

# **'Have your say'**

## **Engagement Event Report**

**July 2018**



**This event was supported by Bury 2gether, Bury STARS, Bury Youth Service, Bury Participation Workers, Connexions, The Bury Directory and Bury Educational Psychology Service.**

## **Introduction**

Two events for children and young people (C&YP) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) were conducted in Bury. These events were planned by a steering group of interested C&YP with SEND who live in Bury. A primary-aged event was held on 11<sup>th</sup> July and a secondary and post-16 event was held on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

In total 47 C&YP with SEND attended both events (30 at the primary event and 17 at the secondary and post-16 event). In total the C&YP came from 5 primary schools and 4 high schools; this included a specialist provision and resource provision.

This report will go on to outline the key information from the C&YP who attended the event. This information is taken from discussions, written and interactive games, and pictures.

## **Feedback Summary**

In summary:

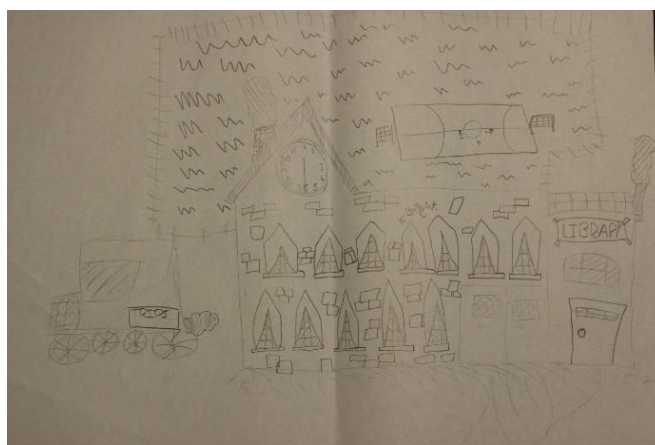
- There is a disparity in how C&YP feel supported in school. This is greater in secondary schools than in primary schools.
- C&YP with SEND would like greater social opportunities in Bury.
- The local offer could be a method to support C&YP in understanding what is available for them in Bury.

## **Overall feedback from C&YP**

### **What's going well?**

The C&YP highlighted a number of things that they felt are going well at the moment. This included:

- Enjoying school: *'it helps you get smarter'*.
- Appreciating the help and support they receive in school: *'feel listened to'*; *'if you're upset they help you a lot'* and they like having a *'safe space'* to go to in school.
- Doing practical lessons and activities in school such as P.E., food technology, art and music.
- Spending time with friends.
- Enjoying playing out.
- One young person added: *'Bury is a nice place to live'*.



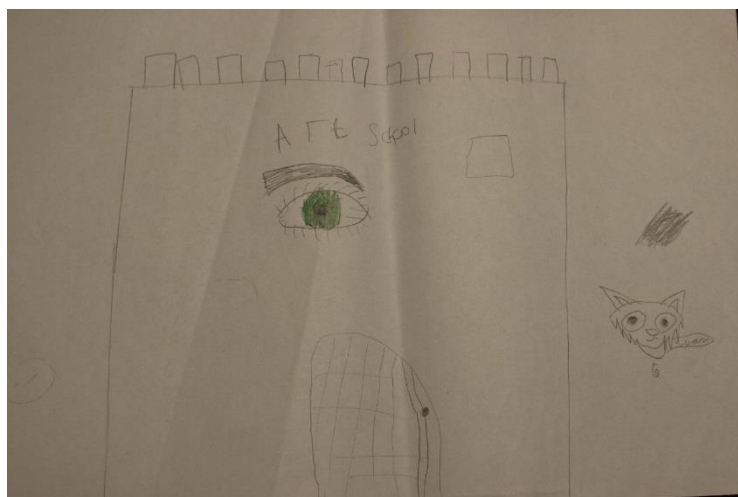
## What would you like to change?

### In school:

It is important to add that although a lot of the children and young people shared that they enjoyed school this was mainly primary-aged children. There was a greater mix of views among the secondary aged young people, with many of them highlighting difficulties they have in secondary school.

Areas that they would like to change in school included:

- Quieter classes and classroom.
- Not to be shouted at.
- School staff need to have a greater understanding of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and how to support pupils with them; *'School don't really understand me, teachers think I'm naughty'*. C&YP suggested that school staff should be trained in SEND, but also in understanding that C&YP with the same difficulty may also be different and need different support: *'not all autism is the same'*.
- C&YP in schools also need support to understand other C&YP with SEND.
- Would like the opportunity to do more practical lessons and activities, such as archery, swimming, trampolining, animation, football, coding, gaming and outdoor learning.
- It would be better to have form time at school in the morning instead of in the afternoon.
- More opportunity to develop friendships, such as more clubs available.



### In your community:

An area that came out strongly for both the primary and secondary events were around a lack of social opportunities for them in Bury. Quotes from C&YP included: *'would like to meet more young people socially'*; *'I have no friends'*; *'I won't go on the park due to other young people'* and; *'there's nothing to do in Bury'*.

Some of them talked about going to social/sport groups but due to their needs found it difficult: *'I've got special needs so I find it hard'*. They also suggested that the staff that run groups find it hard to support C&YP with SEND.

