



# Lambeth SEND Have your say

2 December 2023



## Introduction

The 'Lambeth SEND Have Your Say' event was held at The Assembly Hall at Lambeth Town Hall on Saturday 2 December. It was a chance for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to start to have a say on the services they receive and to tell us what services they want to have.

The event was designed to be a fun, interactive afternoon for 14 to 25 year old young people with a wide range of SEND. Food and drink were provided. It was aimed at young people living, studying or working in Lambeth and open to friends, parents and carers who they may want to support them.

This was a partnership activity, co-designed with Socialising Angels, a Lambeth based community interest company that provides events, activities and programmes aiming to improve social wellbeing of young adults with SEND, by creating access to high quality social experiences. Socialising Angels was founded by a mother of a young adult with SEND and is very aware of the difficulties faced when these young people have no social interaction. Their involvement and specialist SEND engagement skills base ensured that the views, thoughts and opinions of the young people with a wide range of SEND barriers could be captured.

## Aims

- The event aimed as a warm up for future SEND youth involvement activity in anticipation of the appointment of the SEND Youth Involvement Coordinator
- We wanted to generate awareness among young people, their parents and carers of the forthcoming activity and gain some first feedback
- Specifically, we wanted to start to Identify potential participants in a future SEND Youth Forum

## Event marketing and promotion

The event was promoted via a range of channels. It featured in the Lambeth Parent Forum, Youth & Play and Children & Young People's Voluntary and Community Sector newsletters. Lambeth's Comms team were involved, promoting the event via Lambeth social media channels and the Love Lambeth blog as well as the events calendar. It was also promoted in person at Parents Forum meetings, as well as distributing flyers at colleges, local cafes and supermarkets, libraries and Lambeth organisations working with young people.

The Comms team will publish a post-event story in Love Lambeth. This will lead to another when the SEND Youth Involvement Coordinator is in post and further stories as the SEND Youth Forum develops.

## Attendance

- 22 participants attended the event. 14 were young people (4 female and 10 male), 7 were parents/carers and one was teacher from Elm Court School.

- Young people's self-attributed SEND covered a range including: 'Autism with social and communication difficulties'; 'Autism and severe learning disabilities'; 'Complex needs and waiting for ADHD assessment'; 'Downs Syndrome – learning, speech and language delay, cognitive learning disabilities (cognitive) and visual/hearing impairments'; and 'Global Development Delay with complex needs'.
- Also attending were the 4 facilitators, a SEND Commissioner and a member of the SEND team.









### Facilitators

- Jerome Martello, Lambeth Housing Youth and Young Adult Engagement Coordinator
- Louise Fletcher, Socialising Angels
- Dan Oakley, Lambeth SEND Preparing for Adulthood Lead
- Ionie Hughes, Socialising Angels

### Programme

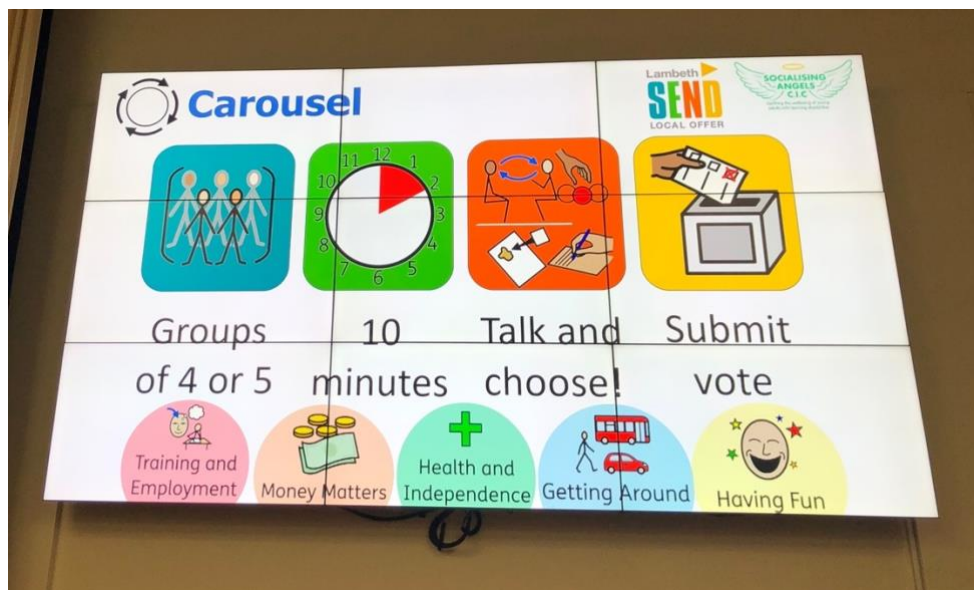
The event was centred on a carousel activity that asked the young people to tell us about the services they use and want. Event resources were prepared to ensure accessibility of activities across the spectrum. Symbols and pictures were the primary form of visual communication.



