

# Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Engagement and Participation Strategy



You may wish to ask for help and support when reading this guide.

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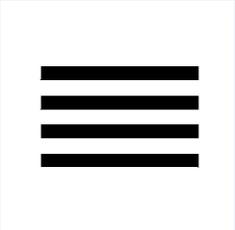
## Important words

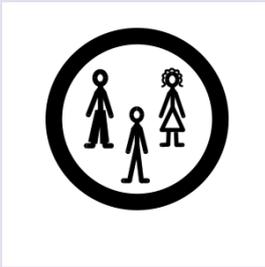
This is a list of important words in the guide that you might want to know more about.

 <p><b>Decisions</b></p>	<p>Choices people make about what happens in their life.</p> <p>Some people may want support to make decisions.</p>
 <p><b>Consent</b></p>	<p>When you agree to something happening</p>
 <p><b>Participation</b></p>	<p>Means people are listening to your views about what matters to you.</p>
 <p><b>Somerset County Council</b></p>	<p>A group of people who look after services in Somerset.</p>
 <p><b>The Government</b></p>	<p>The people who make decisions about the country.</p>

## Introduction:

In this guide, the word **We** are the people working in Somerset with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

 <p><b>Easy Read</b></p>	<p><b>This easy read guide is about the plan that Somerset County Council have written.</b></p>
 <p><b>Communicate</b></p>	<p><b>The plan is to help children and young people with a special educational need and or disability to have their say.</b></p>
 <p><b>Decisions Made Together</b></p>	<p><b>The plan will help you learn more about how you can be involved in decisions that are made about you and other people.</b></p>
 <p><b>What You Think</b></p>	<p><b>Somerset County Council wants to know what you think about things that affect you.</b></p>

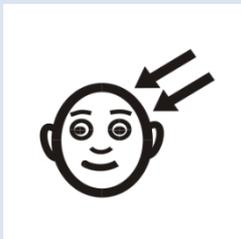


## Changes For Families

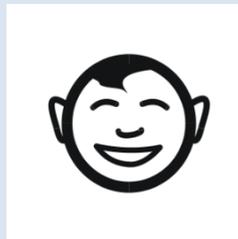
The government has made some changes to how some children and young people and their families are helped.

These changes are in the Children and Families Act 2014.

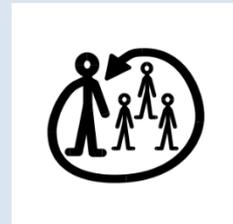
These changes will help children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to:



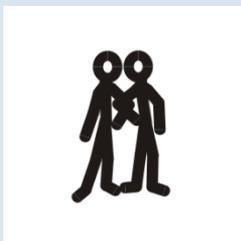
Learn



Stay Healthy



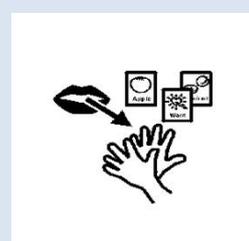
Get In The Community



Make Friends



Get A Job



Communicate What They Feel

**You can find out more about the changes to special educational needs and disability on the computer.**



**The links to the websites are here:**

**Somerset SEND:**

**<http://bit.ly/SomersetSEND>**

**Easy Read SEND Reforms for Young People:**

**<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/media/778152/easy-read-send-reforms-young-people.pdf>**

## The plan

Somerset County Council wants you to be:

	Safe and happy at home and in school, college or work.
	Treated fairly
	To do well
	Happy and do well in the future

We want to:

	Listen to your views
	Help you to understand the importance of why you are joining in
	Make sure you are given all the information and support you need

## Things to know



**Decisions Made Together**

You can make decisions on things that affect you.



**What do you think?**

Your views are very important



**Good**



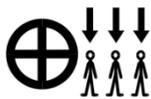
**Sharing your views**

Sharing your ideas is really important



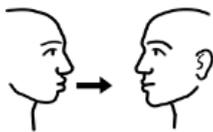
**What do your  
parents/carers  
think?**

Your parent or carers views are also important



**Everyone**

It is important that everybody who supports you is listened to.  
For example your teachers views



**Ask for help**

You can ask for help and support



**What do you  
think?**

Somerset County Council wants to know what you and your parents think.

## Who can help you?



### Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support (SENDIAS)



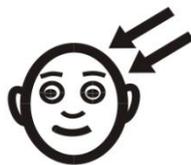
**Helpful**

Somerset SENDIAS are very helpful.



**Help**

They help children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.



**Information**

They can help you find out more information and how you can get the support you need.



## Meetings

They can help you get ready for meetings with people.



## Phone

To speak to someone from SENDIAS

Dial:

**01823 355 578**

on your phone



## Computer

If you use a computer you can email them

[info@somersetsend.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetsend.org.uk)

or look at their website

[www.somersetsend.org.uk](http://www.somersetsend.org.uk)



Group



Meetings

**Do you want to join a group and share your ideas?**

### **‘The Unstoppables’**

This is a group for people who are aged between 13 and 25.

For people who have a Special Education Need and or Disabilities.

They meet once a month to share their ideas.

Please call Jemma on **07469413359**

Or email [jxlang@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jxlang@somerset.gov.uk)

### **Somerset Rural Youth Project (SRYP)**

SRYP feedback on health services in Somerset.

To get involved phone Jane on **07766 556113**

Or email [janeclark@sryp.org.uk](mailto:janeclark@sryp.org.uk)

## **UK Youth Parliament**

This group supports young people to use their voice in creative ways to bring about changes in society. It is run by young people for young people aged 11-18 year-olds

Call Kate on 07968 222857

Or email [KDarlington@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:KDarlington@somerset.gov.uk)

Somerset in Care Council (SICC) aged from 10-16

Somerset Leaving Care Council (SLCC)

These groups are for children and young people who are looked after by the Local Authority who want to have a voice and understand how to make complaints, for example.

Phone Carolyn on 01823 357865

or email [CEDrew@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:CEDrew@somerset.gov.uk)

## **Somerset Parent Carer Forum**

Parent Carers meet together to talk about caring for their children with special educational needs and disability.

Somerset Parent Carer's Forum works together with other people to make sure things get better for you.

[www.somersetpcf.org.uk](http://www.somersetpcf.org.uk)