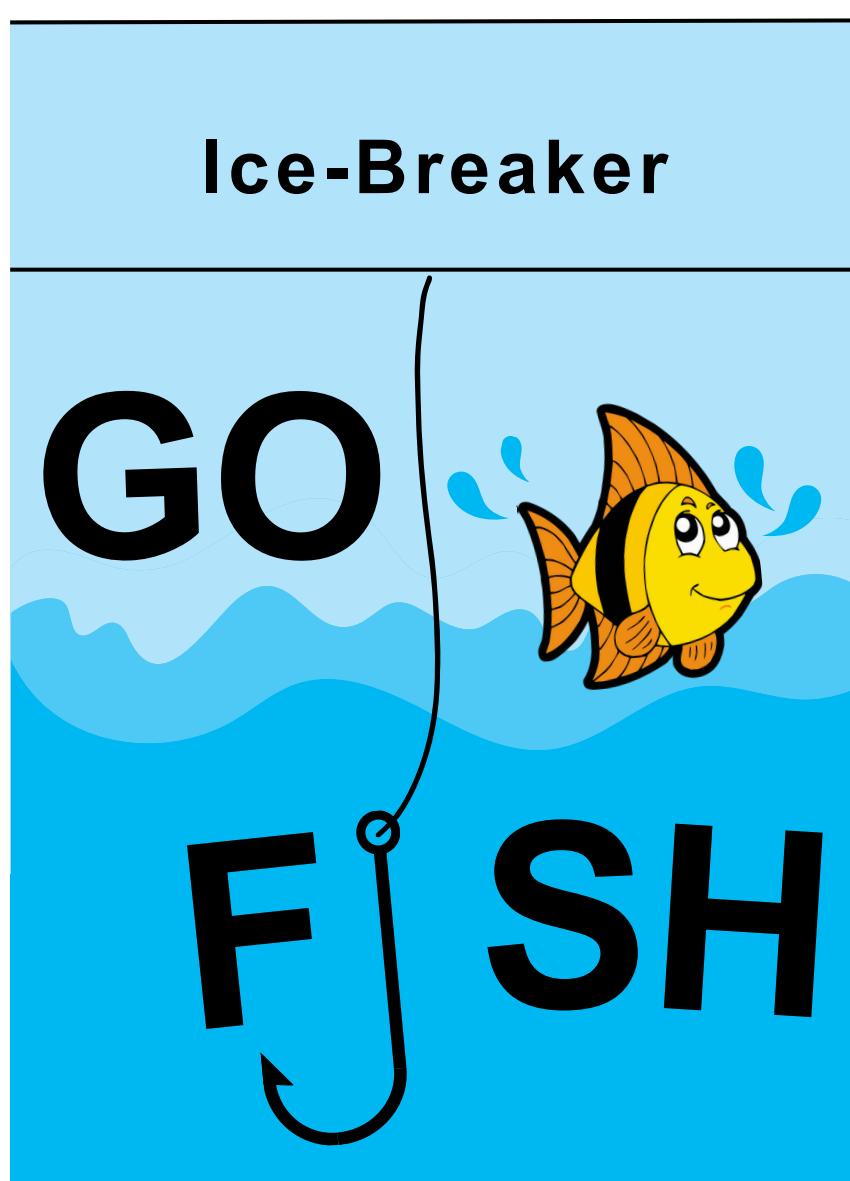


NEWSLETTER



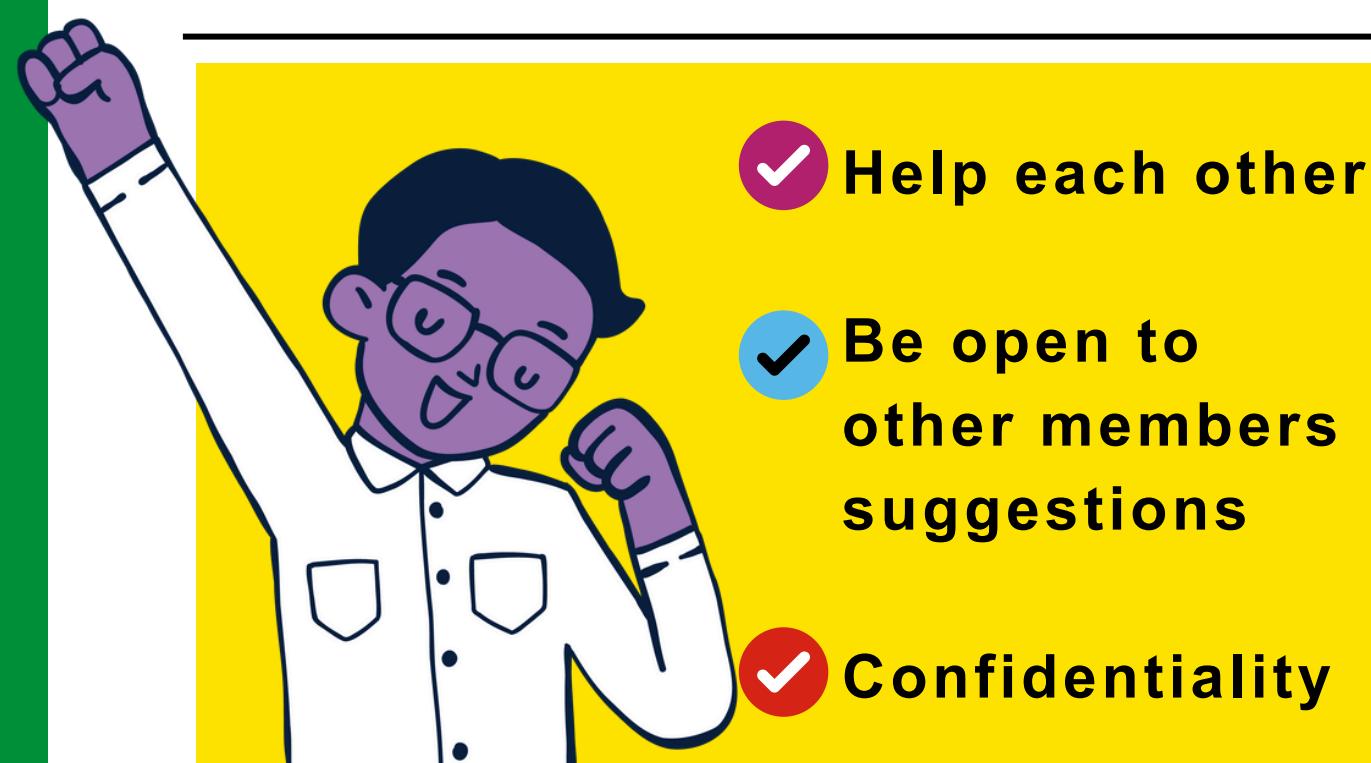
TOPIC: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TURN 25?

Our members told us that the next topic they would like to talk about is 'What happens when you turn 25?'

When a young person turns 25, or their EHCP ceases, many of their support and services fall away and there is no real

help, clarification or support for when this does happen.

We have discussed our thoughts, feelings, and what we think could be changed for the next group of young people to be in this situation, including discussing other services.

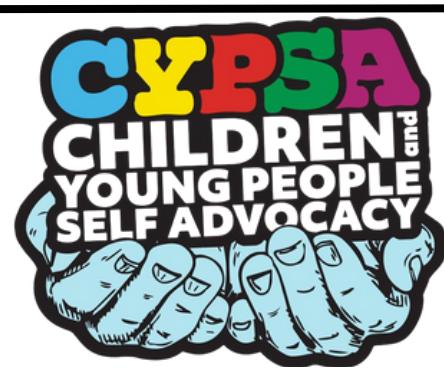


Highlights - SEND News

BREAKING NEWS

- Golfer chosen to represent UK
- First ever disability festival/event
- A tennis player gets his dream to compete Wimbledon courts.

See inside for more information



UPDATES/ NEWS

Agenda

Introductions

Group Agreement

Topic Discussed

Q&A

Feedback

Next Topic

This month saw a new choice board to share how we are feeling!

Help each other

Be open to suggestions

Confidentiality

From “Group Rules” to “Group Agreement”

Our young people have chosen to update our *group rules* to a *group agreement*.

