

Voices United Forum Report

Project Title: Creation of Voices United Forum

Create date: July 25

How many children are currently in the forum: 17

1. Overview

This report documents the development of the Worcestershire SEND Forum, now formally established as *Voices United*. It sets out the journey of creation, the activities undertaken, and the feedback gathered through co-production with children and young people (CYP). The report highlights the outputs, outcomes, and impact of this work, demonstrating how *Voices United* has become a platform that strengthens participation, amplifies the voices of CYP with SEND, and informs the local SEND strategy.

2. Outputs

First steps of recruitment processes:

- Carried out visits to schools, colleges, and community settings across Worcestershire to raise awareness and invite participation from CYP with SEND.
- Carried out visits to groups in the community to recruit members

Formally establishing SEND forum group:

- Co-produced the name ***Voices United*** with CYP during the August Forum, giving the forum its own identity that reflects unity, strength, and inclusion.
 - Co-designing the logo for Voices United with CYP
 - Slogan creation by one of the CYP in the forum ***“Our Voice, Our Choice”***
 - Beginning to establish collaboration between CYP, and Local area partnership representatives to ensure the forum’s voice contributes to decision-making.
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3. Outcomes

- CYP with SEND now have a recognised, formal mechanism to share their experiences and influence local services.
- Sense of Belonging and Ownership: Young people reported feeling valued and listened to, with their input shaping the forum’s identity and direction.

- **Informed Strategy Development:** Feedback gathered through *Voices United* has already been used to refine quality assurance statements and shape emerging outcomes for Worcestershire's SEND strategy.
 - **Strengthened Co-production:** Professionals and decision-makers have begun to embed CYP perspectives into service planning, recognising the forum as a trusted partner.
 - **Increased Participation:** Membership and engagement have grown steadily, demonstrating increasing trust and recognition of the forum's value.
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5. Impact

- **For CYP:** The establishment of *Voices United* ensures that children and young people with SEND are no longer passive recipients of services, but active contributors to shaping them.
 - **For Families:** The forum strengthens confidence that the system is listening to young people's lived experiences and acting on their priorities.
 - **For Services:** Local authority and partner agencies now have a consistent and structured route to hear CYP perspectives, enabling more responsive and effective service design.
 - **For Worcestershire:** *Voices United* provides evidence of a culture of co-production and accountability, aligning local practice with national expectations and demonstrating progress in developing a more inclusive SEND system.
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5. Next steps

- Continue to expand the reach of *Voices United* by engaging with a wider range of children and young people, including those with complex needs, who may require more tailored approaches to participation.
- Embed *Voices United* into local governance structures so that CYP voices directly inform strategic decision-making and service improvement across education, health, and social care.
- Provide members of *Voices United* with training and mentoring to build confidence, leadership skills, and advocacy capacity, enabling young people to co-facilitate sessions and represent peers at local and regional forums.
- Establish clear mechanisms to show CYP how their input has influenced change ("you said, we did"), ensuring transparency and maintaining trust.
- Secure ongoing resources, facilitation support, and partnerships to ensure the forum continues to thrive and has long-term impact.

- Develop measures to assess the effectiveness of *Voices United*, tracking both the quality of participation and the influence of CYP voices on service delivery and outcomes

Agenda's of previous forums

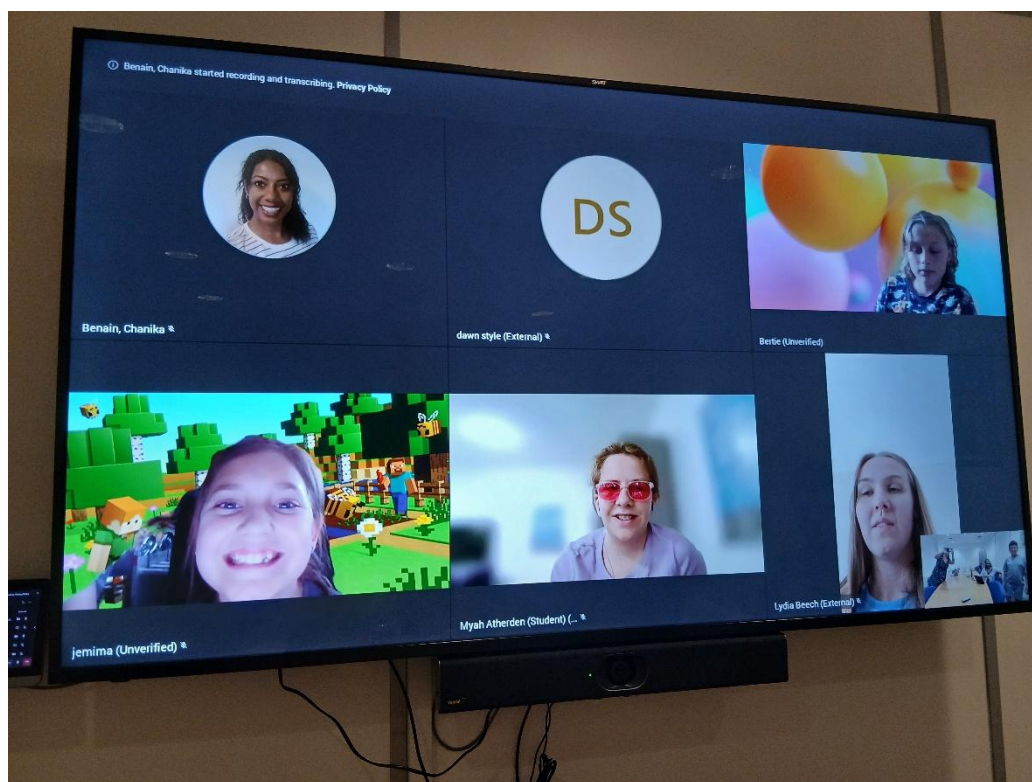
July forum: 7 participants attended online

- Introductions (for those who wish to)
- Activity (bring a picture/image)
- Group name ideas
- Logo idea's
- Slogan
- Social media and video/photo consent
- Next meet up and dates – shall we meet face to face
- Anything else you would like to discuss



August forum: 7 participants attended, 6 online, 1 in person in Wildwood Office

1. Group name update
2. Logo update
3. Newsletter update
4. Social media update
5. Statements for good quality
6. Design your perfect activity
7. Accommodations for meetings



7. Conclusion:

The creation of *Voices United* marks a significant step forward in amplifying the voices of children and young people with SEND in Worcestershire. Through structured engagement, co-production, and sustained partnership working, the forum has delivered clear outputs, meaningful outcomes, and lasting impact. It stands as both a platform for young people to be heard and a driver of change within Worcestershire's SEND landscape.