

# Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities: Engagement Survey for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

## Help sheet for those supporting children and young people to take part

Thank you for helping us to hear from as many children and young people with SEND as possible. We understand that some will need your support to answer our questions.

The rationale for how we have worded them comes from previous work that has been done with children with SEND.

### **An ordinary life**

The JSNA is set in the context of an *ordinary life* as described by the Changing Our Lives White Paper of the same name<sup>1</sup>.

An ordinary life is defined by Wolverhampton Challenge Board as:

*‘Being valued as people first, as loving family members, as rebellious teenagers, as paid employees, as community leaders, as home owners and tenants, as neighbours, as friends and partners. Where young people with the label of special educational needs and disabilities are seen in society and have active lives in society. Not living in service land and hidden away from communities in segregated services with other disabled people.’*

### **Preparing for adulthood**

Linked to the ‘ordinary life’ concepts are the four outcomes set out by Preparing for Adulthood (PfA)<sup>2</sup> for children and young people with SEND:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.changingourlives.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=5abf801f-6752-4103-8212-8252e8317e06>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/SiteAssets/Downloads/yeded5wb636481748062535810.pdf>

- Employment – this means young people should be supported to develop the skills and experience, and achieve the qualifications they need, to succeed in their chosen careers.
- Independent living – this means young people and their families are provided with the tools and resources they need to fully understand what is available in relation to housing options. Young people are encouraged to think about who they would like to live with and where they would like to live.
- Community inclusion – this means young people have opportunities to spend time with their peers outside of school and college. They are supported to develop and maintain friendships and relationships, can access their community and feel safe and confident.
- Health – this means young people are supported to manage their own health as they move into adulthood.

The engagement element of the JSNA aims to understand what an ordinary life means to stakeholders and why it is important. It also aims to understand how children and young people can be better supported to live as ordinary a life as possible in the context of these PfA outcomes.

Alongside this survey for children and young people, there is an engagement survey for professionals that is now live until **5pm on Friday 26 July 2019**. Please visit the following link to access our survey: <https://consultation.wolverhampton.gov.uk/public-health/f088c700>.

## Guiding you through supporting a child or young people to complete this survey

The engagement takes a strengths-based approach to support children and young people to think about the things that they can do for themselves and what they could do with a little bit more help. Bear in mind the things you have read here about an ordinary life. When answering, children and young people should be encouraged to be imaginative, realistic and aspirational.

For those who would like to draw or write their responses themselves please print off the **Easier to Read** version of this survey and use that.

Please email [publichealth@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth@wolverhampton.gov.uk) or telephone 01902551305 to arrange the best way to collect your paper survey. Alternatively, you may be able to leave the survey in a safe place with the organisation where you completed it and we can collect it from there.

### **Step One.**

Please use the first section to explain that we are writing a report about what is important for children and young people with SEND.

### **Step Two.**

Explain the privacy agreement in Section Two if the child or young person is able to give consent. If they are unable to consent, please check that their parent or guardian is happy for them to take part.

### **Step Three.**

Please use the section 'An Ordinary Life' to help give children and young people a context for the questions.

### **Step Four.**

Start going through the questions: there are six of them but some have more than one part.

We have provided some ideas to help them think about their own views, but please do encourage them to think about things that are relevant to them, even if these things are very different to our current ideas.

Where children and young people cannot write answers themselves please capture their verbal responses as best as you can, ideally word for word.

### **Step Five.**

There are demographic questions at the end of the survey. If you are helping a child or young person to complete these themselves, please emphasise that the information they give us is optional, confidential, and anonymous. The most useful question for us is the one about how old the child or young person is.

Please feel free to not ask some of the questions if you do not think they are appropriate.

**Thank you for your help with this important project**