

Voices Newsletter January 2026



Welcome

This is the third edition of this newsletter. This newsletter was co-designed and co-produced with children and young people with additional needs and/or 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](#)

We would love for more children and young people (CYP) to contribute to this newsletter! This can be on any topic of interest and presented in a range of ways, for example drawing/writing/photos. You may want us to include a photo of a youth club or a drawing of something that has helped you at school. If you are a CYP that would like to get involved or you know of a CYP that would like to contribute please email us on sendco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk



Outcomes - Launch

Thanks to all the schools, settings and children and young people who have been involved in co-producing the outcomes for children and young people (CYP) with SEND. We have spoken to over 400 CYP to make sure these outcomes are the right ones for them. The co-produced shared outcomes are as follows:

1. *I feel welcome, included and part of a community where I belong*
2. *I feel safe and supported*
3. *I am listened to, understood and involved in decisions about my life*
4. *I am helped to be healthy in my mind and body*
5. *I enjoy life, have fun and I am supported to reach my full potential*

These shared outcomes will now be used by everyone working together in the local area, including health services, education, and the local council. They will help adults plan and improve how services are run. Services will check how well they are doing, share what is going well, and be honest about what still needs to be better.

These outcomes will be launched in a range of ways. These include:

- Videos of what the outcomes mean to young people
- Videos on how the partnership will use these outcomes
- Visual representation of the outcomes
- Outcomes being embedded within service plans

On Wednesday 21st January Wyre Forest School kindly hosted people from the Local Area Partnership to discuss the new outcomes and have already helped us create some videos. We can't wait for them to be published!



We would like to make more videos of what the outcomes mean to young people and how the partnership will use these outcomes. You could be involved! Contact us to help do any aspect of the process. Email: sendco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk

Previous feedback from young people:

‘The only people who ever listen to me is the MET’
[medical education team]

‘[I want] the option to say I don’t want to share this time’

Do you connect to the outcomes? We are always looking for young people’s experiences to help us understand what it is like to live in Worcestershire. **Let us know what you think-** Email: sendco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk

Voices United updates

Voices United have been busy discussing their goals for 2026. They have now created two areas of focus. These are:

- 1. To help people in Worcestershire learn more about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).**
- 2. To grow the Voices United forum so more people can share their voices and experiences.**

The full document will be shared soon. They would like to work with a range of practitioners from services in health, education and the local authority to fulfil their goals. If you are a practitioner who can support Voices United achieve their goals, please get in touch. Voices United would like to visit schools, settings and universities to share their lived experiences with practitioners. They would also like to recruit more members to the forum and increase the voices network by speaking directly to children and young people in different settings.

Matthew Palmer

Matthew is a Voices United member. He also goes to a monthly meeting called SEND and AP (Alternative Provision) Executive board and contributes to discussions around current and future plans for SEND with senior lead practitioners in health and education. On 19th January 2026, he attended the Overview and Scrutiny Panel at the Wychavon District Council Chambers in Pershore. He presented the members of the panel with the outcomes for children and young people with SEND and what the future plans are for Voice United.



Direct quotes from Matthew during the meeting:

“The outcomes embody the fundamentals of how to make children safe... and secure. Without that [they]... are not going to be able to access joy, aspiration, desires and dreams of the future”

‘If you are not listened to, you are not going to have self-worth’

“VU hopes for the future....the outcomes get embedded within the heart of the local partnership at all levels”

Watch the full meeting here: [Worcestershire County Council - Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel - 19/01/2026 - YouTube](#)

If you would like to find out more about Voices United and dates and agendas of meeting, please visit: [Voices United Forum \(SEND co-production\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)



Projects for children and young people

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



Family Network meetings in Social Care

Scripting a video for the website to help other young people understand what happens when they meet social workers. Would you like to help write the script for it?

There is a meeting taking place online on February 4th 4pm-5pm. Please email sendco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk to get involved.



Raising awareness of SEND

The Voices United forum are focusing on this theme for 2026. Would you like to help to create resources? We will be deciding what resources are needed and will then give out more information.



