

NEWSLETTER



End of year



Disability History Month

Disability rights are civil rights

20 Nov-20 Dec



BREAKING NEWS

Ice-Breaker

Would you rather...



A DISABLED STUDENT WHO WAS LEFT ALONE UPSTAIRS DURING A SCHOOL FIRE

Top News

Lucas Vezza-O'Brien, 16, was left in a building on fire due to no fire evacuation equipment! Lucas has cerebral palsy and is a full time wheelchair user. Since this incident he has been making waves to ensure young people get the equipment they need so

no one else is left in a burning building. Lucas had a petition that reached over 100,000 votes to appeal to the government to make a statement ensuring every disabled person can safely leave the building in the case of an emergency.

Find out more inside - Page 6



Help each other



Open to suggestions



Confidentiality

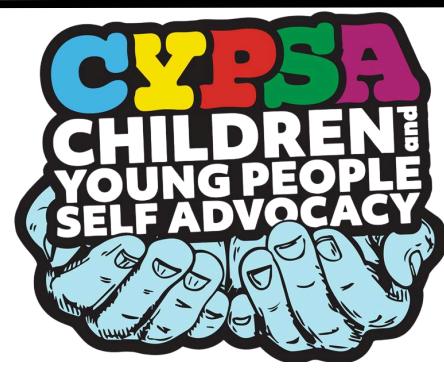


NEW

News Highlights

- Deaf Olympics
- Police officer with down syndrome
- Blind surfer wins silver for England

See inside for more information



UPDATES/ NEWS



Newsletter Revamp

- A fresh colourful new layout
- Extra visuals to help bring young peoples voices to life
- A dedicated Young Peoples Champion section, featuring articles and research completed by our YPC
- New SEND news and updates
- Characters drawn and designed by our young people brought to life as full visuals



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Agenda

- Introductions
- Icebreaker
- Group Agreement
- Newsletter
- Research Questions
- CYPSA Tagline
- Feedback
- Festive Quiz

Inclusion and Ordinarily Available Provision Survey

We are seeking young people's views on Inclusion and Ordinarily Available Provision, including examples of feeling Included and Excluded. We are currently working on a presentation relating to this to work together with regional and local partner agencies with the aim of increasing professionals understanding of lived experience.



We are also interested to understand more about how young people think about Inclusion and Ordinarily Available Provision.



For privacy reasons we have chosen emojis similar facial expressions for reference.

This month when asked to choose an image based on how we are feeling, we had funny images of our project manager! A great way to end off the year.

Monthly Highlights & SEND specific news

BREAKING NEWS



DeaflympicGB secured 12 medals at the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics despite having no government funding.

The team, consisting of 65 athletes and their support crew, ranked 12th out of more than 80 countries on the medals leader board.

[Link to article](#)



Police employee with Down's Syndrome 'inspiring'.

Luke joined the Police 10 years ago. He was named runner-up for the David Grainger Award on Tuesday, in a ceremony held by British Association for Supported Employment (BASE) at Wembley Stadium.

[Link to article](#)



Cornish blind surfer wins silver for England in world championships.

Melissa Reid, from Porthtowan, was one of three women who won medals for Team England in the ISA World Para Surfing Championships at Oceanside Pier, California in the USA, on 7 November.

[Link to article](#)



