

Sandwell SEND Children and Young People Working Together Charter



What is the Working Together Charter?

This is our promise to work with you, not just for you. It shows how Sandwell's SEND Local Area Partnership will listen to your ideas and make sure your voice helps shape the services you use.

We created this charter together with young people, and it sets out how we will work with you so that your views and experiences make a real difference. Our goal is to make sure co-production (working together) is part of everything we do and helps you achieve the best outcomes.

Vision

Our vision is called "Young Voices Shaping Change". This means your voice matters and can make things better. We want you to have the chance to speak up, share your ideas, and help make decisions about the services you use.

Together, we can build strong relationships and make positive changes for the future, where every child and young person with SEND needs feel included and supported.

Working Together Definition

Working Together means co-producing as equals. It's not just asking for your opinion – it's about you being involved from the start: planning, designing, and improving the services that affect you. Your experiences and ideas are just as important as everyone else's.



How Will This Happen?

Working Together will be part of everything we do. Here's how:

- We will use the "Elevating Our Voices" model to make sure you are involved.
- We will work with SEND groups and forums you are part of.
- We will ensure you are involved in commissioning, delivering, monitoring and evaluation of the partnership
- We will create an annual SEND survey to hear your views.
- We will have a young people's takeover challenge every year, where you can review and challenge the SEND Partnership Board.
- We will use videos, easy-read leaflets, and visuals to keep you informed.
- We will keep your parents and carers updated too.



- Level 4:** Young people initiated, shared decisions with adults
- Level 3:** Young people initiated and directed
- Level 2:** Adult initiated, shared decisions with young people
- Level 1:** Consulted and informed
- Level 0:** Assigned but informed
- Level -1:** Tokenism
- Level -2:** Decoration
- Level -3:** Manipulation



What Does Success Look Like?

Working Together will be successful when:

- You feel like an equal partner.
- You are involved at every stage.
- You get clear, easy-to-understand information.
- Your voice is listened to and acted on.
- You help make big decisions.
- You feel supported and achieve your goals.

We are committed to making working together a reality for children and young people with SEND and their families. By working together, we can create a system that is responsive to their needs and empowers them to achieve their full potential.



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Working Together Principles

Value, Care & Welcome

- We will include everyone and treat you as an individual
- We will accept you for who you are
- We will celebrate your achievements
- We will make sure you feel safe and supported
- We will listen to your experiences and make adjustments when needed
- We will treat you as an equal partner



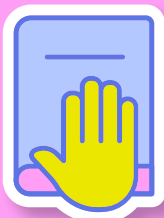
Trust each Other

- We will work together as partners
- We will agree on goals together
- We will listen to different opinions
- We will build strong relationships
- We will work with you, not against you
- We will give you time to feel safe and comfortable
- We will give time for trust to grow



Be Honest

- We will be clear and open with you.
- We will respect each other.
- You can ask questions anytime.
- We will speak with care and empathy.
- We will take responsibility for our decisions.



Communicate Well

- We will ensure everyone's voice will be heard equally.
- We will use positive language.
- We will ask for feedback and keep you updated.
- We will listen carefully and act on what you say.
- We will keep communication clear and consistent



Be Ambitious

- We will support you to plan for your future.
- We will help you build confidence and skills.
- We will encourage a positive mindset.
- We will set goals that are achievable but exciting.