	<b>2.00</b>	Welcome
	<b>2.15</b>	Warm Up Activity
	<b>2.30</b>	Carousel
	<b>3.30</b>	Break
	<b>4.00</b>	Feedback and next steps
	<b>4.30</b>	Finish

The full event programme can be seen in appendix 1, the event slide deck.

## The carousel



## Young people's responses

Young people completed the carousel, which involved moving around five tables where they were asked to give their views on five service areas. They were given voting cards and used pictures to prompt discussion and to vote as well as pens and post-it notes so they could draw or write their choices. We then fed back to them the results of those discussions, using brief summary slides. The full results can be seen in appendix 2.

 <p><b>Training and Employment</b></p>	<p><b>I use</b></p>   <p>community</p>  <p>cafe</p>  <p>college</p>	<p><b>I want</b></p>   <p>teacher</p>  <p>paid work</p>	<p><b>I don't want</b></p>   <p>cleaning</p>
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## Brief summary of responses











A diverse range of interests and aspirations among young people with SEND. The importance of tailored and inclusive education, training and work opportunities is evident.

Varied experiences, including both formal education and practical training, can contribute to promote confidence and develop a sense capability that will benefit their independence and self esteem.

These themes can serve as a foundation for developing targeted programs and support systems that cater to the specific needs and desires of young people with SEND in the areas of education, training, and employment.










I use 	I want 	I don't want 
 gym	 socialising  safety  quiet  live with friends	 harassment  lonely

### Recommendations for Support and Development:

- Independent Living Skills Training: Provide training in using public transportation and learning new skills for increased independence.
- Nutritional Education: Support the desire to learn new recipes and encourage a healthy lifestyle.
- Social and Recreational Opportunities: Facilitate access to social clubs, dancing classes, and other activities that foster social interactions with peers, benefiting their social and emotional well-being and their mental health.
- Mental Health and Well-being: Address concerns related to injections and ensure emotional support is available.
- Privacy and Communication Support: Provide support in managing personal communications and respecting privacy concerns.
- Continued Healthcare Support: Ensure continued access to specialized healthcare services, considering the specific needs of individuals with SEND.
- Financial Planning and Assistance: Support aspirations for better living conditions by providing information on financial planning and assistance programs.





I use 	I want 	I don't want 
 bank card	 save money	

### Recommendations for Support and Development:

- Financial Education: Provide tailored financial education to enhance understanding and capacity.
- Supervised Shopping Support: Continue to offer supervised support for shopping, gradually promoting independence.
- Balancing Spending and Saving: Introduce strategies to balance spending desires with savings goals.
- Online Shopping Assistance: Offer support with online shopping to increase independence.
- Leisure Budgeting: Encourage budgeting for leisure activities to manage spending on enjoyable experiences.
- Savings Plans: Introduce simplified savings plans and mechanisms to foster a savings mindset.
- Communication with Financial Institutions: Explore options for limited financial independence, such as setting spending limits on bank cards.
- Person-Centered Approach: tailor support based on individual preferences, acknowledging the importance of personal enjoyment in spending.
- Balancing autonomy with supervision, addressing the challenge of temptation, and promoting financial education are key considerations in supporting their financial well-being.










I use	I want	I don't want
 bus Oyster card	 international travel confidence	 driving

### Recommendations for Support and Development:

- Independent Travel Training: Provide targeted training to enhance independence in using public transport.
- Support for New Modes: Offer support for individuals interested in new modes of transport like cycling and driving.
- Group Activities: Facilitate group activities such as tandem cycling to promote social engagement and support networks.
- Addressing Nervousness: Develop strategies and support mechanisms to address nervousness, especially in crowded environments.
- Age-Related Transition Support: Provide support and guidance as individuals approach age-related milestones, such as turning sixteen.
- Transportation Options: Explore and discuss various transportation options to identify preferences and comfort levels.
- Communication with Transport Providers: Establish communication channels with transport providers to address specific support needs.