During discussion, we agreed the word *rules* can sound too harsh or serious - and this feedback came directly from our young people themselves.

What we have created instead is a shared agreement that reflects our collective voice and outlines simple expectations for all members.

Along with this change in wording, we also took the opportunity to refresh the design of the agreement. The updated version now features our CYPSA colours and visual giving it a more vibrant, representative look.

Monthly Highlights & SEND specific news

Player gets a shot at Wimbledon

A tennis player with a learning disability has competed on the courts at Wimbledon. The 23-year-old has won gold and bronze medals at the Special Olympics and has represented Team GB.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c797z40yyjdo>

Music festival & Disability event

A town will host a combined music festival and disability event which organisers said was the first-of-its-kind.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c797z40yyjdo>

Golf Disability performance squad

The programme aims to support their development and help them to represent their country. Lloyd has a condition called Phocomelia, a rare congenital limb malformation.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c797z40yyjdo>

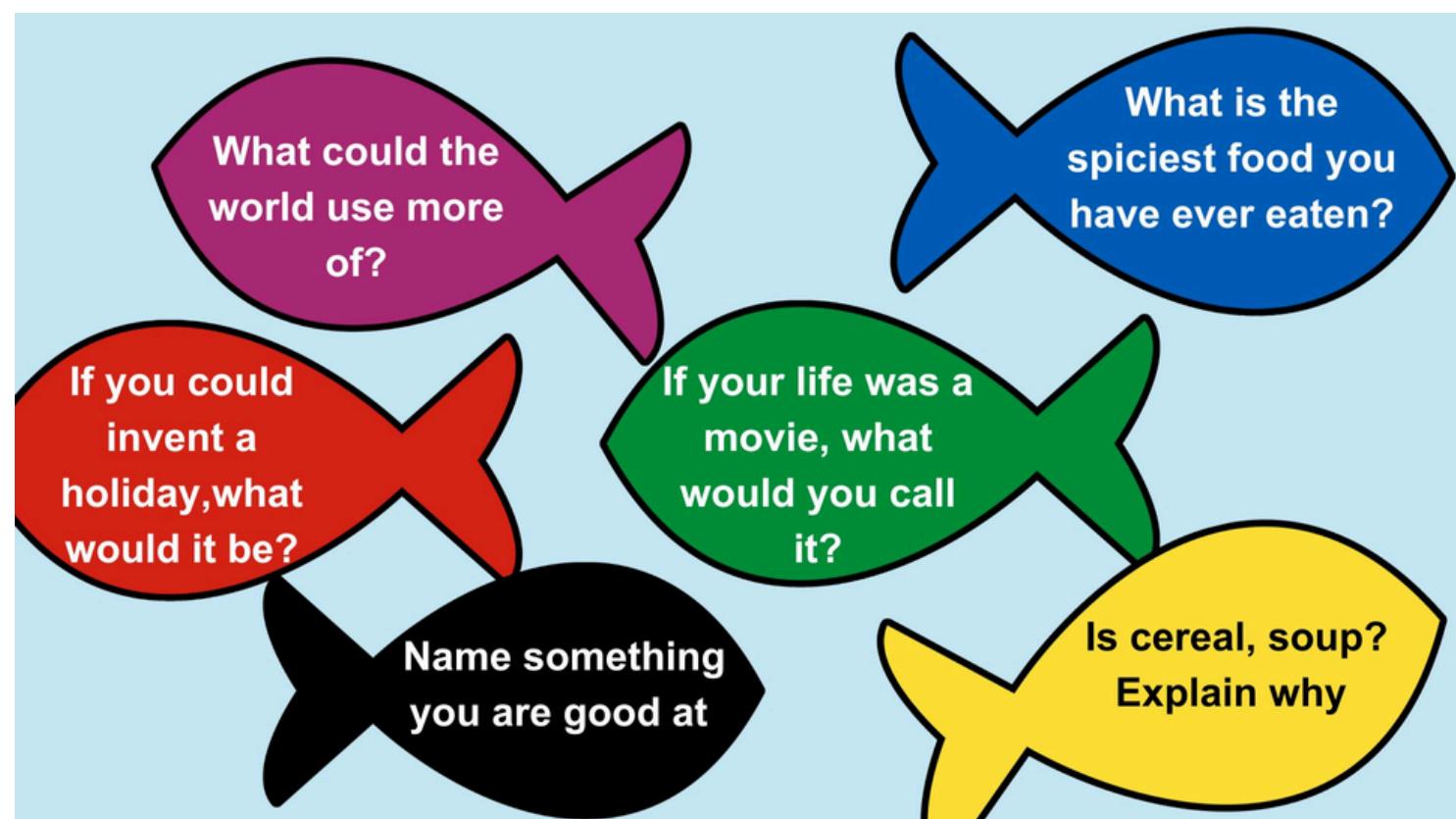
BREAKING NEWS



MEETING SUMMARY

This month's topic was 'What happens when we turn 25?', which was chosen because many of our members are approaching 25. We began with introductions as we have had a new member join us for the first time, and we all discussed which dog we are from the grid! We also spoke about the plan for November's monthly meeting, as Christmas falls on the last Thursday in December, and it was agreed to extend November's meeting.

Mac, the new Engagement and Participation worker, presented some slides about herself so that all the members could get to know her better and understand what motivates her to work for CYPSA. We then did the Go Fish Starter answering different and fun questions, a favourite was the question 'Is cereal a soup?'



Throughout the questions our members discussed how they feel when approaching 25 (or 26 in some cases) with the loss of vital support and uncertainty as to what happens next, with one sharing that they are in a similar position as their EHCP is ceasing soon. One of our members shared their experiences of the Access to Work scheme, and they discussed the length of time you're waiting, as well as how they find the entire process. This was helpful as it is one of the main worries for our members and other young people is about jobs and reasonable adjustments.

We also recognise that some young people may prefer not to attend virtual meetings in the evening. For some of our areas, we therefore provide a set of questions from our topic, that can be completed locally. Their responses are then included in the wider forum for discussion.