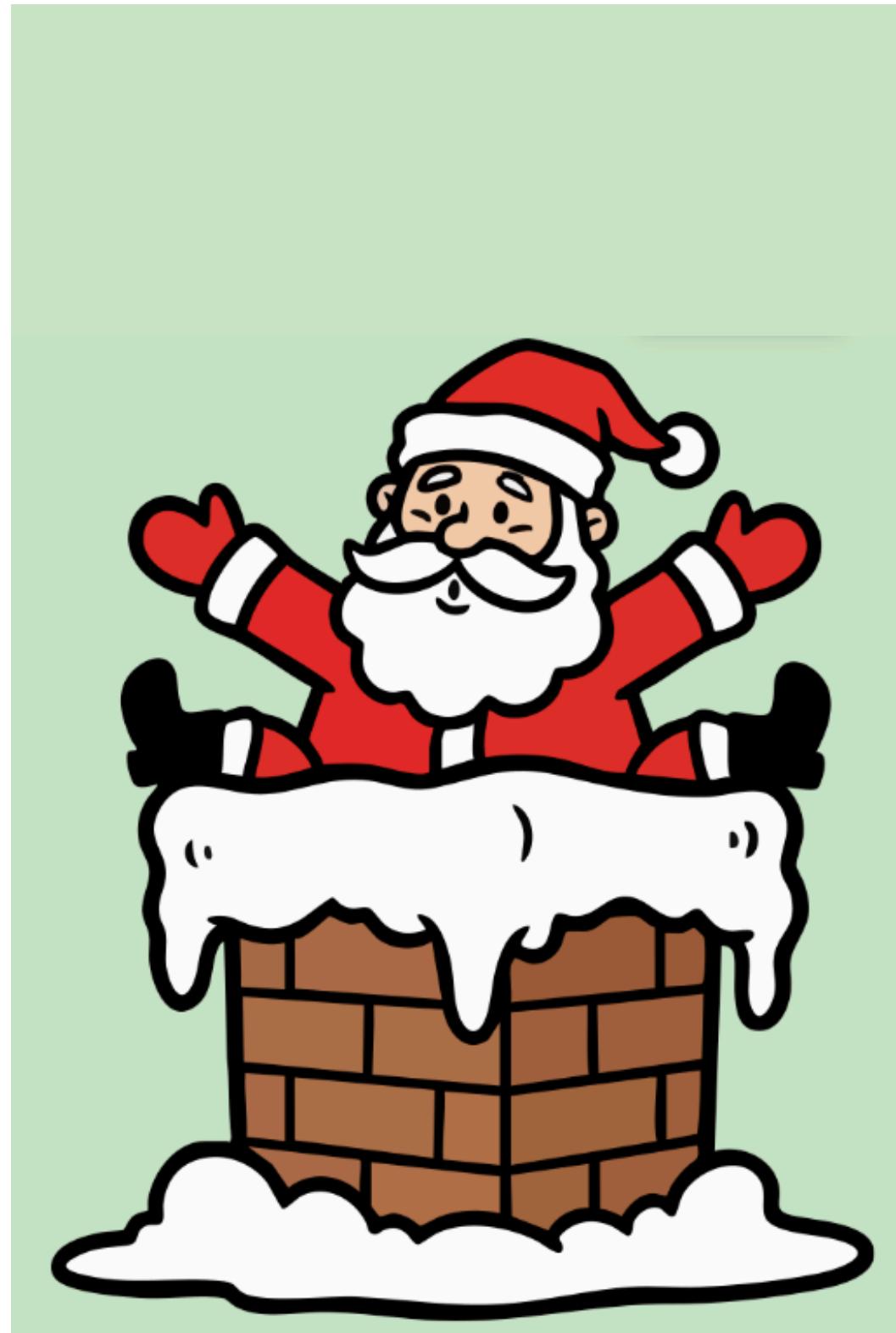
MEETING SUMMARY

For our last meeting of the 2025 year, we spent time doing and discussing little things we'd like to change that had been identified in the previous meeting before we moved onto an end of year quiz. Our introductions image this time was photos of Sian, the project manager, pulling weird faces which was enjoyed by all.

This was followed by an ice breaker of 'Would you rather' where we answered questions like if we would rather have a flying car or have a personal robot, and would we rather go back in time or see the future. Heidi, who is the Service Manager for Partnerships, was introduced to the group to get to know us as members and to understand more about CYPSA.