I use 	I want 	I don't want 
 clubs	 horse riding	 fighting

### Recommendations for Support and Development:

- Social Inclusion Programs: Develop and expand social club, after-college, and holiday activities, with a focus on creating inclusive spaces.
- Diverse Leisure Activities: Offer a variety of leisure activities such as dancing, music, and cooking to cater to diverse interests.
- Gender-Specific Groups: Consider creating gender-specific groups, such as a girls' group, to address specific socialization needs.
- Community Engagement: Promote community involvement and activities to foster a sense of belonging and connection.
- Safety and Well-being: Address concerns about safety and work towards creating safer environments for young people.
- Individualized Support: Recognize and support individual hobbies and interests, ensuring a positive and inclusive experience.
- Community Feedback Mechanism: Set up channels for young people to express preferences and concerns, contributing to the development of tailored programs.



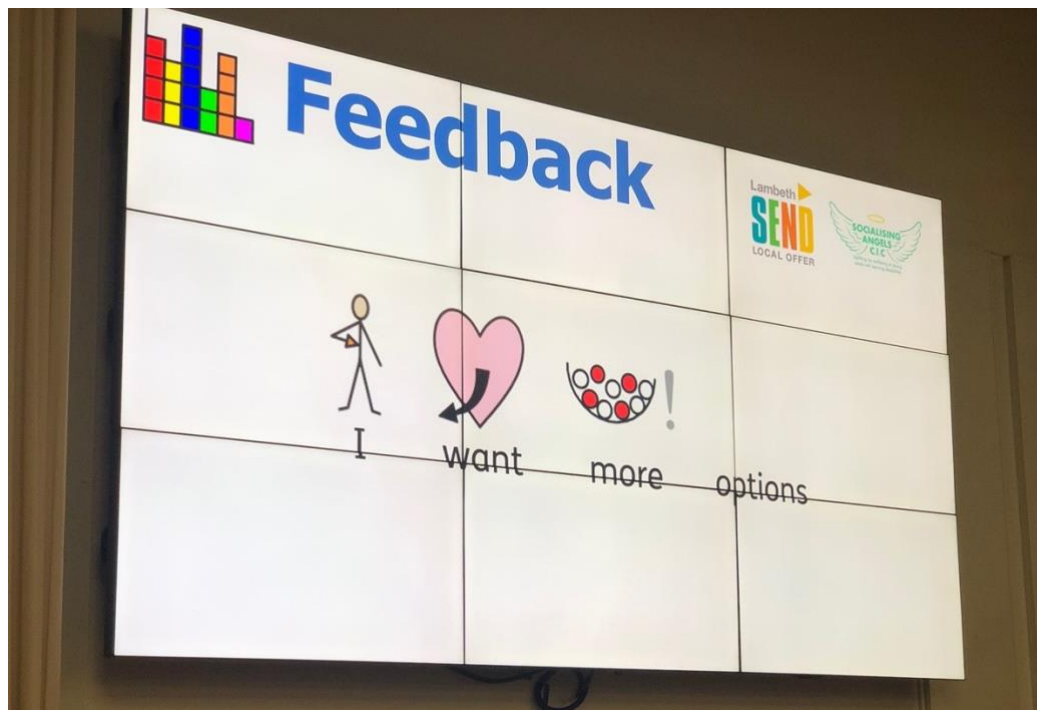


## Feedback

Young people responded extremely positively to the event and when asked whether they had enjoyed themselves, felt they were listened to and whether they had met new people. See appendix 1, slides 34-41 for the full feedback process.



## Feedback

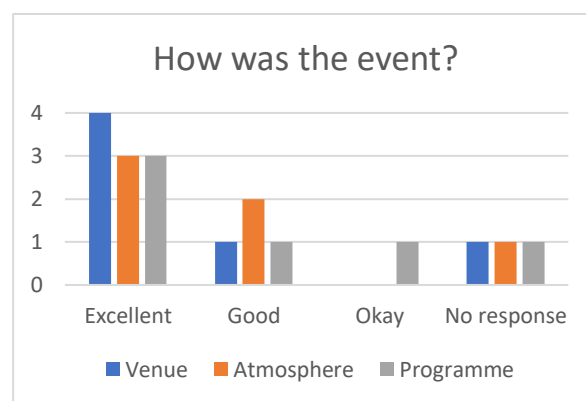


## Next steps

At the conclusion of the event, we explained that the SEND Youth Involvement Coordinator should be recruited soon and that when that person was in post, they would be organising more events – centrally organised ones like this one, Youth Forum meetings and outreach activities in schools, youth clubs, libraries etc.