A lot of C&YP put forward to idea of having a social or youth club for those with SEND. They wanted to do activities including crafts, sports, cooking, board games, Lego, outdoor learning, boxing, swimming and climbing. They also talked about learning new skills and developing their independence: *'I'm not confident at using the oven'*; *'I'd like to make food on my own when I'm older'*. One young person suggested that he would like it to be held at the New Kershaw

Centre, another highlighted that they didn't want to at school as wanted it to be separate from school. One young person said during the event that they '*enjoyed playing and meeting others*', they shared that they don't get to meet other young people like them and would like to do so, so they '*can make more friends*'. However, it is important to add that one young person said: '*Just because we've got special needs doesn't mean we've got anything in common*' and that activities available should be available for all C&YP regardless of SEND.

It was raised that there are currently some activities for C&YP with SEND, but these can be very expensive and are not run as social or youth groups. It was shared that it can be difficult to access transport to get to these as well. Concerns were also raised about transport and the level of support for C&YP that could be provided as part of a social or youth group if one were to be created.

It was also shared that there is not enough accessibility around Bury town centre. For example, wheelchair access and parking, available changing facilities, including at the leisure centres.

## **Views on the Local Offer website**

### **What do you like about it?**

When C&YP were asked what they liked about the local offer they said:

- It's got lots of information on.
- Useful.
- Tells you who to contact.
- Quite informative.



### **Logo**

When C&YP were asked about a possible logo's they said:

- They wanted a colourful logo.
- Something that represents Bury.
- To be able to understand what it means.
- Their preferred logos were the town logo and the tree logo.

### **Landing page**

When C&YP were asked about a possible landing page they said:

- Wanted lots of colour and clear icons on each button.
- Wanted to be able to find activities by age.
- Wanted to see everything from the front page (didn't want to scroll down).

### **Don't like about the local offer?**

When C&YP were asked what they did not like about the local offer they said:

- Not enough pictures, colour and too much information: '*Too much information and writing*'.
- Hard to find what you are looking for.
- Felt it was more for parents than C&YP - '*not child friendly*'.

- Would like it to be easy to use – just type in what you want to find.

### **What services do you want to find?**

When C&YP were asked what services they would like to find out about they said:

- Activities, events and groups are available for C&YP relating to: animal; horse riding; farm; trampolining; make-up and nails; gymnastics; solo sports (not just team sports); roller skating parks; massage, meditation, Yoga and Pilates; baking and cooking; movies; swimming; cinema and bowling; trips away, such as Blackpool and theme parks; music; computer games such as (gaming tournaments); homework help and support; general leisure and recreation activities.
- Transport information, including getting to and from Manchester.
- Information on mentoring and advocacy groups – mixed age and ability (helping younger children with SEND).
- What education is available and what do they offer C&YP with SEND.

### **What would a good website look like?**

When C&YP were asked what a good website could look like they said:

- To split the categories by primary, secondary and post 16 or by age.
- To have videos on local offer of what different services can provide (particularly LA services).
- Pictures and information about what services do.
- Symbols and colour needed.
- For the website to be more interactive and would like games if possible.
- Timetable or calendar of what is available for C&YP with SEND.
- Options of how you see the page.
- Videos relating to SEND, such as what autism is (and other special needs) – what do you need to know about autism / role models of people with autism.
- Links to other useful information such as the Barclays programming site, CBeebies, learning games and information sites, such as the National Autistic Society.

### **Feedback on the events:**

All of the C&YP invited gave really positive feedback about the event: *'I feel like my voice was heard'*; *'This was really cool'*; *'I loved it'*; *'I met people that I liked'*; *'Everything I have really enjoyed'*. The circus skills workshop was the favourite activity overall. They also enjoyed having two options for lunch (pizza or hot dog). They felt the quiet room that had been set-up was really useful and lots of young people used this room when they needed some time-out. When asked what they





did not like about the event, a common response was related to wanting 'more' of particular activities and in finding some of the activities 'too hard', such as the circus skills. In particular the C&YP liked the opportunity to meet other young people and engage in fun, interactive activities.



A member of school staff highlighted that the 'no pressure' and 'flexible' approach to the event supported C&YP to 'be themselves' (they referred to a child who is a selective speaker who spoke constantly throughout the event).

more differentiation was needed for the day. It was suggested that school staff could be involved with planning the event if it was conducted again. However, it is important to highlight that this was an event planned and created for C&YP by C&YP.

### **Next steps**

The event highlighted that if you want to engage with C&YP you need to do things they enjoy and are excited by. C&YP have provided a significant amount of information regarding what they current like in Bury and how things could be better for them. This information will be presented to key stakeholders and conversations will be held regarding what will be done with this information. This will then be fed back to the C&YP who attended this event, along with information about what is going to happen next.



**It is important to give thanks to all the C&YP who contributed to this report. It is also important to thank the staff and parent/carers who also came and supported the event, alongside the professionals from Bury 2gether, Bury STARS, Bury Youth Service, Bury Participation Workers, Connexions, The Bury Directory and Bury Educational Psychology Service.**

Appendices: Additional photos and pictures from the events.

## Appendices

### Additional photos from the events























**Additional pictures from the events**

