



A celebration of children and
young people with additional
needs living in Solihull

30th January 2024

6pm – 8pm

Civic Centre

Solihull Metropolitan Borough
Council

Key Messages

Solihull's 0-25 SEND services were delighted to support Our Voices Heard (OVH) in the first event of its kind in Solihull. Children and young people from across the borough were able to come and share their thoughts and opinions on the things that matter to them with professionals from across all three services, education, Health, and Social care.

There was excellent representation from the children and young people from across the spectrum of need and age with over 40 young people in attendance. We heard music from the Solihull's Inclusive choir and the Guitaristas , a guitar ensemble who came in force with 25 members playing for everyone whilst they enjoyed their pizza suppers.

The children and young people worked in groups tackling questions such as;

What do we need to change that will help everyone? And What do we need to do to help you feel included and belong in your community and school?

We have taken the following key messages away with us.

“It’s a Game Plan!” Robert – P16

1. “We want people to be helpful to us, understand and listen to us”.
2. “We want people to know us and what is important to us”.
3. “We need more people to talk to about things that worry us (money, future, travel), they can help us by telling people what we think when they are making decisions.
4. “We want things (services, schools, and work experience) that are local to us. We don’t want to travel out of Solihull to do the things we want to do”.
5. “We need help with planning and progressing our mental health or physical health making us stronger and knowledgeable. To make them the adults they are soon to be or what they are now.” Direct quote from Robert one of our young people.
6. “We want choice in choosing what we do in 6th Form, there is no choice at the moment for us in Solihull and we want to be listened to”.
7. “We like being part of something that includes everybody”.
8. “We would like to know when things are changing for us before they happen, like changes in staff that work with us.”
9. “We want to run up and down and go on swings. We need more swings that fit bigger children”.
10. “We would like there to be less **bullying**”.
11. Managing money is hard so we would like some support with this.
12. We have an inclusion group in our school to support us and this makes us feel listened to. They are our friends and peers, and they talk to our teachers and headteacher about the things we want them to.
13. I teach BSL to my class and this helps me to feel more included in my school.
14. “teachers do listen when I worry”.
15. “Let me finish my sentences, don’t finish them for me”

OVH have a schedule of monthly meetings with their children and young people over the coming year and professionals have committed to attending each of these to continue the conversations. Details can be found on our engagement planner on the [Local offer: SEND and Additional Needs Your Voice Solihull](#).