



Annual Report
April 2018 - March 2019 WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



Introduction

This report has been created by the Engagement and Participation Team for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (referred to as SEND for this report).

The team have created this report to document their journey from April 2018 - March 2019, focusing on some **key events** that have taken place over this year.

If you would like any more information, please contact:

SENDParticipationTeam@somerset.gov.uk



Jemma Lang

Engagement and Participation Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Nicole Tucker

Young Person's Champion
September 2017- August 2018

Luke Foster

Young Person's Champion
July 2017- December 2018

Chloe-Ella Willcox

Young Person's Champion
August 2018- September 2019

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The team categorise each meeting they attend as:

Co-production- If a resource, plan or event is **created with** young people directly from the start.

Engagement – When children, young people and their families **take part** in activities and meetings and work alongside others.

Introductions- When the team are introducing themselves to **new people**.

Participation- When young people actively work alongside others and take part in **decision making**, contribute to plans and developments.

Young people rate their involvement using Roger Harts ladder of Participation, if they feel that their involvement wasn't meaningful, they will feed this back to chairs of meetings and suggest what could be better.

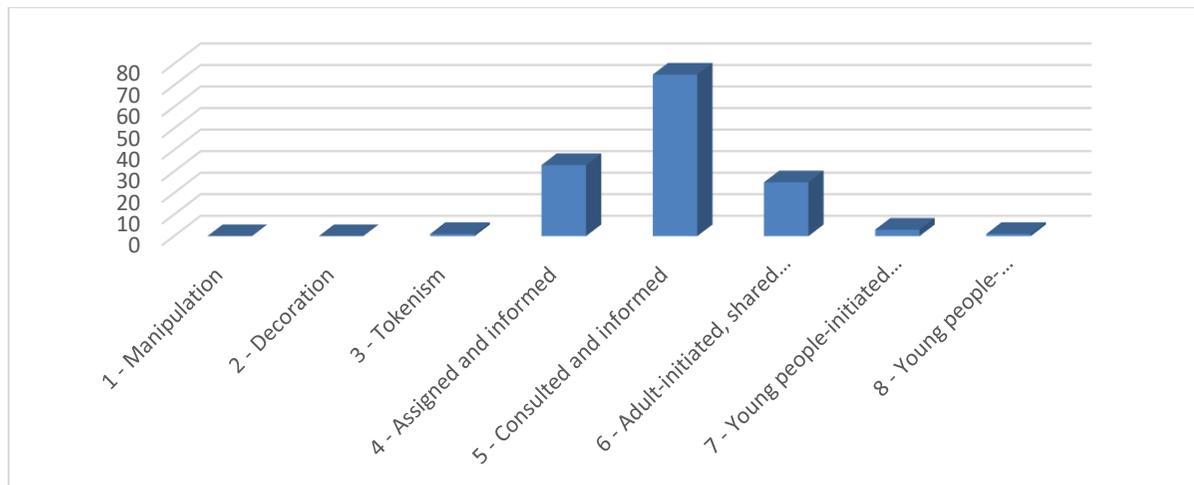
Over the year, the total number of occasions that the team have been involved in these various activities is shown below:

Meeting logbook	
Participation	21
Co-production	35
Engagement	33
Introductions	19

This is broken down by month throughout this report.

An Overview of the Levels of Participation

The graph below shows how the Young People’s Champions (YPC) have rated their involvement in the meetings that they have attended between April 2018 and March 2019. YPC’s felt that they were consulted and informed and shared decisions with adults during the majority of meetings that they attended. We are very pleased to see that there has only been one activity where young people felt that their involvement was tokenistic.



1 - Manipulation	0
2 - Decoration	0
3 - Tokenism	1
4 - Assigned and informed	33
5 - Consulted and informed	75
6 - Adult-initiated, shared decisions with young people	25
7 - Young people-initiated and directed	3
8 - Young people-initiated, shared decisions with adults	1

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April 2018

Activities

In April, Nicole spent some time work shadowing with SENDIAS (Special Educational Needs and Disability, Information Advice and Support) service to find out how they support children, young people and families with SEND and has created a leaflet about her experiences of advice and support services in Somerset.

The team took part in the second Lifehacks workshop alongside other young people from different participation groups in Somerset. This workshop was a follow up to the first meeting and resulted in a complete refresh of promotional materials and information booklets. Young people used this workshop to put forward their own personal experiences of emotional health and well-being and share top tips which will be going into the final booklets.

The team met with parent carers and the Learning and Development Team to review the SEND online learning modules to update them in light of the current priorities for SEND in Somerset. This will help to ensure that practitioners are well informed with what's happening in readiness for the Local Area Inspection which we are expecting at any time. To complete this training go here: <https://somerset.learningpool.com> and search "SEND reforms".