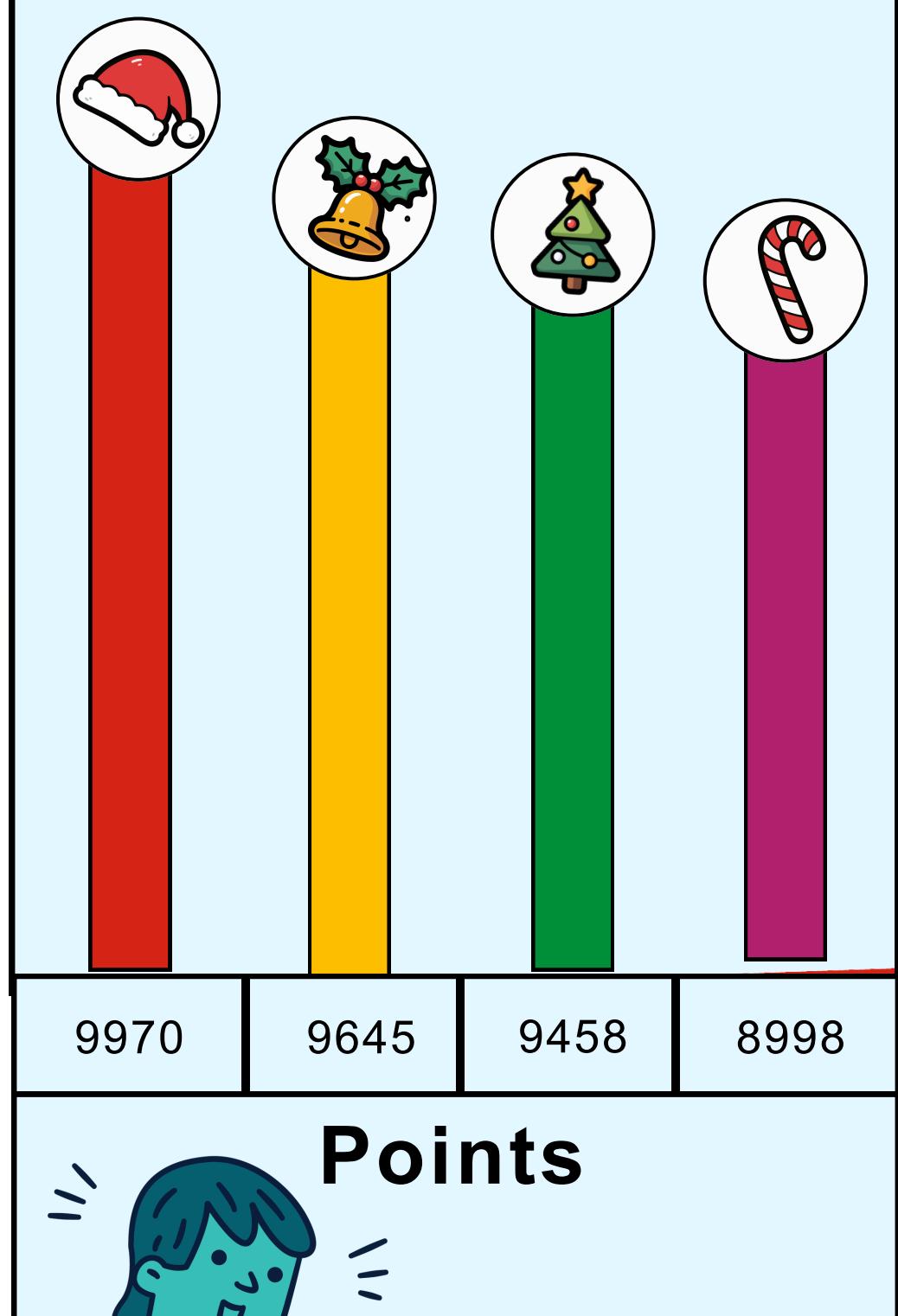
Mac, the project worker, has redone the graphics for the group agreement, to make it clearer and to change the icons. One member fed back that the blue was difficult to differentiate from other colours, so we are going to trial it in different sets of colours to make it the most accessible it can be. Off the back of the previous meeting, we had done some research to be able to share what exists for young people who are approaching 25 or whose EHCP is ceasing. We found that there is very little resources or information aimed at young people in the South West and this is also the case across other regions. To help us answer specific questions we are asking young people to let us know their questions so we can research and have conversations with other professionals.

During the meeting we also discussed the possibility of a tagline, with some ideas given but also the opportunity to vote for no tagline, or to suggest another one. Due to some technical difficulties with the platform we use, as a group we decided we would send it out in an email for our members to give feedback.





