

IYA's Annual Review Guide

"How to make
meetings better for
young people"



About This Guide

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Who We are



Independent
Young
Advisors

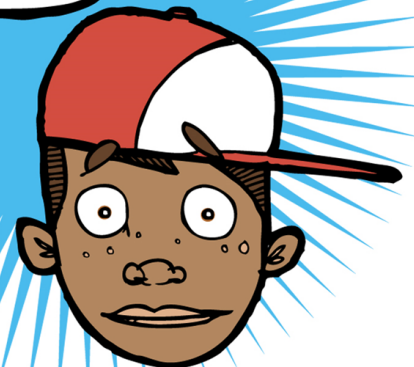
Your life,
Your SEND!

'IYA' - Independent Young Advisors - are a steering group of young people for Haringey's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS). This service is run by a charity called Markfield, funded by Haringey Council.

As members of IYA we have learnt about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and worked together to build our confidence and skills. We have been consulted with about issues to do with SEND and specifically about how Haringey's SEND IASS is run. We are interested in sharing information with young people and making sure they have a say in their education. Our goal is to help Haringey's SEND IASS to reach young people and to share the views of young people with professionals.

There are currently six IYA members aged 14-19 years old from different Secondary schools and colleges in Haringey; Renee Adepegba, Ben Aher, Ibrahim Al, Sarah Hepting, Kerone Kandou, Zachariah Opere-Onguende.

"Before.. I was always quiet, silent in the back-ground. I was always on my own. Now I feel like I want to talk, express myself and get to know other people."



About This Guide

We made this guide because we think it's important to include young people in meetings in a way that makes them feel happy and able to join in. Young people can find meetings stressful, we all need to be able to join in our own way.

If you make meetings easier for us to come to, it is easier for us to tell you what we think. It is very important and our right that we get to have our say about our future.



Markfield is a community centre in Haringey which promotes the dignity, choice, independence and community inclusion of Disabled people and their families. Markfield is a registered Charity and Limited Company.


Markfield provides the Special Educational needs and Disabilities Information, Advice & Support Service (SEND IASS) in Haringey. They provide impartial information, advice and support about SEND for children, young people and parents/carers. They also run social clubs, play schemes, a Family Club and a Saturday adventure playground drop-in.



Before

There are things we need to happen so we feel ready for the meeting

- ⇒ Tell us the meeting is happening! Sometimes we just get told at the last minute and we don't know what's going on. This is annoying and unfair.
- ⇒ It's best if we can have good notice and we like to receive the information in writing too. We'd like our teacher to ask us how we feel about going to the meeting.
- ⇒ It's really helpful to have photos of the people sending the letter on the signature, this helps us remember who you are. It's also great to have photos of everyone that will be at the meeting, if that's possible.
- ⇒ We want to have feedback from the teacher. Tell us the critical things before the meeting, in a gentle way so we don't feel surprised when you say it in the meeting.



"One day I was told my mum was in school. I thought it was for a clinic meeting but it ended up being an Annual Review! I didn't feel ready."

Before

We want the chance to give our feedback in the meeting but it's hard to think of things on the spot, in front of lots of people.

- ⇒ Make sure we have been asked the questions in advance and given the time to think of answers, sometimes we may want to talk to someone before the meeting so they can write down our ideas, we might want to make a video, take photos or do something else creative!
- ⇒ Some young people are not verbal so people may have to spend time with them to see what they like and find ways of giving them choices and options visually. This can take time and can't all happen in the meeting.
- ⇒ We need to know who we can ask for information and advice, we may want someone to come to the meeting with us. Make sure we have the information about who can support us.
- ⇒ We don't want to miss out on lesson time to attend a meeting.



The Meeting



It really makes a difference what the room is like. Some of us are really sensitive to change and new places. Also some of us can't stand bright lights or certain smells. Make sure you know what kind of room or sensory things that could upset us.

- ⇒ Having refreshments shows it's an important meeting and you care how we feel.
- ⇒ There will need to be paper, pens but maybe also technology to help us communicate and share information in the meeting.
- ⇒ Some of us would like to have music and could bring in our favourite stuff.
- ⇒ Make the meeting more interesting with videos, whiteboard and by explaining what's happening.
- ⇒ We want to feel heard. When we express our feelings and thoughts we want to see these captured.

The Meeting



Professionals, introduce yourselves! There are often lots of faces and we want to know who you are and why you are at the meeting.

- ⇒ Having an icebreaker makes us less nervous, everyone could say one thing about themselves, we could each say one thing we did on the weekend!
- ⇒ When teachers give feedback we want to feel encouraged. Be positive and interesting. Tell us things to improve not things that are 'bad'. Kind criticism is the way.
- ⇒ We want the chance to give feedback to teachers about lessons and the way they are teaching us.



"I want to feel comfortable and feel good! I don't feel comfortable that everyone will be discussing me and seeing all the papers about me on the table."

The Meeting



We want someone in the meeting to support us. Someone loyal just to us, honest and someone we are close to.

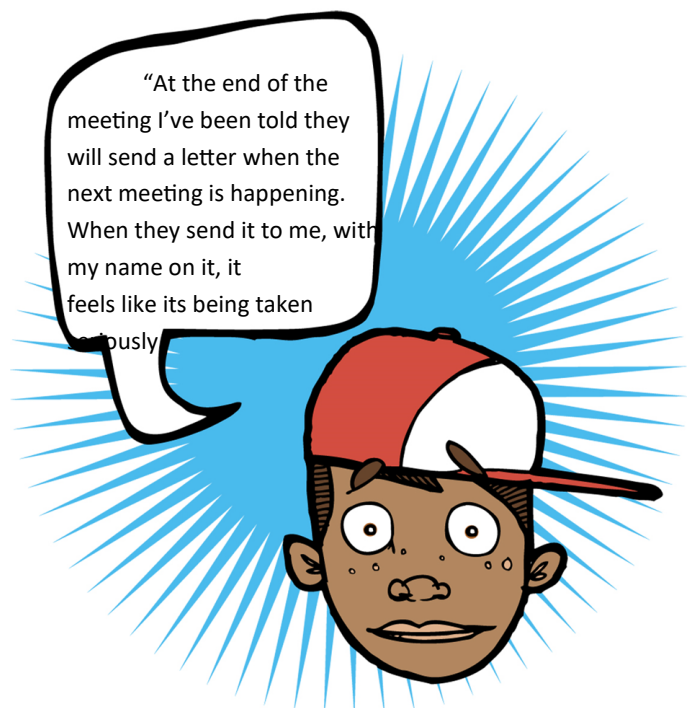
- ⇒ If we are nervous they can help say something to other people. They make us feel comfortable. They can help if there is criticism.
- ⇒ If we say something wrong they can help us out.
- ⇒ Support staff or someone that knows us can help us remember what happened. They can actually help you get through it.
- ⇒ They look out for you, understand feelings.
- ⇒ They might be a friend, family or support staff.



After

After the meeting we want to feel positive and encouraged.

- ⇒ Tell us what the plan of action is. What are the staff going to be doing?
- ⇒ Give us something in writing or visual that will help us remember what's going on.
- ⇒ Make sure we know how people can help us and who we can ask for more support.
- ⇒ Sometimes it feels like the meeting happens and then that's it. We want to know that it was important and that it matters.
- ⇒ We want to give feedback about the meeting. If it was boring it should be improved for next time.



IYA's Annual Review Guide

Thank you ...

- ⇒ To Finn Neary at yaka for the artwork.
- ⇒ To all the IYA members.
- ⇒ To Markfield for giving us the time on Saturdays to come, for refreshments, making us feel at home and welcome and giving us this responsibility.