The Unstoppables

This month the Unstoppables started planning an awards ceremony that will be hosted in October to hear success stories for children and young people with SEND and celebrate those working with them. The group also practised their sign language skills and planned what they would like to learn in future sessions, such as First Aid, CV writing and Interview practice.

Meeting logbook April 2018

Participation	1
Co-production	1
Engagement	1
Introductions	4

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May 2018

Activities

In May, the team attended a Preparing for Adulthood event for colleagues across the South West. Luke and Nicole presented the Somerset Children's Trust Participation Toolkit which has been co-produced by young people and practitioners to provide tools and resources to support participation across a range of settings in Somerset.

Luke and Nicole also attended a National SENCO award training session and presented their experience of participation to 30 SENCO'S working in Somerset. One SENCO said the session was "very well delivered and relevant".

Luke took part in the Short Breaks funding panel where he worked with a parent carer and Short Breaks team members to make decisions about which activities and groups should receive funding to deliver activities during the school holidays. Luke played an important role in commissioning activities to benefit children, young people and families in Somerset.

Luke also joined the young people's interview panel for the Head of Children Looked After and Leaving Care post.

The Unstoppables

The forum took part in a survey for Healthwatch giving their feedback on health and care services in Somerset. They enjoyed some swedish meatballs and learnt some interesting facts about Sweden. The group also started planning for the annual Short Breaks activity day in July where they have been tasked to run an activity, meet and greet and show families around on the day.

Meeting Logbook May 2018	
Participation	3
Co-production	3
Engagement	2
Introductions	0

June 2018

Activities

In June, the team travelled around Somerset visiting lots of different groups to talk about their roles and share some of their experiences. The team visited two “Finding Your Way” parent carer coffee mornings and “Our Voice Somerset” peer support group to share ideas with adults with learning disabilities.

During the last week of June, the team were joined by Orrin, a member of the Unstoppables, who undertook some work experience. Orrin worked with lots of different people during his time at County Hall including Public Health, the Partnerships and Participation Team and Project SEARCH interns.

During the team’s visit to Project SEARCH at Musgrove Park Hospital, they talked about the upcoming opportunity to become the next Young Person’s Champion and spoke about what the role involves and how to apply.

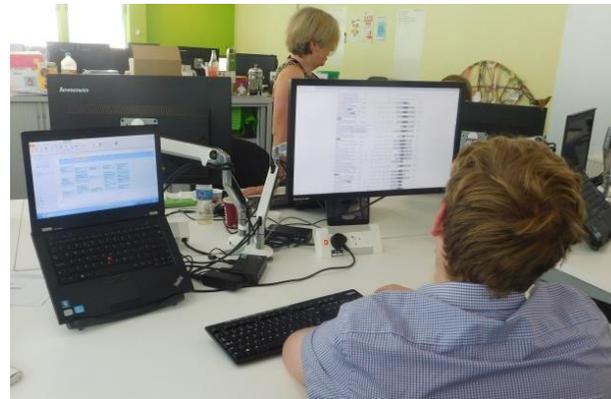
In June, the team’s Facebook posts reached an audience of 2587 people.



The Unstoppables

This month, one of our Unstoppable members, Jonny, delivered an inclusive personal training session with the group, everyone got involved and enjoyed the session. The group also developed a short story board for a film that they will be creating which will show what the Unstoppables get up to during their meetings and when they are supporting other events and activities.

Meeting Logbook June 2018	
Participation	2
Co-production	6
Engagement	0
Introductions	1



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July 2018

Activities

In July, the team were busy planning for the Unsung Heroes event by visiting schools across Somerset who kindly offered to host the award ceremony. The team went to each venue to look at accessibility and capacity of each venue.

Nicole sat on a funding panel with parent carers and the Short Breaks team to make shared decisions on which clubs and activities to fund for the school holidays.

Luke and Jemma travelled to Swindon to present their experience of participation in Somerset and share their model for recruiting and employing Young People's Champions.

Luke and Nicole spent the day with one of the Unstoppables members to create some footage for a film which will explain the Mental Capacity Act to young people and their families. The aim of the film is to make sure that young people know what their rights are and that families feel empowered to support their young people to make their own decisions.

The Unstoppables

This month, the Unstoppables attended the Short Breaks family fun day to meet and greet 500 families who attended the event and promote a treasure hunt activity that they created for the day. The forum members also captured feedback from families at the end of the day on what worked well and suggestions for next year's event.

Meeting logbook July 2018

Participation	1
Co-production	1
Engagement	3
Introductions	3

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August 2018

Activities

In August, the team worked with 16 other young people and 15 multi-agency practitioners across Education, Health and Social Care to focus on education and how it can prepare young people for adulthood as part of the next Children and Young People's Plan.