Acute NHS Trust: Improving patient experiences

We have only just started to have conversations with the Acute Trust about working with them. They are in charge of the three biggest hospitals in Worcestershire- Worcester, Kidderminster and Redditch.

They would like to improve the patient experience, with a focus on learning disabilities and autism initially. There are possible chances to visit wards to give feedback, assess them for accreditation and also to share your experiences with the managers. They would like to help educate the workforce about patients with a learning disability and/ or autism.



Short Breaks Development

There is a working group looking at the short breaks provision in the county. We have been asked to contribute through feedback. These are the questions:

1. What activities do you like to do with your friends/other young people/ with family?
2. Why do you want to do activities with other young people?
3. Where would you choose to do activities?
4. What would be a brilliant activity with other people for you? For example, who is there, what are you doing, where are you, what makes it good

Some young people have drawn the answer to these, but you could use Lego, for example.

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____

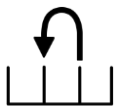
Education Health Care Plan summary document

The Young Adults Team would like to create a one-page summary for EHCPs. This would decrease the amount of information that has to be read by everyone when they are trying to understand the young person. What do you think should be included on that summary page?

- What would your EHCP summary look like?
- What information would it include?
- How will you make it easy to read and understand?

Please email sendco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk or WhatsApp us on either 07860356052 (Chanika) or 07860356051 (Amy) if you would like to get involved in any of these projects.

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



Previous projects

Here are some projects young people have been involved in:



December updates:

- SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities information and support service) and Voices network co-produced and co-designed a Christmas tree for the Worcester Tree Cathedral.



- Heart Of Worcestershire (HOW) college Redditch joined in discussions about college and how college has prepared them for the future. This feedback was then used in a workshop with staff who work in post 16 services.





- Heart Of Worcestershire (HOW) college Redditch also was involved in the EHCP project and created what they would like an EHCP summary look like. This information was fed back to the lead person of this service.

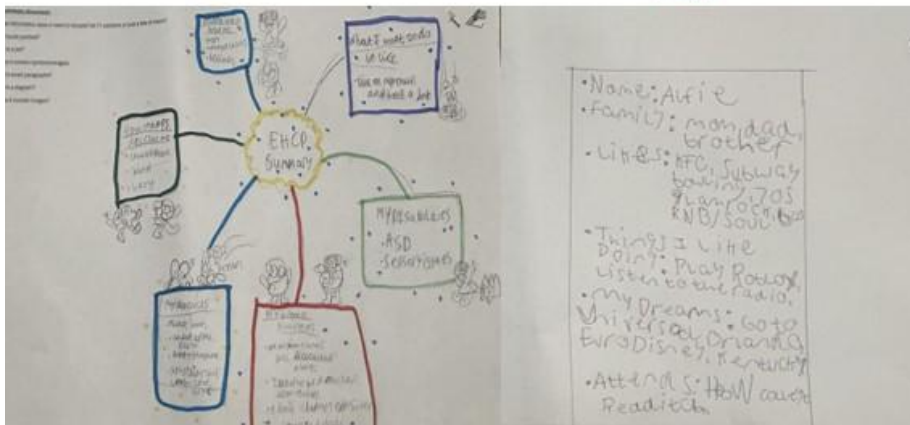


Activity



• If you could create a one-page summary document of your EHCP what would this look like?

- What information does it need to include? All 11 sections or just a few of them?
- Is it bullet pointed?
- Is it in a list?
- Does it contain symbols/widgets
- Is it in small paragraphs?
- Is it in a diagram?
- Does it contain images?



Events

Voices United Forum meetings

- Monday 2nd February 5-6.30
- Monday 2nd March 5-6.30
- Monday 6th April 5-6.30

Forum meetings can be joined online or in person!

Co-production in services event for children and young people

On **Wednesday 25th February 4pm-7pm** practitioners from a range of services will be coming together to tell children and young people their plans and how they will use the outcomes that were created by children and young with SEND to improve and design their services. Children and young people will be able to join online or in person. This event will take place at Worcester Cricket Club.

Contact

If you are a young person with additional needs and/or 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.