

SEND Weekly Newsletter 11 July 2018



Issue 5

Engagement and Participation survey results



Over the last few weeks we've collected your feedback on the SEND Engagement and Participation Strategy 2018-2020, thank you to the 81 people who responded. View it [here](#).

A total of 86 per cent understood what we're trying to achieve and 91 per cent felt involved in decisions about their own life.

But 60 per cent felt limited or no involvement in shaping services. So more needs to be done on developing the participation toolkit. We now need to:

- Ensure the strategy is accessible through the local offer
- Refine the strategy work plan and publish it on the local offer (September)
- Share a 'you said we did/will do' report in September in response to comments submitted
- Improve communication around ways people can be involved in shaping and monitoring services.

***We need unsung heroes for a special award ceremony; do you know someone who deserves to be recognised for their work in SEND? Or a young person who overcame big challenges? Email SENDParticipationTeam@somerset.gov.uk.**

nasen Awards 2018

Do you know of any best practice which benefits children and young people with SEND? Does it need to be recognised? The [nasen Awards 2018](#) are open for nominations!

The closing date is 20th July 2018. With categories for schools/organisations for all age groups/provision, parent engagement, technology/resource and individual categories, there is something for everyone.

It would be great to see some Somerset nominations!



Could you use some equipment?

The Youth Equipment Store (YES) offers equipment for children and young people and adults working with them to hire at extremely affordable rates from its base in Taunton. The store also delivers to recognised groups across Somerset. There is a wide range of equipment available from camping and hiking tools needed to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's award to stage lighting and mountain bikes.

YES also has a range of equipment and toys for children and young people with **disabilities and additional needs**. These include everything from sensory toys to mobility aids, safety equipment, hoists etc. For more information they can be contacted on 01823 289387, by [email](#) or visit their [website](#).



Sharing Skills to meet Young People's Needs

The Integrated Therapy Service in Somerset Partnership are working with SEN.se (Somerset Special Schools Association) to share skills and spread good practice. A lead Physiotherapist, Speech and Language Therapist and Occupational Therapist have met with Julie Walker, Executive Officer of SEN.se, and senior staff from Avalon school to explore **how they work together to best meet the needs of students**. Topics include how good practice in the classroom is identified and shared, training requirements, common language and effective communication. Focussing on what Children and Young People need is helping to find a lot of common ground and they look forward to continuing this work into the future.



Heard about the **NEW** SEND Electronic Portal?

You have hopefully heard that the local area is updating the way it does things. There will soon be a new electronic portal which schools will use to submit **statutory requests for assessments and annual reviews** called the 'Capita Professional Portal'. This will replace the paper forms used at the moment. Primary, secondary and special school SENCOs have been testing the portal to make sure it is working and that it will be a useful tool for schools.

From the beginning of September the portal will be the preferred way to submit requests or annual review paperwork and the **only way** from January 2019.

If you are a SENCO and would like the chance to try this out before September, please [contact us](#).

