

Our Voices Heard Newsletter

Monday, 6th March 2023



Hello

Welcome to Our Voices Heard newsletter.

Our Voices Heard was set up to make sure Children and young people 0-25 years old, living in or attending school, college and services in Solihull, that their voices were being heard about when going to these places.

We have been running since September 2021, talking to children and young people like you about what they like in Solihull, what they don't like and how to make things better. We have also been going in to schools, and community groups to talk to you, listening to what you think and how we can help make things even better.

Damian and Eli are 2 people who run Our Voices heard. Helping to make the changes you have said you want, they then take what you have told them and attend meetings with different adults who make decisions about school/college, doctors/ if you have been in hospital or other appointments, have a social worker or other social care support and activities/ clubs you go to. This helps the people making decisions know what you would like and not just what they think you would like. This means the things that help you are better for you. Your voices will be heard



What have we done so far

In the last 18 months Our Voices Heard has been involved in a number of events. These are:

- Talking about the additional need's strategy. Do you know what it is? Do you understand it? creating an easy read version, making sure what you want is apart of the plan and continue to be apart of it.
- Transition/ moving from child to adult social services. Did you get help? Do you understand what it means to you? Did they talk to you?
- The integrated model of care. This is looking at how health work in different areas of your care.
- Annual health checks, this is about you going to the GP and having an appointment to see if you are healthy.
- SEND Green paper consultation, this is from the government to tell you what is happening that may make a difference to your school or college lives.
- We have held 3 Events with the HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) and held online and face to face conversations, seeing what you think of Solihull
- We have been going into schools, youth clubs and programs to talk to children and young people about their lives and how to make things better
- We have arranged community participation groups where we provide activities, food and a safe space to chat
- Our young person ambassadors spoke to the Solihull full council about Our Voices Heard and what children/ young people feel about living in Solihull
- We were involved in Solihull SEND peer review too.





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membership/ how many people are apart of our voices heard.

We have 121 children and young people apart of Our Voices Heard. We are always looking for more children and Young people to join us, so if your interested please get in contact with us, our details are at the bottom on the newsletter. It is important that every child and young person's voice is heard. This way , together we can make things better for you and every child and young person in Solihull.

What is an Ambassador? How many Ambassadors do we have?

How can you be an ambassador?

An ambassador is a young person that help Damian and Eli to talk to people in Health, Community, Social Care and Schools about what you tell us. They are there to talk to you and help us with what we could do next. We are excited to announce that we now have 11 young ambassadors. If you would like to be an ambassador please get in contact with us, details are at the bottom of the newsletter.

Child and Young Person participation groups

We are meeting regularly to make sure all young people get chance to have their say about what they think of school, health, doctors, social care, your community and people who are their to help you. We meet up sometimes to talk and have some food. Other times we arrange to go bowling, craft and other activities, Damian and Eli talk to those about what they would like to do and where they would like to meet. We feel its important that we have a bit of fun, meet new people and talk about how things are going for you.



Student Participation Groups

We have started visiting 10 schools in Solihull to talk to children/ young people, giving you the chance to talk to us at school, ask you what if you feel your being listened to by school, college, doctors and people who are there to help you. We provide a safe space to help this happen and even though this is new, we are sure positive/ good changes will be made as a result of your voices being heard. We are going to set up groups in more schools and colleges across Solihull over the next few months.

Organisational Participation Groups

We have been working with different groups to attend, joining in with your activities and talk in a familiar environment. We love coming along to these groups as we feel it's important for you to feel happy and safe. If you see Damian or Eli at one of these groups please do come and say Hi!

Social media

Eli our young person coordinator, is busy building our social media (Facebook/Instagram). If you are not on there and your old enough please join. If your not old enough to have Facebook or Instagram you could ask your family to join to see what we are doing. We are trying to make sure there are more and more ways you can see what we are doing and make it easier for you to it easier to everyone to talk to Damian, Eli and the Ambassadors at Our Voices Heard.



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Future events

- 28th March 2023 - 5.30pm - 8pm - Marston Green Parish Hall, B37 7BT - Child and young person participation focus group session, will include arts, crafts, karaoke, music relaxation activities and a bite to eat. There is an area for parents/ Carers to sit and have a cuppa as well.
- 28th April 2023: 6.30 - 8.45pm - The Shirley Centre 274 Stratford Road Shirley, Solihull B90 3AD
- 17th July 2023: 6.30 - 8.45pm - The Shirley Centre 274 Stratford Road Shirley, Solihull B90 3AD
- We will be coming into schools across Solihull/ Where you live. We will also be coming into different community groups to talk to you about what makes you happy? What don't you like? What do you think could be done to make things better as well? If you had one wish, to change something in Solihull what would it be? If you want to talk to us you can message us on Facebook, we can arrange a teams meeting or you can call/ text us. Find details below.
- We arrange various online events throughout the year too

How many people have we contacted

- 121 children and young people as members
- Listened to over 250 children and young people face to face, this has helped to tell people, who are there to help, changes you need
- 11 children and young people as ambassadors
- 30 individual organisations within health, social care, education, community, charity and voluntary sector.
- Social media reach: 11,222 (over the last 6 months)



Contact Details/ How to find Our Voices Heard

- Email:
OurVoicesHeardSolihull@outlook.com
- Facebook:
Our Voices Heard
- Instagram
Our Voices Heard Solihull

