



Northumberland County Council

Tel direct: 07814 097136

Date: 30th April 2021

Link to take part :

<https://forms.office.com/r/iTeLjycwV1>

Dear Parent or Carer

At Northumberland County Council we are committed to better understanding the needs of all of our children and young people and their families. For children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, we rely on you, their parents and carers, to help us to better understand the inequalities they may face. We realise that accessing activities in the community over weekends, evenings and school holidays is sometimes difficult. We think it would be helpful to talk to you so we can understand what could be done differently so that more families can enjoy activities in the community.

Between now and half term, we'd really appreciate a chance to ask you about your experiences of using community based services to help your child to enjoy the kind of activities that give every family a break and give the children some enrichment and enjoyment. The kinds of activities we are talking about might include, sports and leisure facilities; swimming lessons, teams, it could be Brownies, Scouts, youth clubs, football, drama or dance classes.

We are aware that these providers are keen to be inclusive, and might say that they 'never turn a child away', but we'd like to hear your experiences. Are they making it clear enough that they would include your child, and is it an offer that you trust to give young people the chance to have these new experiences? We're keen to know how they communicate that. If not, what might they be able to do better to build confidence and awareness about how inclusive they are?

As now still isn't a great time to meet face to face to talk to you about this, we will try to hear your experiences and suggestions in whatever way you feel is most convenient.

Our plan is to offer a choice of informal virtual meetings (some day, some evenings) or an online version of the questions for discussion in a format you can complete on your phone or device. The meetings will not be longer than an hour, and the online questions, just a few minutes.

Our aim is to establish what information you and your children and young people need in order to trust that community providers are inclusive, and then to share that information with the providers and support them to demonstrate their inclusive ethos and practice. We'll share our findings with you, of course.

We really hope you have time to help, and look forward to working with you.

To opt in to taking part, please choose the option that suits you on to [this form](#).

Yours sincerely

Mary Connor, Head of Service, Children's Social Care
Laura Cameron, Senior Project Development Manager
Gill Finch, Schools' Equalities Coordinator

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