To conclude the evening, we did our feedback questions so we knew how everyone had found the evening.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAMPION



A letter to the Chair of the Education Select Committee has been published this month to announce a delay in the Schools White Paper, which was expected this Autumn. The white paper was going to outline the Government's planned reforms to the education system, with an expected focus on the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities system. This letter has been as a response to an inquiry conducted and released by the Education Committee, 'Solving the SEND Crisis'.

A white paper is a policy document produced by the government that outlines a range of issues and shares how they propose to address them. It is a long document that provides an in-depth analysis of complex issues and sets out their solutions and plan to these issues. By pushing back the announcement for the Schools White Paper, young people and families will have to wait longer for vital clarity on planned reforms but the hope is over the following months the protection of Children and Young People's rights are strengthened to ensure all young people get the support they need and deserve.

The Solving the SEND Crisis inquiry, is the first of this Education Committee and it was launched in December 2024, with a deliberate aim to focus on solutions after years of reports highlighting the 'extent of the crisis and its devastating impact'. Over the course of the inquiry, they received over nine hundred pieces of evidence from a wide range of people with personal and professional experience, including personal testimonies from a panel of young people who have SEND with recent experiences.

The inquiry highlights the rising need for students with SEND or an EHCP and reducing workforce capacity, with the number of students with an EHCP growing at 10.4% every year. Young people and families have placed a spotlight on poor communication, unmet statutory duties, and weak support during transition years, which has caused low confidence in their Local Authority and the education system.

The education committee has created multiple recommendations that they feel would improve experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. They are remarkably similar to what Professionals, Young people and Families have been calling for over the years. They range from having clarifications in definitions, to new post-16 pathways and strengthening accountability for inclusive provision to expanding provision for those who cannot access mainstream.



What is it about turning 25 that worries you? Or what do you think it is that worries young people about turning 25?

Losing therapies

The gap between education ending and what's next in life.

The change in health professionals

Mental health support

Where do I go to find a job with a disability?

If day services aren't right and work isn't either, what is?

