christian Wilson

Christian would like to share his dissertation piece. It has been attached to the email alongside this newsletter. The focus of his dissertation was



‘Disabled Children and Young People’s Experiences of Education in Mainstream Schools and P.E context’. The aims of his research were to

- Identify current literature and research to highlight the key findings that have impacted the perceptions and experiences of disability sport and physical education.
- Evaluate current literature and research to categorise the key themes that impact perceptions and experiences of disability sport and physical education.
- To provide key recommendations for teachers and other educators to improve the experience of disabled children in mainstream education.

If you are reading this in paper form and would like to see Christians dissertation, please email us at

sendcoproductionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk to receive a copy.



“The interesting thing about Ableism” article by Lydia

As mentioned in my previous article “**The Words We Use**”, we live in a time where the language that we use and the way in which we behave, is scrutinized very closely. As people strive for a greater understanding and level of acceptance across many different areas, we are often confronted by lists that outline different types of segregation and discrimination. Occasionally, on some of these lists, tucked alongside the more obvious and well-covered terms like sexism, racism and homophobia, you may see the little word “ableism”. In the fair and equal society that, I believe, people should be working towards, all types of discrimination should be addressed, equally understood, and subsequently eradicated. However, I wish to focus this article on ableism, both because it is the most pertinent to my experience, and because I believe that it is the least understood and discussed word on the list.



The full article has been attached to the email alongside this newsletter.

If you are reading this in paper form, please email us at sendcoproductionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk to receive a copy.



Events

Here are events children and young people would like you to know about:

Special Steps Nursery Event

Spaces available from January. Supporting children with complex needs.

- Contact number 07459771351.
- Contact email specialsteps2023@yahoo.com.
- Website www.specialstepssend.com

Follow them on Facebook: search special steps

**Special Steps**
NURSERY

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SEND firework display by Special Steps SEND provision

- Low noise fireworks
- Wheelchair accessible
- Gated viewing area
- Bouncy Castles
- Soft play
- Sensory room
- Light up toy for every child

Location is Stourport Cricket Club. Harold Davies Road. DY13 0AA. Prices £15 per child, £9 per adult or £45 for family of four. Date Sunday 2nd November 5pm until 7pm



Special Steps Stay and Play Event

For children with special needs and disabilities. Offering support and understanding in a safe fun environment.

- Last Saturday of every month 1:30 until 3pm
- Cost is £5 for per family



Worcestershire Deaf Children's Society Christmas Party Event

Father Christmas, festive crafts and fun.

- Date 29th November 1pm-3pm.
- Cost £10 per family.
- Address Woodgreen Church Hall, Warndon Villages, Hasting Drive, Worcester, WR4 0SR

Book using this link [Buy Tickets Here – Christmas Party Worcester Deaf Children's Society – Woodgreen Church hall](https://buytickets.at/worcesterdeafchildrensociety/1869231)





Contact

If you are a young person with additional needs and disabilities who would like to contribute to future newsletters or take part in projects to help improve SEND services in Worcestershire, please contact us on:



email

Email: SENDCo-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk



website

Website: [Co-production and how to get involved \(SEND\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

You can share and present your topics of interest or ideas in whatever way you wish. For example, through drawing, writing, photos, or verbally.