Quiz



WORD SEARCH

H	A	B	Y	I	F	A	N	T	E	W	A	V	I	G
P	C	Y	P	S	A	L	E	J	L	N	T	Y	N	T
Q	R	M	Y	T	R	A	N	S	I	T	I	O	N	L
P	E	V	C	S	J	Y	E	Q	B	M	I	I	O	N
T	R	O	P	P	U	S	T	W	R	T	M	V	R	G
P	S	W	M	O	D	E	R	N	A	L	O	V	N	L
V	A	Y	O	M	L	S	R	C	H	I	L	I	O	A
C	D	E	X	P	E	R	I	E	N	C	E	P	U	M
Y	G	P	U	R	A	N	C	L	E	B	A	O	R	Q
A	K	A	W	N	U	C	I	R	L	P	G	I	V	R
P	I	S	V	M	P	M	O	L	S	A	T	C	O	Y
U	R	T	M	R	E	L	E	Y	L	E	P	O	I	L
T	M	O	R	Q	N	W	C	O	M	R	M	L	C	B
W	C	R	M	A	W	B	N	U	Y	M	L	O	E	I
M	H	W	L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	Q	T	D	B

Can you find some of
our themes from 2025?

Transition

Experience

Support

OurVoice

Language

Wellbeing

Communication

CYPSA

Why do our services disappear when our needs don't?



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAMPION

Following last month's meeting topic 'What happens when you turn 25?', I started researching what resources and support are available across the South West and nationally. I have found that there is a lack of resources and information about turning 25 or losing your EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan), especially from Local Authorities and their partner agency's.

The resources I found were published by charities for parents and carers, which is vital as parents and carers are also in a similar position to us. However, there is nothing for young people, no information aimed at guiding them to support services or even to meet other people in similar positions, leaving no support system.

Young people enter a black hole, where there are no professionals, no support and no rights. Every piece of guidance contradicts one another with different services saying it is someone else's responsibility, there are no stairs to help us climb out of a spiral that shouldn't happen, and we feel forgotten with no point in living.

The lack of clear information and guidance aimed at us, leaves young people feeling like they are on a knife edge, unsure what happens when they hit 25 or lose their EHCP.

One question that I and many young people have asked is:

"Do you think we disappear when we hit 25 or no longer have an EHCP?"

For many of us, alongside learning and qualifications, our education focuses on life skills and therapies, like Speech and Language Therapy or Occupational Therapy. Our needs will live forever, but there is no place to turn to to get those needs met.

Why do these services disappear? Our needs are the same, even though we may be 26.

– Written by YPC



A DISABLED STUDENT WHO WAS LEFT ALONE UPSTAIRS DURING A SCHOOL FIRE,

Lucas has cerebral palsy and is a full-time wheelchair user, often relying on ramps, wide doors and lifts but he had one reasonable adjustment missing – an evacuation chair. He started the **#NoStudentLeftBehind** campaign because he was left in the classroom of his school whilst there was a fire in the same building, leaving him to feel isolated, let down and petrified of dying. His school had received guidance to leave him in the refuge area, as there was no evacuation chair, whilst many schools choose to have them it is not a legal requirement.

“I was told I had to stay upstairs. Then I smelled the smoke. I was petrified.” – Lucas

Lucas started a petition on the gov.uk website and reached 104,197 signatures in less than six months! Lucas has also appeared on the BBC North West and Good Morning Britain to discuss his campaign and share his story to ensure no one else is left in a burning building due to no equipment. At 100,000 signatures the government have to have a debate and make a recommendation, this debate happened on the 1st December.

In response to his campaign, the Department for Education have released a statement making clear that all disabled students should have a PEEP (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan) which is maintained by the person responsible for the building and things like an evacuation chair should be in place via their PEEP, but there isn't funding in place for PEEPs and equipment like this, leaving some people at risk in these situations. PEEPs are designed for individuals using input from the person and also those around them, with the aim that in an emergency the correct equipment and guidance is known to keep everyone safe.

Lucas is now going on to campaign for more disability rights, his advocacy is changing the way one thing at a time, looking after future generations, their rights and needs.

How to know if you need a PEEP:

A PEEP is an Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan and it is for anyone with a disability or other need who may require additional support in the event of an emergency. It is a vital document that ensures that everyone is kept safe and informed. A PEEP is not dependent on if you have an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) it is dependent on needing additional support. If you think you might need one speak to a key person to start the initial discussion.