## Parents' survey results

Parents were given a QR code link to a brief survey. Respondents gave a very positive response. They also provided some detailed feedback, giving their views on existing provision and gaps on the same themes the young people had discussed. These responses can be seen in appendix 3.



## **Recommendations**

This report to be sent to the SEND Operations Board and distributed to participants and via the Parents Forum.

The report also to be used the by the PFA Working Group and Life Skills & Social/Leisure Task Group to inform their work.

Recruitment and appointment to the role of SEND Youth Involvement Coordinator is essential as is the identification of sufficient resources to allow future direct work with young people to take place.

## **Appendix 1 – full event programme**

[SEND Youth Forum\\_LF.pptx](#)

## Appendix 2 – full young people’s feedback

### Training & employment

I use	I want	I don't like
Education Not sure about college I enjoy working with my tutor at home Training – I attend work training at the unity one day a week baking for the café Work – I would like to work and earn money I would like my own business selling cakes and body care	To do unpaid training	
Lambeth college Job searching	Work at the theatre – usher role Creative training	[man in a wheelchair using laptop]
I work at Ebony Horse Club Art4Space Gardening – share/Oasis	[man drilling wooden blocks]	
Sports – football trainer	[waitress] Cooking	Maths, English, walking
Y is at Aurora college in Morden where she does some work experience. She does not access any other training experience, but we would like to find something outside college and more local.	Cooking Café Wheelbarrow [waitress] We would like to find regular, part-time volunteering opportunities	Cleaning The church
	Community work St Helen's Church Primary School Teaching and I help students Year 6	
?? college	Café Drawing Bowling Computer Flower Boxing ?? Work garden Shopping	Football Tennis
Teach dancing Teach children	[man in a wheelchair using laptop] Doctor, dentist	



[waitress]	[young man gardening]	
Teacher Café Hairdressing	Gardening	Cleaning
Work in Van Gogh café Internship (Roots and Shoots) Gardening	College – sports Learn – Maths and a language Different jobs and opportunities	
eSport in college	Gaming management in eSports Be a pro eSports gamer Teach eSports in college	Doctor Lawyer Pack shelves

## Health & independence

I use	I want	I don't want
Bus Cook I travel by myself and enjoy it I would like to learn new recipes	[dentist] [group of young people in a flat]	Walk
Bus [dentist]	[group of young people in a flat]	
?? friendly	1 hour detox tea Friends Healthy Swimming Football Bowling Shopping Gym	Junk food
[blind person crossing the road]	Friends	[man in a wheelchair loading washing machine]
[blind person crossing the road]	[group of young people in a flat] [man in a wheelchair loading washing machine]	Live on my own
[blind person crossing the road]	[dentist]	Live by yourself
I go swimming and to the gym I go to candy and chips and moneys uptown	Food House better living internet New friends	People picture of me posted
[group of young people in a flat] Cook	Travel shopping	[dentist]
[man in a wheelchair tasting food]	[blind person crossing the road] [man in a wheelchair loading washing machine] With my brother	[group of young people in a flat]
Buses Training Underground independent	Learn to use the trains	Stalking one home Also don't answer my number
[dentist]	[blind person crossing the road] Friends – I think about friends when I watch blogs,	[man in a wheelchair loading washing machine] I don't want live on my own. I love my house, will move

	but my thoughts are what if I invite them and I change my mind	when I'm rich. I do help at home with tidying up.
Gymnastics Mum Dad	run	Swimming Injections make me feel upset
I like swimming I like gym Y is on the SEN register at Clapham Family Practice and that works well. She goes swimming at Clapham Leisure Centre and does gym at college	Dancing Y would love to be able to go to a social club with dancing with young people her age. She would like SEN gym or yoga class.	Fire places

## Money Matters

I use	I want	I don't want
[pig] [supermarket shopping]	[cash] [online shopping] [market shopping]	Walking
[supermarket shopping]	[pig]	
[online shopping] but need help [market shopping] difficult	[pig] I like to save but it's tempting to spend	[cash] I don't like spending but buying trainers and clothes makes me happy so it's 50/50
[pig]	[cash]	[online shopping]
contactless	shopping	[pig]
Online payment	Saving money	[market shopping]
Food	Listen to vegetable keeper Shopping Save food Money	KFC American food Too much food
[pig]	[online shopping]	
Y has very limited understanding of money and does not have financial capacity. We have a bank card that she uses in shops for small purchases – mostly food – but she only uses it under supervision. She does not go shopping on her own		
[cash] [pig]	[market shopping] Café/restaurant Theatre/cinema	[online shopping] [supermarket shopping]
Clothes DVDs	[pig]	

