

Question and Answer session: Feedback

This feedback was sent to the teachers at Wyre Forest School following the Outcomes Launch event that was held there on 21st January. During the day the students asked questions of Adam Johnston, Jade Brooks and members of the Voices United forum. Some of the questions needed more response than was available on the day. This the feedback that was sent to the school after the event, to close the feedback loop.

Thank you for allowing us to come and visit you all at school. We really enjoyed spending time with you and learning about your Enterprises. You asked us lots of questions, some of which we could not fully answer on the day. These are the answers to those questions.



What does adult respite offer? And how does the funding work?

The Care Act 2014 Needs Assessment will work out a person's needs and then a Care and Support Plan will show how those needs are met.

Where this is a carer, like parents, they can have a Carers Assessment to talk about what they do and when they need breaks.

It is also important to have a special plan agreed between you and your carer should they not be available to care for you. When this has been planned, Replacement Care (respite) can be arranged throughout the year. How much replacement care is given depends on your needs. You could go to provision that has free places on the dates you need. We have some places that you go to, to visit but sometimes people have more support at home while the carer goes away.

If it is an emergency, the help is given by the place with free spaces and can help you properly.

Will services need to report on their progress against the outcomes?

Yes! We discussed this at the last SEND and AP Committee meeting at the end of January. As a Partnership we are making sure that ALL practitioners are fully aware of the outcomes.

We are also starting to identify measures that can make sure we know what progress has been made. These will be used in progress reports to Committee. We will try to identify those measures quickly and in a number of ways. This will include discussions with young people via Voices United. We planning to talk about this more at the SEND Executive Board in early February and then make some changes at the next Committee meeting.

Can you increase access to work experience opportunities?

The Skills and Employability team within Worcestershire County Council, working with the Careers and Enterprise Company, supports local schools by helping with employer encounters. This happens through our business network, the Inclusive Leaders programme, and the Worcestershire Growth Hub.

Careers Leaders in all schools should contact their Enterprise Coordinator to discuss their needs around employer engagement and their progress towards meeting the new Modern Work Experience reforms. Using this information, the Enterprise Coordinator will identify any gaps, connect the school with suitable employers, and help align activity to the school's wider ambitions, while also strengthening the county-wide programme available to all schools. In the case of Wyre Forest School, their Enterprise Co Ordinator is Alicia Taylor-Carter atcarter@worcestershire.gov.uk who will be in touch with the school to discuss.

Can you provide support or funding to PODS Disco?

Adam: As much as I would like to, the Council doesn't have the ability to directly support with funding. Details of the Community Wellbeing Grant are included below, but I will be meeting with Public Health to talk about accessibility, so we will ask for support/advice around the chances of the grant enabling funding support.

[Community Wellbeing Grants | Worcestershire County Council](#)

I can't use my bus pass before 9.30am. Can you help?

Initially, talk to the staff at school. If they cannot help, talk to your EHCP Coordinator or a social worker, if you have one, about college transport options.

I said something similar in the meeting, and it is the best approach, so that individual needs and circumstances can be considered. However, if after these conversations there isn't an obvious resolution, then contact me either directly or via the school. I will do my best to identify a way forward.

Can you make gyms more accessible?

Adam: I am in the process of speaking with Public Health colleagues. I don't have a clear and definite answer yet. It is important to say that the Council and PH don't have the 'power' to make this happen BUT, we do have influence. So, we could try to influence gyms across the county and Public Health are eager to do so.

We will monitor this alongside Public Health colleagues to see if there are tangible improvements and where there are, we will positively spotlight the gyms who have made accessibility improvements. This will encourage others to follow suit.

Could the school speak to a local gym about how you can help them to be more accessible?

Safe Places National Network

A student mentioned about Safe Places and when it was looked up on the National Scheme website, there were no Safe Places in Worcester shown. [Safe Places - Keep Safe with Safe Places](#).

More information was found on this website, though, which is the local scheme run by Our Way. [Safe Places | Our Way Self Advocac](#). Is this something you could try to work on? Maybe you could help other young people know about Safe Places and what they offer?

Can you add widgets to the website?

We have asked the webpage team about this, and we have been told it might be possible. We are going to try this with the Co-production pages first. There are also Easy Read options on a lot of pages.

What inclusive sport options are there in Worcestershire?

There are some inclusive and disability clubs listed on the Local Offer already but, we need to add more. We are about to start redesigning the Local Offer webpages

and making sure more information is included on it. A member of Voices United, Matteo, is going to help with this, but if there are suggestions you would like to make, please let us know. [Things to do \(SEND\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

We are also looking to recruit a dedicated officer to ensure the local offer is up to date. That officer will also be tasked in communicating the Local Offer far and wide, so it is as good as it can be. Communications will follow and the young people at Wyre Forest school will be made aware.



Thank you for helping us by signing the outcomes!