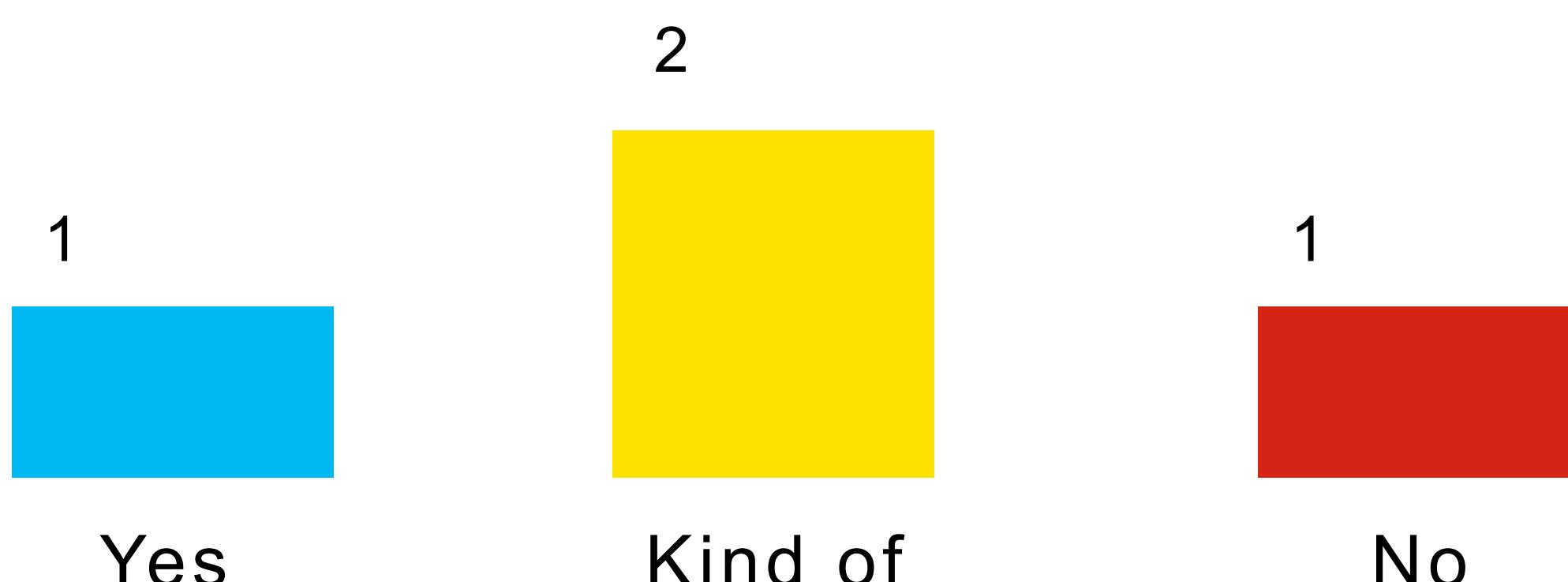
I think what worries most young people about turning 25, is not know what's out there.

Not having the same level of support.

Do you know of any support you may be able to get after turning 25? Adult Social Care, health services and employment support.



If yes, what are the names of the services available to you?





What do you want professionals to understand about young people with SEND turning 25?

We have a voice,
listen to it

Explain the process
earlier so I have chance
to understand it.

Work with me and
the next service, not
against.

Get the ball rolling
sooner.

Transitions should be slow.
Give us time to get the
support properly.

