

Birmingham
12th February 2018

Making Participation Work Children and Young People's Conference

Information for group leaders

The Making Participation Work programme, jointly delivered by the Council for Disabled Children and KIDS and funded by the Department for Education, is delivering a free Children and Young People's Participation Conference for young people with SEND from across the country.

This event will bring young disabled people and those with SEN together to learn about why having a voice matters, discuss their experiences of participation, and inspire each other to get involved in decision-making.

The conference is being developed with young people's input, and a range of fun, accessible workshops will be delivered by different disabled children and young people's organisations working in the sector.

Themes covered will include:

- Your Right to be Heard
- Making the most of your skills
- Breaking down the barriers to being heard
- Sharing your experiences using social media
- How participation work can help you for your future
- What participation can do for me
- Participation, volunteering and adventure

The event will provide an opportunity for young people to learn about the value of participation for themselves as individuals, as well as how it benefits society more broadly. Each young person will choose the workshops they attend in advance, meaning they can build their own conference timetable depending on their interests and their previous experience of participation.

The conference will take place at Conference Aston, Birmingham on 12th February. Times to be confirmed, but it will be all day.

Who should attend

This conference is aimed at all children and young people with SEND, aged 12 to 25, regardless of their experience of participation. They do not have to be part of a formal participation group in order to attend; in fact, one of the aims of the day is to encourage young people to seek out opportunities to get their voices heard. Adult supporters are of course welcome, but the conference content is for the benefit of children and young people.

In order to ensure that a wide range of young people are able to attend, delegations are limited to 5 young people and 2 support staff, unless access requirements necessitate additional staffing. This conference is limited to 80 delegate places, plus support staff.

Demand is expected to outstrip places, so will be allocated by ballot.

Successful delegates will be notified on 10th January 2018.

A limited number of travel bursaries will be available. Further information will be available once your delegation has been allocated places.

Sign up to attend the event at bit.ly/2h8yjHQ

Please direct further questions about the learning event to Philippa Watts, pwatts@ncb.org.uk.