



Bury
Council

CHANGEMAKERS

Bury Youth Service
Bury Council

Scout Stirling
Jenny Mills

BACKGROUND



The Changemakers is a youth voice group for young people with additional needs and disabilities aged 11-25.

It was created as a working group to feed into Bury's SEND Improvement and Assurance Board following a 2024 Ofsted inspection.



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GOVERNANCE

The Changemakers meet fortnightly during term time and have reward trips during the school holidays.

Their primary role is to hold the SEND Improvement and Assurance board accountable and assist in Bury's improvement journey, and they do so by reading monthly reports, attending board meetings, and providing regular feedback to the board through the SEND Ambassador and Inclusion Advocate.

Members of the board are also invited to attend Changemakers meetings.



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GOVERNANCE

The Changemakers sit alongside Bury's formal statutory democratic youth approach to voice, Youth Cabinet, and members of both groups are invited to attend Full Cabinet meetings with elected members.

Changemakers are encouraged to attend Youth Cabinet, to participate and share their views on wider issues and systems/structures affecting young people. This ensures a wide variety of participation and engagement and that the voices of our young people with SEND are heard.





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LINKS WITH THE WIDER PARTNERSHIP



- Youth Cabinet & other Youth Service groups
- CAMHS and other health services
- Community Safety Partnership
- SEND Improvement and Assurance
- Primary, Secondary and post 16 Education (inc. specialist and alternative provisions of all age groups)
- Adult and child social care
- EHC team
- Parent/carer forum
- VCFA

WIDER PARTICIPATION



- Elective home educated
- Educated other than at school
- Alternative provision
- Specialist provision
- Specialist provisions within mainstream schools
- Resource provision
- Prestwich's Jewish community
- Children in Care Council
- CAMHS service users



RECENT & CURRENT PROJECTS

CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE

Circles of Influence is an annual youth-led conference designed by young people, for young people.

It provides opportunities for young people to meet with decision makers about issues affecting young people within the local authority.

The themes discussed at the conference are chosen by the young people of Bury via an online survey.

Professionals attending the event are asked to make pledges to the young people on the day.



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SEND Circles of Influence 2024

Young people discussed:

- safety in the community
- bullying
- accessibility (including access to mental health services and further education)
- displacement in the home (including foster care and bereavement)



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CO-PRODUCTION PROMISE



“We promise to ensure that children and young people have the opportunity to be involved at all stages as **equal partners** in the development of services that affect them

We promise that we will ensure children and young people are **informed** and understand the service that they are being offered and how it will help them

We recognise that **good relationships** with children and young people are key to all who work with them and we promise that professionals will endeavour to build a strong, transparent and honest relationship with the young person they are working with

We promise that staff who engage with children and young people will have the appropriate engagement **skills and training**”

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION TOOLKIT

Designed by young people to support partners when involving young people in recruitment processes at all levels, from operational staff to directors.

A cohort of over 30 young people have been trained in R&S, including some of our Changemakers, and they have created a variety of different approaches to ensure meaningful involvement in R&S processes



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TALKING TO TEENAGERS

One of the findings from Circles of Influence was that young people felt some professionals, particularly those who aren't used to working with young people, don't know how to approach teenagers, support and effectively build relationships with them.

Training was developed by young people to be delivered to professionals on how to meaningfully engage and truly listen. It is delivered by young people in the hopes that other young people will receive more young person centred experiences. This has been rolled out to education, police and health services, with positive responses and impact recognised by young people.

The Changemakers are working to differentiate this training to include professionals engaging with youth people with SEND.



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SCHOOL STAFF TRAINING

Similar to the talking to teenagers training, the Changemakers are also in the process of developing training for school staff around identifying SEN needs at an earlier point. They believe it's important for children and young people to have the opportunity to tell adults how they understand their additional needs and symptoms, with the hopes that staff will continue their work with a young person-centred approach.



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CO-PRODUCTION KITEMARK

Our kitemark was co-produced by young people and the Co-Production Sub-Group. Young people at Circles of Influence said that they wanted a way to encourage co-production and involvement of young people within services and a way to measure and support effectiveness.

It's designed to enable young people to audit services against a criteria that measures their level of co-production with support to improve. Services are awarded with bronze, silver or gold accreditation and must commit to regular assessments to maintain it.

This drives a commitment to embed the ethos of co-production and supports continuous improvement.



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SEND STRATEGY CO-PRODUCTION

Bury Changemakers contributed to the creation of our 2025-2028 SEND strategy over a few months, which was then taken to a group of young people in our co-production day. There, they participated in a number of activities in order to facilitate the co-production of the remainder of the strategy.

This included activities around outcomes for children and young people, how we measure those outcomes, what a trusted adult looks like, and how we prioritise Bury's impact points. They also wrote a foreword for the strategy and discussed the aesthetics of it.







FEEDBACK & OUTCOMES MEASURING

FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES MEASURES

All our SEND groups complete quarterly health and wellbeing check-ins, as well as a 'how am I feeling' check-in at the start and end of each session. These are used to determine topics that may need covering in sessions as well as how their attendance in group may be affecting their health and wellbeing.



How am I feeling?

	Completely	Mostly	A little bit	Not at all	Unsure
I feel prepared for adulthood					
I am being supported as best as I can be right now					
I can cope well when I have poor mental health					
Adults listen to me and take me seriously					
I have opportunities to have my say					
There are adults in my life I can talk to about problems					
I have felt positive about my future recently					
I have close friendships <u>at the moment</u>					

FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES MEASURES

Anonymous surveys are sent out once a quarter: one to parents/carers, and one to young people. It provides them with the opportunity to feedback about how they are finding the group, their understanding of the work, and what changes they would make.

Young people co-produce the termly scheme of work and sessions to ensure need and wants are met and appropriate topic/issues included for discussion. At the end of every session, it is evaluated by the young people





FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES MEASURES

After every Changemakers meeting, young people are given two post-it notes to provide feedback. The prompts vary, but usually they are asked what questions they have about a specific area of work (E.G EHCPs) and what they think the wider partnership are doing well.



WHAT DO WE DO WITH THEIR WORK?

Feedback is presented to the SEND Improvement and Assurance Board, where professionals and decisions makers have the opportunity to respond to young people, answer their questions, and incorporate their contributions into the wider work.

Young people are also invited to attend board meetings outside of term time.

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YOU SAID WE ARE DOING

An active document has been created to keep track of young people's questions. Once a month, their questions are added to the shared document, where professionals can then answer where it is relevant and appropriate to them.

Answers are formatted into an engaging graphic document that is shared with young people monthly.

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HOW DOES THIS LOOK LONG TERM?

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LONG TERM GOALS

All of this work is designed in such a way that it will eventually embed into practice and approach and become self sustaining.

As young people grow and develop, it's important that we continue to capture their voices and enable service improvement which grows and develops alongside them.



YOU SAID WE ARE DOING

It is fundamental to the improvement journey of Bury that young people are at the centre of all we do.

We are proud to facilitate the Changemakers to be pioneers in this work and encourage their profile to keep growing.