[Disabled teenager who was left in school during fire takes safety campaign to parliament | ITV News Granada](#)



Achievements

Recruitment of a new
Engagement and
participation worker.

Young Peoples
champions' interviews
took place.

A new, Young
Peoples
champion has
been employed.

Our
membership
has increased.

We
revamped
our
newsletter.

Our project manager
was awarded a
**Special Recognition
Honour**
from NHS England.



Topics we discussed this year:

Recruitment
of health
professionals

Transitions
children to
adults: making
sure services
overlap

Selfcare
mental health
and wellbeing

Annual
Reports

Universal
credit &
benefits

Language
around
disability

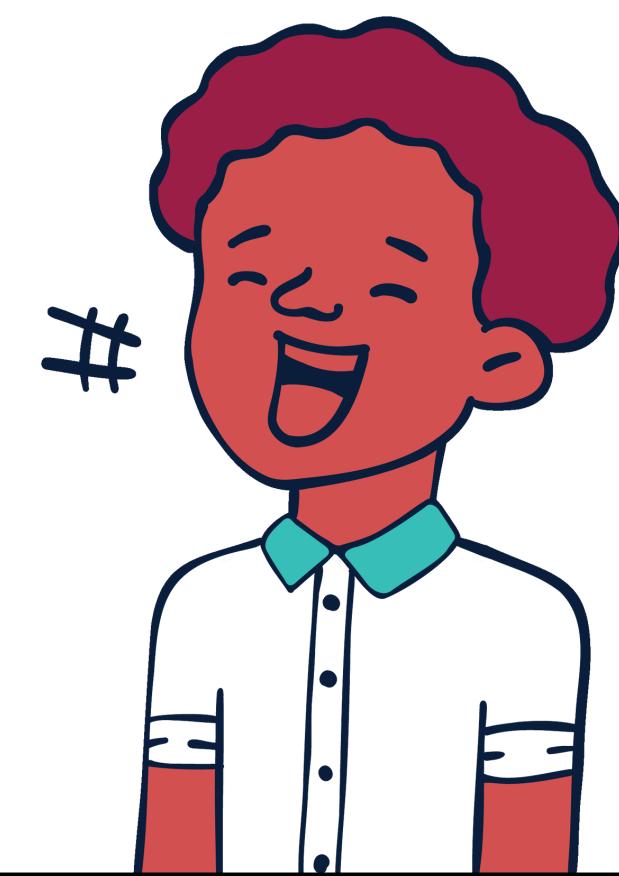
Links between
health and
local
authorities

Recruitment
of health
professionals

Local
authorities
experience

Gaining the
right support

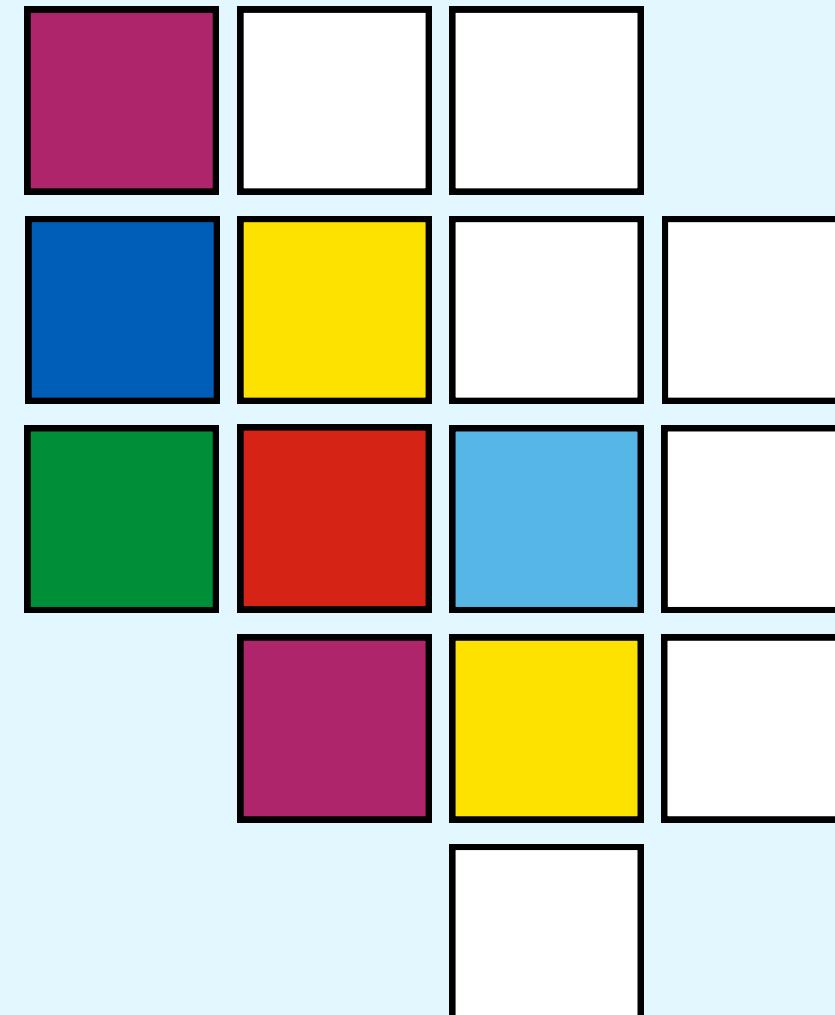
Our membership update:



UPDATE

We now have
members from
9/15
Local areas

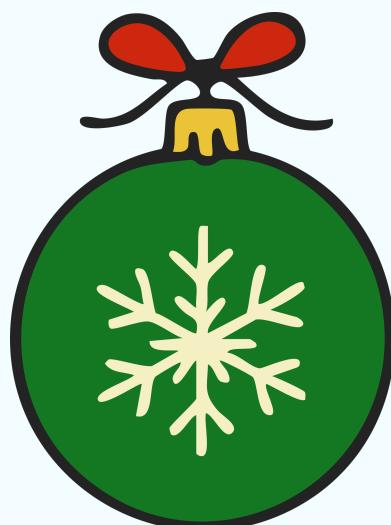
an increase of 3 areas
since 2024



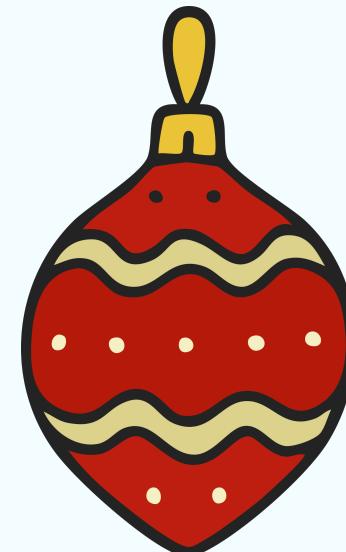
We are also talking with more areas, which is exciting news the year ahead!



Christmas Reminders



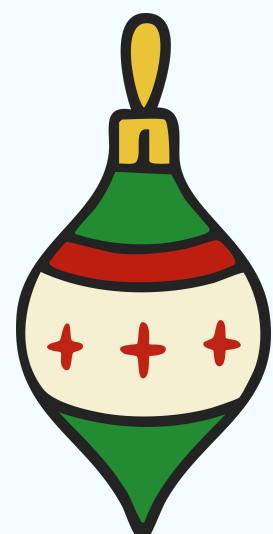
You are allowed to set boundaries



You are allowed to, not share what you are going through



You are allowed to leave the party early



You are allowed to say "No"



