

'This is me' Annual Review Contribution

What are we making better?

As part of a review request around the implementation of feedback cards it became apparent that young people did not understand or feel they were included in both the EHCP and Annual Review processes. A discussion with young people was undertaken to find out the scope of this and to gauge their involvement and understanding.

It was found that young people did not feel included as much as they should be, and that not enough preparation and explanation was given prior to young people's annual review.

The findings were presented to the SBC SEND Lead and an action was taken forward for young people to co-produce a document, which will be completed by young people to ensure they are aware and prepared prior to their annual review.



What have we done?

During a focus group young people initially came up with what they felt was important to include on the documents, thinking about what they would like to contribute to their Annual Review (what would you like other people to know in this meeting?). Young people thought that it would be a good idea if there was a document for older and younger children and young people, and it should be colourful and easy (fun) to complete. The young people's Ideas were forwarded to Jayne Smith, SEND Commissioning Officer who put the young people's Ideas into a draft design. Children approved of documentation with only a few minor changes.

What has been the Impact?

SEND Workforce have a resource to capture the voice of children & young people, prior to their annual reviews.

Children have the opportunity to contribute to the review process using a document that has been designed with their suggestions and is appropriate for them.



What has been the evidence?

Documentation added to Local Offer web site. <https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/personcentredpractice>

Case study 1 (extract): He completes the This Is Me document with his Teaching Assistant before he attends the Annual Review. The SENCo sends it home with all the other paperwork in advance so we can read everything before the meeting. Me and my husband love reading what he's put. he comes into the meeting to share what he wrote in the This Is Me document and also to talk about and show work he has done that he is proud of. He also talks about what he needs help with, and what things he enjoys in school.

Case study 2 (extract): It really highlighted how she wanted to be involved, what is important to her in life and showed off her sense of humour. Had she been put on the spot to tell everyone about herself she would not have contributed and would have felt anxious and uncomfortable. All too often as a parent we speak for our children, but this is a great way of getting their voice heard.