## Getting around

I use	I want	I don't want
I like buses and taxi Y goes to college on foot and by tube and comes home by taxi. We use the bus and walk a lot.	I like my freedom pass. Having a freedom pass is very, very useful.	My bicycles
Tube – need support – but would like less	Bus – be more independent	Cycling



Bus – need support – less support	Bike Walking	Walk with a group, not alone
Get around by bus Getting around by myself	[Tandem cycling]	Travelling by train or tube
Bus	Train Horse ride	
Car Bus [Group of young people walking]	Plane Horse riding	
Bus [Tandem cycling] Horse riding	Plane	[Group of young people walking]
Tube Bus Caravan	[Tandem cycling] Horse riding	[Group of young people walking]
Independent walking and getting on the bus	Cycling Drive	
Tube, busses – why I need support – because of nerves, hard when it's busy		Tube
Bus	Train Walking	Driving car
Bus Train	Sixteen	

## Having fun

I use	I want	I don't want
I enjoy going out with my family Watching Netflix and WWE Xbox gaming		Sports Dancing
We would like to find more social club/after college/holiday activities. A girls group would be especially valuable.	I like dancing, music, cooking, holiday – we would also like holiday respite options. Swimming Nail art	
Team sports Socialising	Playing video games with others	Swimming
Swimming	[Group of young people doing zombie moves]	Football
	[horse riding]	
DVDs	Water sports Video games	
Cinema Theatre McDonalds Art4Space	Carpentry	Swimming
[Girls football] [Swimming] Cinema	[horse riding] Video games Dogs	[Group of young people doing zombie moves] Walking
Eating Listen to music	Singing, theatre, dancing Church signing Swimming Sport Drawing Dancing and horse riding	Football
Gym [Swimming] Socialising Angels	[horse riding]	[young people in the park]
Gym Horse riding Music and games	Lots of staff I'm 22 years old and I also do boxing Code 7	Don't like fighting Lambeth to be safer
Drama Gym [young people in the park] Socialising Angels	Football	

### Appendix 3 – parents feedback

Having fun - What do you think about the activities currently available?	Having fun - What other activities would you like to see?	Getting around - What do you think about the services currently available?	Getting around - What other services would you like to see?	Health and independence - What do you think about the services currently available?	Health and independence - What other services would you like to see?	Money matters - What do you think about the services currently available?
Good for those who actively look for, but more youth clubs/centres and marketing about them.	More youth clubs/centres needed	Buses are mostly very inclusive.	I don't know the answer, but Lambeth is a very long borough, so I guess more offers in all areas	I know services are available if sought out	Again, more marketing, so it's easier for young people to access	Good
Limited not my interests I feel better at home always with all my things.	Baking but I do that at home anyway.	Busy to much rushing by people. I use the buses most.	People using disabled seats without disabilities, I understand they do but why?	Good.	Soo thing to help me with my nerves, but don't think it would work anyway.	Banking is difficult if I have a problem. My bank card got blocked on 29/11 I went to the bank with my mum we took our passports. The bank lady and manger refused to unblock my card. they said my mum needs power of attorney to speak for me, but I let them know myself I need my bank card to work how can I use my money.