You are allowed to feel overwhelmed



You are allowed to take all the time you need



You are allowed to feel like you don't want to celebrate



You are allowed to let yourself feel

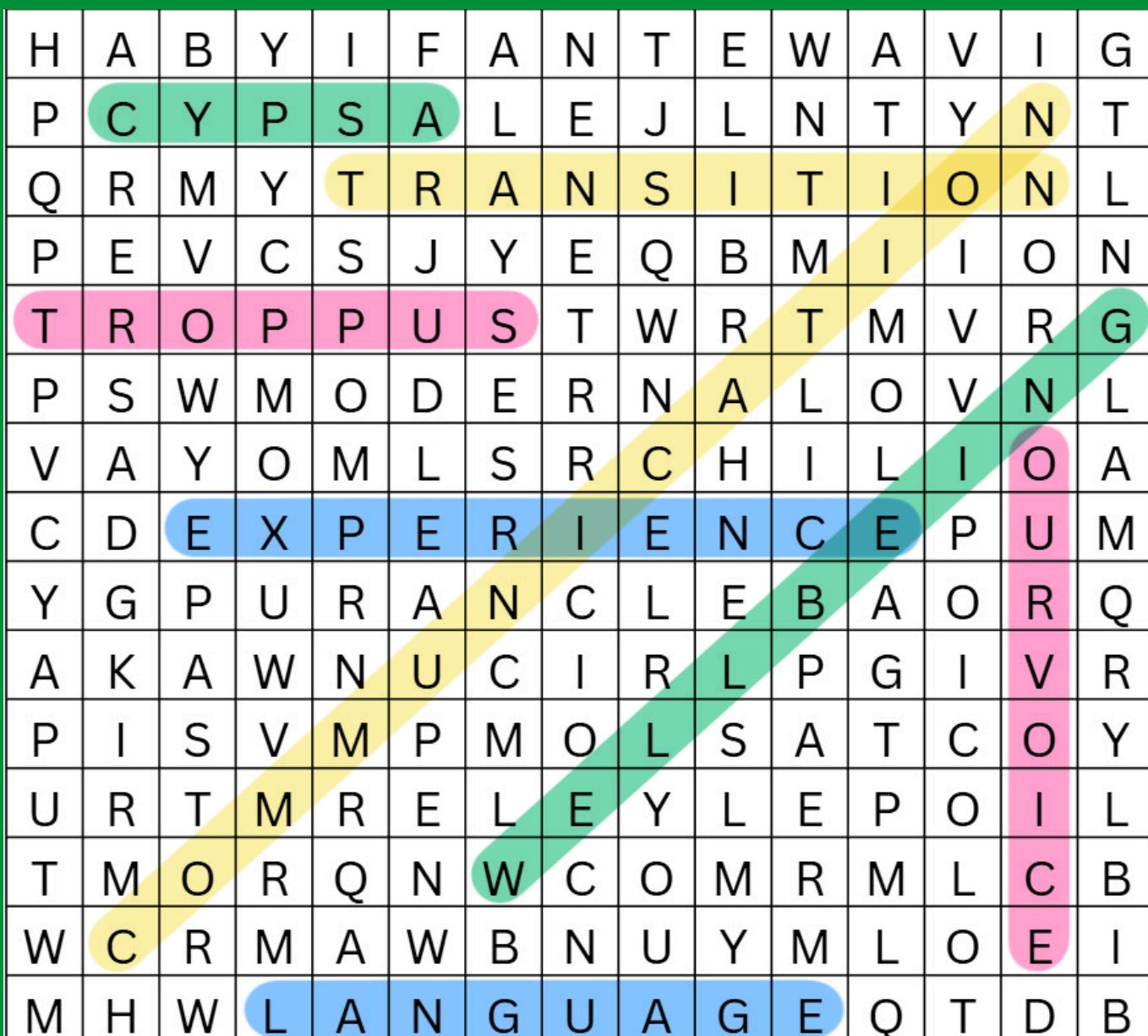


You are allowed to spend this season, the way you want

Inclusion and Ordinarily Available Provision Survey

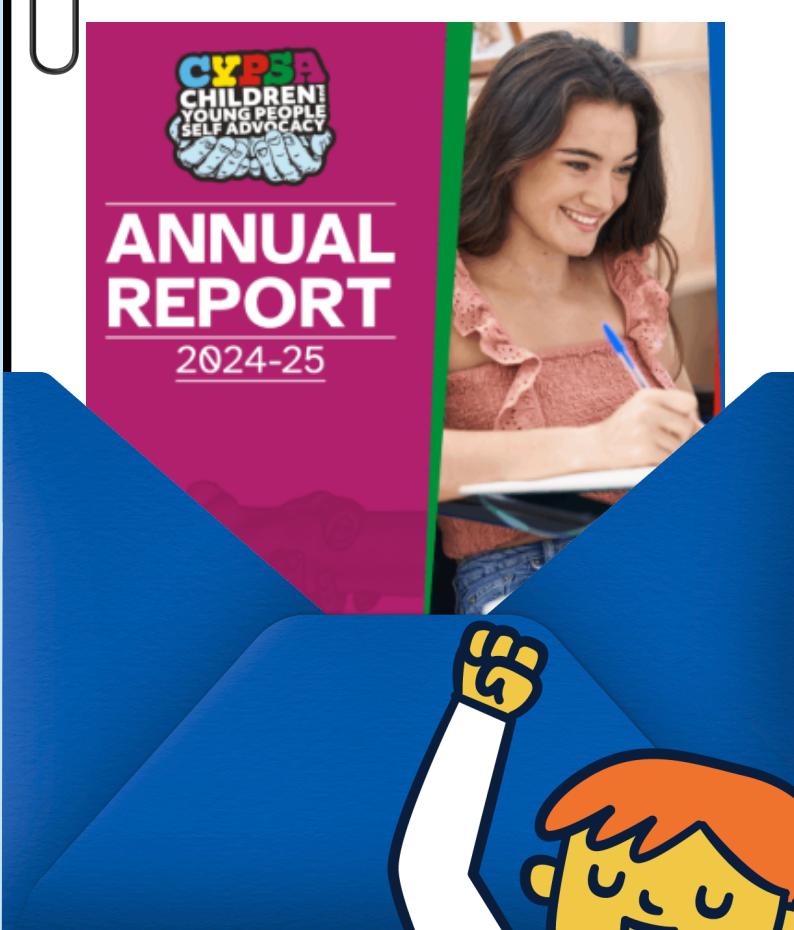
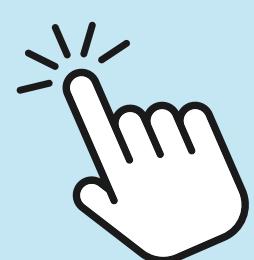


CYPSA words - Wordsearch: Answers