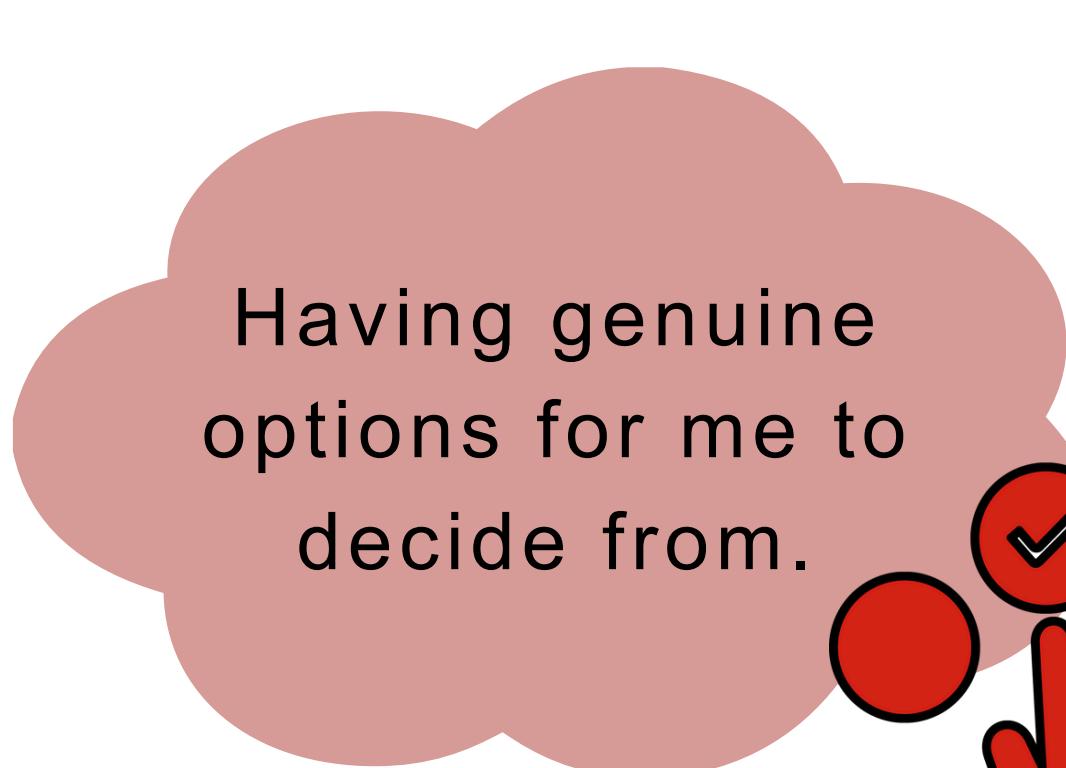




What do you wish you were told or knew to help make the process easier?



Having a keyworker scheme to help coordinate support.



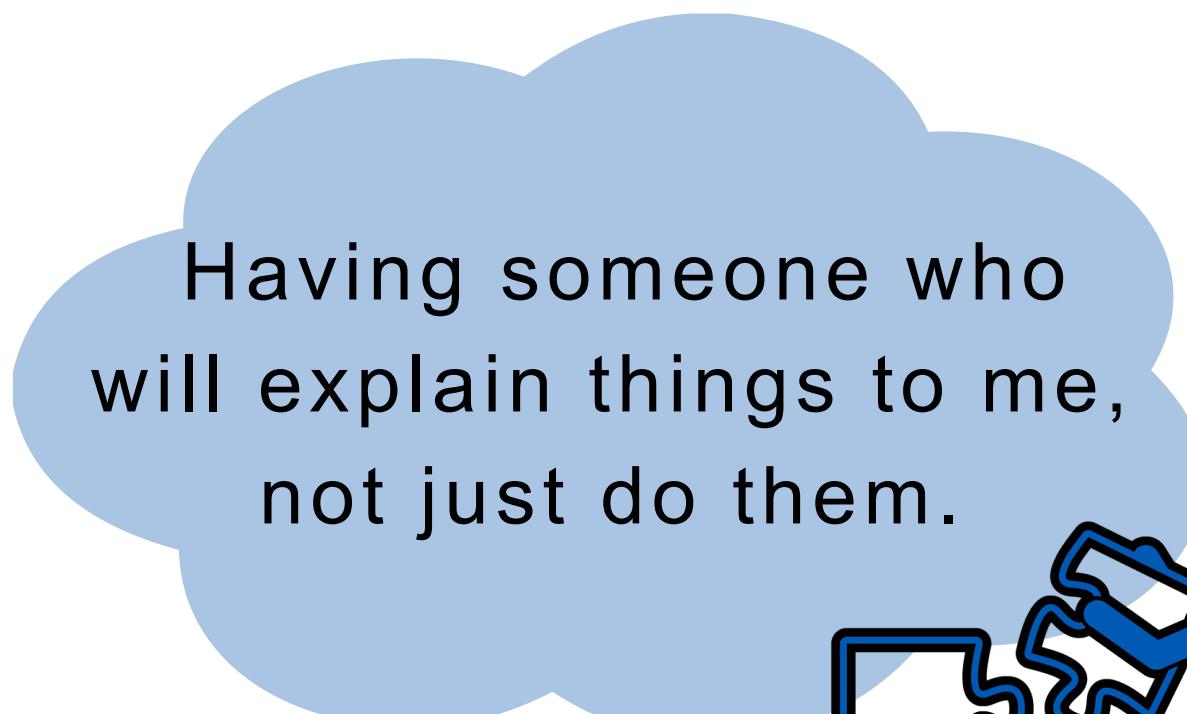
Having genuine options for me to decide from.



