

Shooting Stars



The Project

Shooting Stars is a project bringing together young people with additional needs in Northamptonshire. Together the group:

- Discuss young people's issues and the services for young people with additional needs, making sure local decision makers are aware of the conclusions and recommendations reached
- Support safer recruitment of the local work force
- Support training for staff working with young people with additional needs
- Work to ensure locations such as shopping centres, places to visit and leisure centres in the county are accessible and safe

The group meets monthly and consists of young people with disabilities, aged 13 – 25 years. In addition a member of staff who

supports the group also attends local SEN school councils, along with a children's residential home where all are non-verbal. She uses art work at these meetings to gather input from young people who are not able to attend the Shooting Stars meetings.

The group is occasionally visited by the Director of Children's Services, who reports hearing feedback first hand is useful and powerful in their work.

Events are held to showcase the young people's work including the consultations, artwork they have produced and case studies. It is held at the end of each financial year and includes presentations and certificates to say thank you, the young people like to come together and celebrate, they like to show what they have done to staff and other professionals.

Outcomes and Impact

Establishing a group such as Shooting Stars offers an opportunity to consult directly with young disabled people. The group also provides an opportunity to develop young people's ability to offer considered and informed views and develop their skills enabling them to consider not just their own experiences, but those of their peers. This offers a more valuable consultation source.

The group is led by a Chair and Vice-Chair elected by those attending from the group of participants. These role holders are fully briefed before and after each session, with a clear agenda and other support throughout to ensure they play a full part in leading the meeting. Ensuring these young people are at the heart of arrangements, providing them with the time and information to be fully briefed and prepared according to their own individual need, is key to a young people led process.

The group also insist that each consultation they take part in must offer them feedback at a later date, demonstrating how the information offered has been used.

Alongside the regular Shooting Stars meetings, young people from the group attend other meetings within the local authority, acting as a conduit between the meetings. This is an essential element in enabling the voice of young disabled people across the local authority decision making system



This resource is part of the Making Participation Work programme, a joint partnership between the Council for Disabled Children and KIDS, and funded by the Department for Education. For more information about the Making Participation Work programme, visit us at:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/our-work/participation/practice/making-participation-work>



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