

# The IASSN Children and Young People's Steering Group – Their messages to SENDIAS services

## What is the IASSN Children and Young People's Steering Group?

The Information, Advice and Support Services Network (IASSN) Children and Young People's Steering Group is made up of twelve disabled young people and young people with special educational needs, aged 16–25. All members have previously accessed, or been involved with, their local SENDIAS service. You can read more about the group [here](#).

## What is in this document?

At the July 2026 IASSN Children and Young People's Steering Group we asked the steering group: *What message would you like to give to the SENDIAS sector?* Below are their responses.

## Messages from the IASSN Children and Young People's Steering Group:

- "my message would be for more improvement to help enhance the accessibility and flexibility of services"
- "Okay, so my message for SENDS services would probably be: be more up to date with SEND services in your area and don't shift the blame on parents; because that's what you get a lot in SEND services is like services shifting the lot of the blame on parents like: "Ohh, your child ain't really autistic, or ohh, she don't do this or he don't do that." I feel like they need to, they need to like cut out the toxicity of parent blame and like focus on what's best for the child, because that's what the parents want."
- "I'd say like they need to start accepting more people with young special needs that are looking to go into supported living or independent living and train up more carers to understand how best to support ourselves when, obviously, we're going into that situation, if you know what I mean. So that's my message to staff."

- "[My] ask [for] members of staff is to not read the diagnosis for a young person - treat the diagnosis of who they are. And that comes down to concept. So if somebody has a visual impairment, it's what they need day-to-day. It's not the clinical diagnosis, but you have this and you need these things. It's more about a person."
- "I feel like sometimes the services assume we won't understand things and therefore they don't tell us. So I guess there's examples where easy reason and simpler versions of content is important because it makes it more accessible for everyone. But I study send law, so I get what's going on. I understand. I'm just going to send the stuff so that they can kind of confirm or already know or have a further chat about it. And then they still don't kind of get that maybe I do understand the words or maybe I don't understand kind of the theories we're talking about. So again, I think that sometimes comes down to a bit of like a fear of doing the wrong thing, like that they're going to say something and someone's not understood and then they haven't been able to do their job properly. But the kind of openness to meet every young person wherever they're at is quite important."
- "our areas sendiass keep going for school based aged rather than 18 to 30s and its so annoying that so many youth groups are kicking out 25 to 30 cuz they only want younger and school age"
- "im currently awaiting to go into a place of living but they keep throwing me in short term respite rather than long term cuz they dont have any SEN trained carers on hand for long term and im sick of being chucked in circles now .i feel its time carers learnt how to deal with SEN living"