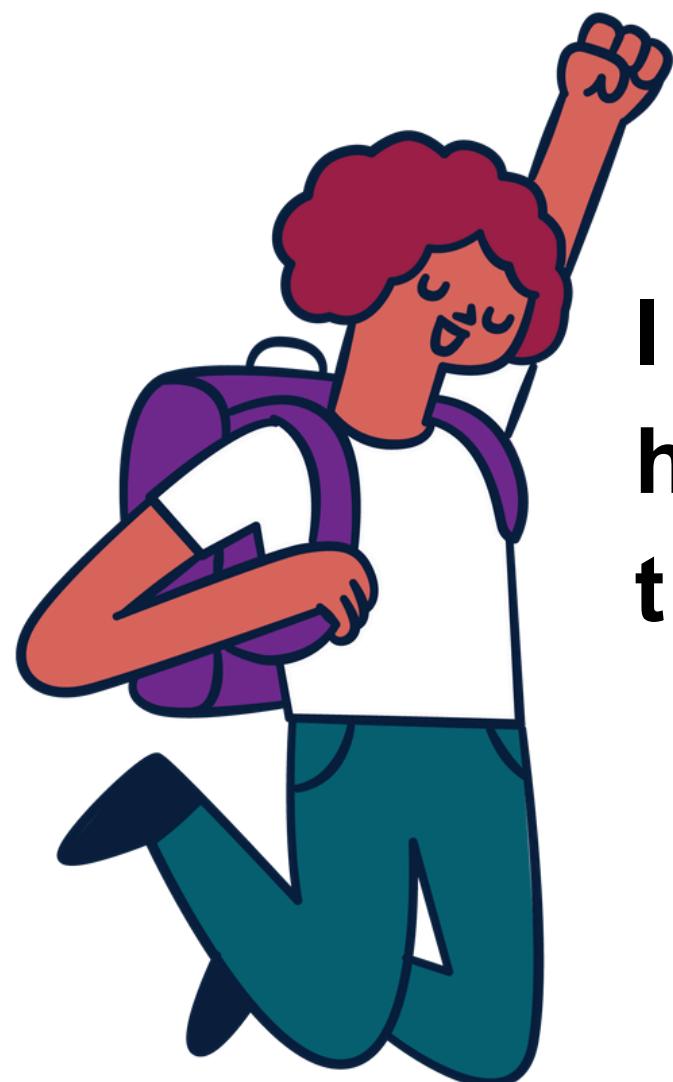
Knowing in advance what is or isn't possible.



Talk to us before the process starts so we can prepare.



Having someone who will explain things to me, not just do them.