The new Lifehacks resources were launched with attendance from Public Health, Somerset Partnership and local radio stations to celebrate the new materials that were produced for young people by young people to support good emotional health and wellbeing.

The team offered taster sessions for young people who showed an interest in the YPC roles. Young people spent some time in County Hall meeting the team and learning about the role from existing YPC's, getting a tour of the building and an opportunity to showcase their skills. The team were then able to choose a successful candidate who will start in October and will represent other children and young people with SEND in Somerset.

The Unstoppables

The forum discussed the priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan in relation to children and young people with SEND. The main points that were raised were around health, both emotional and physical, and what they felt young people needed support with. The group also took part in activities that were aimed at improving their decision-making skills and were filmed in action so that they can create their very own film to promote the Unstoppables.

Meeting logbook August 2018

Participation	3
Co-production	3
Engagement	4
Introductions	3



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September 2018

Activities

In September, the team met with the interim SEND Casework Manager to discuss how young people could be involved in reviewing some of the letters that go out to families, updating and refreshing feedback cards and joining the casework team at regular meetings.

Luke joined parent carers and practitioners from the Short Breaks team to review funding applications from activity providers who are hoping to host activities for children and young people with SEND during the Christmas holidays. Luke was able to bring a young person's perspective and make decisions with others.

Jemma was asked to take part in a short film called "Same Difference" to talk about the reasons why employers should make employing people with disabilities a top priority. This supports the work that the team have already been doing with the job centre and employers across Somerset to raise awareness and increase the opportunities for people with SEND.

The team also attended a meeting with workers at a Special School to plan a pilot project to support young people in talking about their aspirations for the future and how staff can support young people to live the best possible life.

The Unstoppables

During the September meeting, the Unstoppables were visited by the National Careers Service who delivered workshops on how to write a good CV, interview skills and offered one to one sessions with our members for tailored support. The staff also offered to meet with young people for follow up sessions should they want to get some more advice.

Meeting logbook September 2018	
Participation	2
Co-production	8
Engagement	1
Introductions	1

October 2018

Activities

In October, the team were joined by Chloe-Ella, our seventh Young Person's Champion. It was a busy month for the team with lots of induction training as well as preparing for the biggest event of the year! The Unsung Heroes Awards!

On Friday 26th October, the team worked with the Unstoppables and Somerset Parent Carer Forum to deliver the Unsung Heroes awards ceremony in Chard. Over 130 people attended the event to celebrate success stories for children and young people with SEND in Somerset. The young people welcomed guests on arrival, showed people to their seats and co-presented awards with parent carer representatives. The evening ended with a disco and a mocktail bar and lots of great moves on the dancefloor!



Chloe-Ella and Jemma were invited to meet some of the members of Somerset's Health and Well-Being Board to talk about what the team do and how young people are involved in different meetings and areas of work within Somerset. Chloe-Ella was able to share her experiences of school and college and the support that has made a difference to her.

The Unstoppables

Everyone took part in a "Show and Tell" activity where members shared their art work, music and their personal stories. This built on the group's confidence and communication skills. The group were tasked with coming up with a new name for a leaflet which will give information to families on changes within education. The Unstoppables also took part in the 'Make Your Mark Campaign', which gives the opportunity to vote on what's most important to young people in the UK.

Meeting logbook October 2018	
Participation	1
Co-production	5
Engagement	2
Introductions	0

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November 2018

Activities

During November, the team travelled across Somerset meeting groups of students, adults with learning disabilities and some learners from Somerset's Special Schools who set up their very own pop up shop in Taunton.

As part of her induction to Somerset County Council, Chloe-Ella met with members of Public Health to learn more about their roles and how the team could be involved in some of their work in 2019.

The team have been invited to attend a Diversity event at Butlins with the Department for Work and Pensions. The aim of this event is to raise awareness and create an opportunity for people, especially employers, to learn more about our diverse society and the organisations that offer support and guidance. The event will take place in March 2019 and the team will deliver some engaging and thought-provoking activities.

The Unstoppables

This month, the forum welcomed two visitors, Kim and Jane, who delivered a "Money Matters" workshop with the group. This gave the Unstoppables members the opportunity to learn more about what financial support they might be entitled to. The group learnt about wages, household bills and savings!



Meeting logbook November 2018	
Participation	5
Co-production	4
Engagement	3
Introductions	6

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December 2018

Activities

Luke took part in an interview panel for new members of staff within the SEND team. After developing their own set of questions around family participation, Luke worked alongside a representative from Somerset Parent Carer Forum to interview candidates and gave feedback to the main panel.

The team met with an Educational Psychologist from Support Services for Education. Luke and Chloe-Ella explained the role of the team and talked about the Unstoppables forum. The Educational Psychologist did the same and asked the team for their feedback on the services leaflet and a survey that has been created for young people. The team are hoping to run a session in 2019 with children and young people to get their feedback on the Educational Psychology service to find out what's working and what could be better.

