

Voices Newsletter 2025



Welcome

This is the first edition of this newsletter. This newsletter was co-designed and co-produced with children and young people with additional needs in Worcestershire.



Photos

The photos in this month's newsletter are from school workshops with Chanika and Amy.



Herefordshire
and Worcestershire
Integrated Care System



worcestershire
county council





Using the right words

In 2025, we live in a society where words are scrutinized more closely than ever before. It has become more important to use the right terms, especially when referring to a specific group of people, such as those with a vision impairment (VI).

As someone who has been blind since birth, I am often faced with people wanting to ask questions and communicate, but who may be prevented from doing so due to a fear of saying the wrong thing. I can't count the number of times people have apologized to me for asking if I've WATCHED a program or SEEN a film. For me, people asking questions is a key step in connecting and building relationships. Questions give me the opportunity to not only educate someone, but to inject a little of my personality, and get to know them in return. In often messy and hard-to-navigate social situations, this can make the difference between me being on my own, or in a conversation with someone.

Having established the importance of questions, we can now talk about the words. For me, and the majority of other blind or partially sighted people, the intentions behind what you are saying is the most important thing. You could come and ask me about my “visual impairment” instead of my “vision impairment”, which is the correct term, and I either wouldn't notice, wouldn't mind, or would

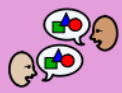


correct you; either way, a conversation and connection would have been started.

Keeping up with the right terminology and thinking before we speak are, naturally, good things to do, but there is no need to let a fear of getting a word wrong stop you from having a chat with a blind or partially sighted person

By Lydia Beech

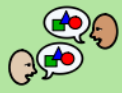




Artwork

Shanelle completed this amazing piece of art for her Level 2 diploma. It shows her feelings about college.





Dragons

From Bertie:

"Normally the dragons in our brains are blue, happy and calm. But sometimes our dragons can go from blue to red. Annoyed, angry or stressed. This happens when we are overwhelmed."



Events

Here are events children and young people would like you to know about:

Guildhall, Worcester:



The Hive Library, Worcester Lego club:

Every Saturday, 10am-11:30am. For ages 4+, fun for all the family.

If you and your child love Lego as much as we do, why not come along to our Family Lego and Construction Club? The club is designed for parents to have fun and engage with their children by building characters and structures from well-known tales. Most construction materials will be suitable for ages 4+. Places are FREE of charge, and you don't need to book, just come along and join in the fun!

Contact

If you are a young person with additional needs who would like to contribute to future newsletters or take part in projects to help improve SEND services in Worcestershire, please contact us on:



email

Email: SENDCo-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk



website

Website: [Co-production and how to get involved \(SEND\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

You can share and present your topics of interest or ideas in whatever way you wish. For example, through drawing, writing, photos, or verbally.