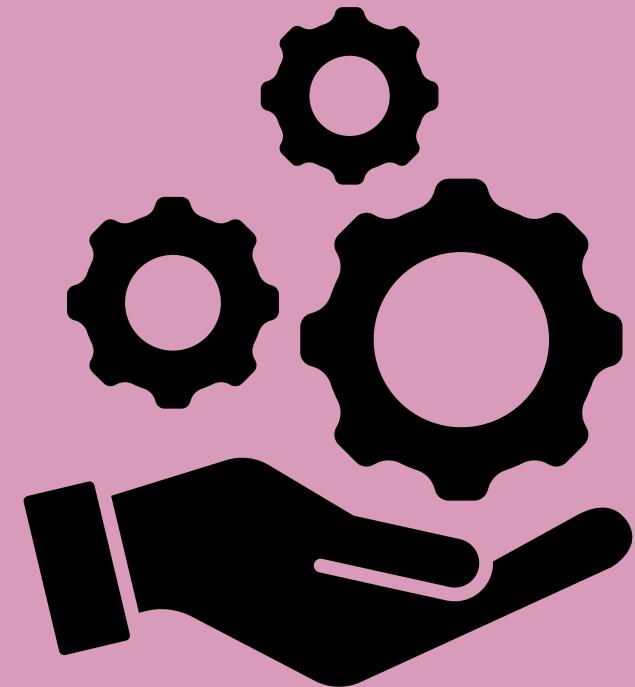


In an ideal world, what could be done to help ease the concerns/anxiety about the next stage in adulthood?

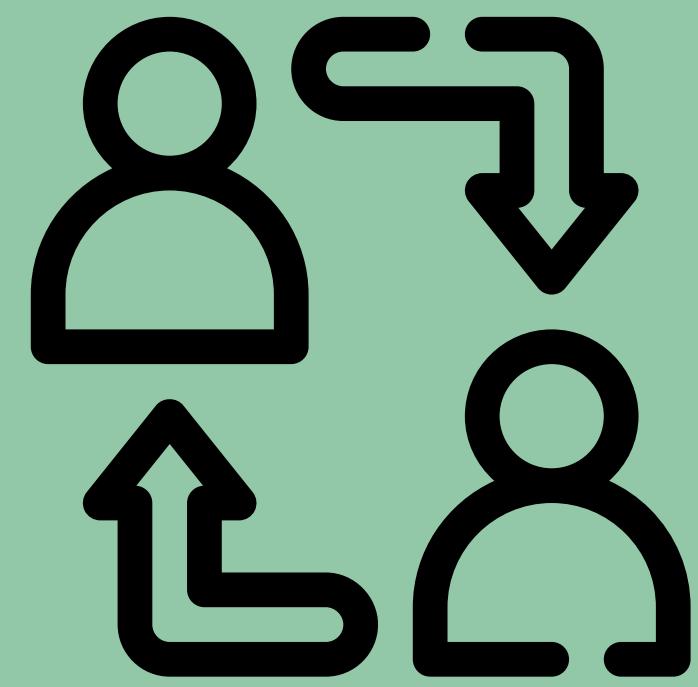
Enough funding to have whatever support you need and want, not the cheapest one.



More available services.



A keyworker scheme in every area.





YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAMPION

As part of my new role as Young People's Champion I have been reading documents and reports from various agencies, including other councils and NHS England, to gain a better understanding of how young people are involved and represented across local areas, regionally and nationally.

My aim was to get a better understanding of how Young People are involved and represented across different areas and settings to ensure young people are at the centre of all projects.

Reading these documents has highlighted an important truth – the perspectives of children and young people are frequently undervalued and missing from the conversation, even when decisions directly affect them.

We as young people need to:

- Continue to voice our opinions and thoughts even when we feel ignored.
- Be involved in work from the ground up to ensure we shape services to what we need, thinking about every young person.
- Support each other to be confident and make sure all young people with SEND feel heard and empowered.

As professionals we need you to:

- Listen and hear what we say, share it with colleagues, take meaningful action from our experiences.
- Allow all young people to feel comfortable and safe, to share our experiences and challenge when we feel something could be better.
- Treat us as part of the team alongside parents and carers.
- Regularly engage with us about our lived experiences so that our views are embedded across every system.

Together, as a team, we need to make sure young peoples voice is at the forefront of all we do.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW!

At this point many young people lose access to their key services and support networks, leaving young people and their families uncertain about what help is available or how to access this help.

There is a clear lack of support and information for young people with SEND turning 25. Our members have told us they feel this is a crucial transitioning stage of adulthood where young people are moving into a stage of unknown and worry about what is next.



Without clear guidance and continued support, many young people risk falling through the gaps in care, education and employment opportunities.

WHAT'S NEXT?

27th
November

What happens when I turn 25?

Part 2