The answer to the Frosty quiz question: A button!

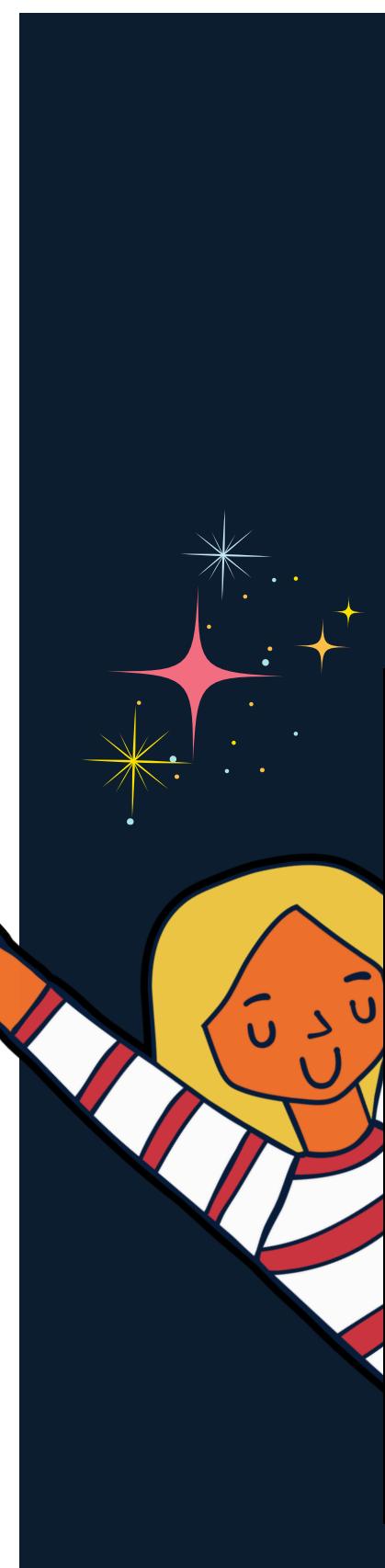
Annual Report



A special thank you

Thank you to Dorset's young people who were unable to join virtually so contributed by using drawings, images and speech bubbles to share their voices on transitioning.

If you are worried or unable to join us virtually, we would love to still hear from you and work with you in a way that works for you.



Thank you!

Have a great,
festive
season