There are quite a few activities, but I do not think Lambeth is aware of all of them and do not do a great job in making the community aware of them		There are lots of ways of getting around, but I think the issue is with the young people being able to do it independently and safely, as they are vulnerable.	Training & support for those who would like to be more independent.	I have no awareness of what services are currently available in terms of helping them become more independent. Health is the standard services with are available to all members of the public - the waiting time for some of these services is far too long which can be at detriment to the young people's health and wellbeing.	Training to help and support the young adults to be more independent with their household, to travel, and what other things they have the mental capacity to be independent in. Better wait times for services and more integrated with each other so health professionals are aware of all of the young people health needs and requirements.	these services are not for the young people but for their parents, e.g. Dasal
Currently Y takes part in no activities in Lambeth. We have asked her social worker to try and find a suitable social group for after college and in the holidays (preferably a girls group, as Y is frightened of large young men who can be unpredictable- because of past experiences and runs away) but she has been unable to	We would like to see a weekly girls group for 14-25. Our daughter enjoys the company of young women, but most groups are very gender biased to young men and their interests and in autism specific colleges or groups the ratio is often very skewed: 90/10.	Y is not able to travel independently she always needs to be accompanied. She travels happily on public transport/by walking and we think this is the healthier option for her and integrates her into the community more. We like the sunflower lanyard to show she has a disability	N/A	The yearly check-up is a good idea to try and start addressing the health inequalities especially the shocking figures on premature deaths amongst autistic adults (those with and without LDs) Epilepsy and poor mental health/suicide are the major factors (see Autistica Report). Services for adult carers e.g.	Transport at least one way-back from clubs. Sporting activities/walking groups. Accessibility for those with LDs (for example our daughter enjoyed Charlie Chaplin before this was closed by Ofsted) to adventure play facilities/swimming pools etc.	Our daughter had a bank account and a debit card through Nationwide. She never mastered cash but can understand and use contactless. This is really important to help her pay for small treats and some shopping (but there needs to be a cap to prevent overdrafts-there is with her current



help us. We have looked at what Wandsworth offers as Y did use the George Shearing Centre when at school. Still exploring that, but the girls group only runs up to 17.				Covid and flu vaccinations help		account) It is unlikely she will ever understand budgeting but does enjoy making choices.
Patchy - I don't feel there are a lot of options for our daughter, Y, who has autism and severe learning disabilities.	Social clubs/ holiday clubs and activities/ dancing, discos etc/ cooking/ gym classes	Fine	Services fine	Health support pretty good	More respite care cover	N/a really - Y does not have financial capacity
Lost touch with yourselves a long time ago	Info about activities taking place		Info about what is available		Info about what is available	

Money matters - What other services would you like to see?	Training - What do you think about the services currently available?	Training - What other services would you like to see?	What did you find most useful about the day?	What was missing or could be improved?	Any other comments
Again, raising awareness	Very good	More awareness, especially for those who have left school	How much opportunity and will to support SEND there is.	I thought the afternoon was great.	
I don't have an answer for that question, I like saving.	Very limited, my college didn't help me. I attend trading since 2017 I did think about changing but now, I don't want to as it difficult getting use to new people and places.	Paid training with German Shepard dogs, working training at college so I can have rest days without trading or college.	Meeting other young people and people who work to support young people.	I did understand the work I had to do it was difficult to understand what was in the pictures, I can read. Pictures with labels, PEC would have been good to use. Maybe to do it on zoom	

				or post it so I have time to thing.	
this all depends on the young person's mental capacity. Courses to support, inform and train those who have the mental capacity to do so.	There are quite a few good services, e.g. colleges & internships	more options so they have a wider choice of what they would like to be trained in. More service that supports the to access the training or internship	That the event was accessible for the young adults with learning disabilities to engage and understand.	More time and awareness of what is actually available	
Not sure what services there are	We are not aware of any training services in Lambeth for those with LDs. Currently as our daughter is at the Aurora Centre (Merton) any training or work opportunities are accessed through college.	We believe our daughter is practical, strong and capable of simple work in a supported setting/environment e.g. college catering/ landscape work which appeals to her. She does need to be busy and engaged	Really nice group of young people (and parents) and Y enjoyed being around them listening to music. They also engaged with her. I thought the group was a calm one and keen to be involved. Useful to meet the team (Dan & Jerome) from Lambeth who work on adult transition	The communication to the potential audience. We picked up the event on Twitter but the 3/4 friends I emailed hadn't heard of it neither had DASL. The data on that group 14-25 should be better, otherwise how can the Authority plan for services? And many parents don't belong to the Parent Forum (and certainly the young people don't). Also at least a month's notice is better.	Could have been a bit shorter.
N/a	It seems like v little is available.	Part-time volunteering options - I don't think Y will be able to do a regular job, but I would like to find a long-term, work-type volunteering option for her.	Learning about some services. Having the feeling that our views were being listened too. Food was good too.	It could have been shorter. And I did not really know what to expect. We came because of a Ben Kind tweet, and I was expecting a drop-in type of fair with information about services. I was not expecting to take part all afternoon. But	The staff were particularly friendly.

everyone was nice, and we were glad we stayed.		
Info about what is available	Y has joined The Autism Project with Caretrade	Info about what is available