

# Participation Group

What is the Participation Group?

The aim of the group

- To provide a short break activity for children and young people who experience Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.
- To build meaningful relationships with the young people attending, to enable attendees to express their thoughts, wishes and feelings, using their own unique communication styles.
- To explore key themes through ongoing relationships and activities, which can support the Decision-Making Process of the Local Authority and key partners.
- To keep a log/record of the key information discussed, observations and quotes from young people, in the sessions, to build an ongoing 'picture' which can support commissioning, service design, review and delivery.
- To offer opportunities in partnership with the Our Voice Team, where the young people can take an advisory role to influence local decision making. This could be through undertaking Commissioning Panels, Focus Groups, meeting OFSTED/Inspection teams or being young people's recruitment panels. These opportunities would be planned and supported.

How will we do this?

We will run weekly activity sessions on a Saturday morning 9.30am-12pm in term-time, for young people aged 13-18. We will take a lead from the young people on the activities we offer, and feed these into specific themes throughout the year, gathering their views, opinions and interests which we will feedback to the Local Authority and other key partners. Activities will vary from the more adventurous such as archery, canoeing, climbing to arts & crafts, bushcraft, orienteering.

Sessions will be held at Little Deer Wood Activity Centre, Huddersfield Rd, Mirfield WF14 9HR

Places are limited so please contact us to check availability and book on to the group. Please don't hesitate to give us a call if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

*Heidi Langton*

Heidi Langton  
Outdoor Learning Team Leader