The Unstoppables

The Unstoppables had their Christmas celebration where they decided to cook their own Christmas dinner. Some members got involved with food preparation and cooking and others took part in festive activities lead by other young people. We were also visited by Amber from Somerset Cricket Board who delivered a festive cricket session with the group and asked for their feedback on making cricket accessible for all young people.

Young Person's Champion Luke said goodbye to the Unstoppables and the team at the end of December after a busy 18 months with Somerset County Council. Luke has successfully completed an apprenticeship in Business Administration and has been involved in various projects representing other young people with SEND.

Meeting logbook December 2018	
Participation	2
Co-production	1
Engagement	4
Introductions	0

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January 2019

Activities

In January, Young Person's Champion Chloe-Ella developed a feedback card for the SEND casework team to use with young people who have been through the Education, Health and Care plan process. The idea of the feedback card is so that young people can have their say on what worked and what could have been better to help to improve the process. We wanted to check that the feedback cards were young person friendly, so we took them to the interns at Project SEARCH in Taunton for their thoughts. The interns took part in a group discussion and gave us lots of information to take back to the SEND casework team.

The team visited Fiveways Special School in Yeovil to meet with students and talk about what we do and ask them what their hopes and aspirations were for the future. We talked about likes, interests and hobbies and the role of a Young Person's Champion. The students taught us different ways to communicate using symbols, pictures and sign language.

The Unstoppables

The forum does not meet in January as it is so close to the new year and festive break. The team spent lots of time this month refreshing the Unstoppables leaflets, promoting the group and planning for the year ahead. During our first session of 2019 we will be talking about the groups priorities and how we can best represent other children and young people with SEND in Somerset this year.

Meeting logbook January 2019	
Participation	0
Co-production	0
Engagement	3
Introductions	1

February 2019

Activities

During February, the team attended a series of roadshows across the county for parent carers to promote Somerset's Local Offer. The roadshows were a great opportunity to meet parent carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and provide them with the opportunity to share their experiences with us.

During the roadshows, parent carers told us that although the Education, Health and Care plan process has improved there are still some issues around timescales and shared understanding of the process. Parent carers also told us that they weren't sure what was available for their child or young person in terms of post 16 options and activities that were SEND specific in their local area.

Parents were signposted to lots of different groups and services during the roadshows and their feedback will inform developments to the Local Offer website and how we communicate to families.

Over 200 people attended the roadshows across Somerset.



The Unstoppables

The forum was unable to meet in February due to the snow but some of our members joined us for a Children and Young People's Plan writing workshop during half term. Along with representatives from other youth voice groups across Somerset, the young people were able to create summaries for each of the priorities in the plan and what they will mean for all children and young people in Somerset.

Meeting logbook February 2019

Participation	0
Co-production	3
Engagement	7
Introductions	0

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March 2019

Activities

In March, Jemma and Chloe-Ella attended the South West SEND Participation conference ran by the Council for Disabled Children. The event was an opportunity to meet with people from other areas of the South West and find out about the developments and challenges in young people's participation. Lots of the other areas were impressed with what's happening in Somerset and would like to adopt similar models!

We joined Somerset Parent Carer Forum and staff from lots of different agencies at The SEND big day in Yeovil. The day was a great opportunity for families to come and get some tailored information by booking in slots with practitioners as well as meet with other parents, find out about support services and take the opportunity to be pampered by students from Yeovil college.

The team attended the annual Diversity event hosted by the Department for Work and Pensions in Butlins. The event was aimed at raising awareness and inspiring job centre staff and local employers to employ a diverse workforce. The teams engaged well with the activities ran by young people who also got involved in handing out the prizes on stage at the end of the day.

The Unstoppables

This month the Unstoppables met and took part in a super hero themed meeting designed by Young Person's Champion, Chloe-Ella. The forum started off by taking part in a team building activity where they had to create their superhero headquarters out of random materials and were then asked what their everyday challenges or "Kryptonite" was. The members came up with some really important issues for young people who have additional support needs, and this will be the focus of our work this year. We ended the session by talking about the superpowers and strengths that our members have which ranged from heightened senses and the ability to empathise with others.

Meeting logbook March 2019

Participation	1
Co-production	0
Engagement	3
Introductions	0

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More Information

If you would like any more information about the team and the work they have done then please contact:

SENDParticipationTeam@somerset.gov.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/sendparticipationteam/>

If you would like more information about services in Somerset please visit:

<https://www.somersetchoices.org.uk/family/>

If you would like more information about Somerset Parent Carer Forum please visit:

<http://www.somersetpcf.org.uk/default.aspx>



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