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|  | **Attended by:**Danny ChantelleZoeAlexValerieAiden (Youth Focus: North East)Apologies: Nick – emailed input before meeting |
|  | **Minutes from last meeting*** Young People’s Virtual Hub

**Are things back to normal?*** How is school / college?
* Are you accessing leisure services?
* How are you feeling about things at the moment?
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|  | **Gateshead SEND Young People’s Network*** How do you feel about meeting physically?
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| Question Mark, QuestionComputer, Laptop, Notebook, SimpleTeachers, Meeting, Books, Reading, Group | **Are things back to normal?**The group discussed how they are feeling and if their lives are getting back to ‘normal’, particularly regarding their education. Nick: “I am feeling happy and positive, I have left college but I am keeping busy and have outstanding help at home. I am back doing hydrotherapy now and physio from next week and have access to specialist equipment at home. I have lots of friends to meet up with.”Danny: “I’m quite happy that things are getting back to normal but part of it is also remembering the skills you had beforehand. For me, I haven’t drove outside in my chair for ages and during the last few weeks I’ve realised how difficult it is to remember how to do something when you’ve not done it properly in ages.”Chantelle: “It’s been weird because for me I was in school in Year 10 and it just started going into lockdown. For me I’m a very sociable person – I like talking to people face-to-face so when lockdown came and couldn’t see anyone except over a camera, I thought ‘I don’t like this’”.Chantelle: “I’m happy things are getting back to normal. My swimming’s back on and my horse riding’s back on. Seeing my friends in person is better than seeing them over a camera.”Zoe: “I’m actually pretty much fine with it. When we went into lockdown my life changed completely, but 100% of it was for the better. When I went into lockdown and started to home educate it was really good.”Chantelle: “Home ed for me was quite hard cos all my life through school I’ve hated doing homework at home. I’m used to being in a classroom and having a teacher there. For me, I hated home ed and I wanted to go back to school every day.”**Has access to leisure services improved?**Chantelle: “I’m happy things are back open. I’m glad swimming pools are back open. I was glad when I heard that my swimming classes were back on, but I don’t know. I feel like big places like that where people can gather, there’s going to be more spreading of the disease. A lot of places I’ve been recently there’s barely anyone wearing a mask.”Zoe: “Gateshead clip and climb hasn’t been open and I really like doing my proprioception on there. It’s really good there, but I’ve had to go to the Metrocentre to do it.”Chantelle: “I agree that Gateshead need to open sensory places up because I’ve got friends who use sensory rooms. I can see why they’re holding back but they really do need to open up because we’ve been in lockdown for quite a while now and people are suffering from not doing their normal routines.”**Gateshead Local Offer SEND Young People’s Hub**What information would you like to see on there?Nick: “On the hub could we see reviews of accessible places from lived experience, like events, and restaurants etc.”**Would you be interested in meeting as a group physically?**Chantelle: “I definitely would be.”Danny: “It depends on when, where, what is it like for parking? I would like some sort of hybrid, like where if people would prefer meeting virtually they can.”Nick: “I would meet in a group but I go to Music sparks and Thursday evenings.”**Any other business?**Alex discussed with the group the possibility of Education Gateshead Service Director Steve Horne coming to the next meeting. In previous meetings, Forum members had raised the idea of talking with people ‘higher up’ in the council. The group agreed that they would be interested in talking to him. Zoe would like to ask, “why are so many home educated people SEND?” |
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