

# RDYF - Rutland Disabled Youth Forum

The voice of children and young people with SEND in Rutland

2023 review



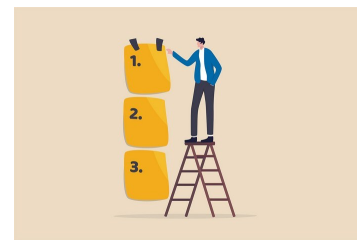
## Overview

During 2023, we felt we were a well respected group with our views and ideas being valued by all organisations who worked with us. Lots of people wanted to come and talk to us! There are currently 6 regular members of the group. Half of the members are on the autistic spectrum with the other members having varying physical and learning disabilities. In 2023 we also worked together to create our new logo.

## Parliament and local MP

In February we had a session with Malcolm from Education Parliament UK who told us about how parliament works, how laws are enforced and how to get our local MP involved!

The following month we were joined by our local MP, Alicia Kearns. We questioned her about local education, mental health, Parliament and economics. She was interested in hearing from everyone so she can consider our views in local and national decisions.



## Our top 5 priorities for 2023/4:

- Support for children and young people in school or college who do not have an Educational Health and Care plan - also known as an EHCP
- Mental health support... stress, exam stress
- Opportunities for 25+
- SEND tolerance/acceptance in the community
- Friendship opportunities

## Recruitment and selection training

Four of us joined members of the Rutland Youth Council to learn about how people are recruited and selected for jobs. Since then we have been involved with Rutland County Council in some interviews for new staff in the Early Help and SEND teams. They always say ours are the best questions!





## CQC & Ofsted area inspection

We contributed to Rutland's SEND inspection. The county received one of the highest possible inspection outcomes in the country. We were questioned by 2 HM Inspectors via Zoom. We told them about our experiences of school and college; the good, the bad and the ugly!

## Working with Rutland Parent Carer Voice

We have been working with RPCV around our priorities and especially acceptance in the community. We will be delivering our #IncludeMe2 training to RPCV in 2024.

## Shaping services

We discussed what makes a good supported internship for a young person with SEND and helped RCC design how SI should be promoted and explained to young people.

We did some Includeme2 training with some volunteers at Oakham school so they could start the regular Chat and Chill sessions with young people with SEND.

The RCC Health & Wellbeing officers came to better understand our needs and to give us some ideas about looking after our own mental health.



## 'Rutland Super Group' award

We attended the Rutland Youth Council's annual Young People's Award ceremony. We were nominated for the 'Rutland Super Group' award, as well as some of our members getting awards individually.

## Local & National involvement

Some of us have been to Nottingham for a participation event ran by kids and CDC. The Department of Education wanted our thoughts on how schools and colleges can support us better. We also presented at a national participation conference for NHS staff.



## Socialising

Despite all our hard work, we still had time for a McDonalds, a Christmas party, and regular pizza!

## 2024, looking ahead

We want to make sure that all young people with SEND have their voices heard and are keen to get some new members in 2024. We will carry on working on our priorities, getting feedback from as many children and young people with SEND as we can.