This write-up shares information from Power Hour 2, which took place during the Collective Get Together 2023 and has been shared with DfE

We talked about the Department for Education, or DfE - Change programme. Thinking about why this has been developed, how and who will be involved.

In 2022, the Department for Education looked at services and support for young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

This was called the SEND Review and as part of this, they asked young people, families and practitioners their thoughts and opinions. They used the information to create a plan for improving things.

This plan was called the SEND and AP Improvement Plan, and it gave us ideas for changes like:

A new single SEND and Alternative Provision system



P+wer Hour

Better support for young people with SEND

A better understanding of how the system works











The Change Programme is the plan to test ideas and make sure they work. DfE will work with areas across the country, to make some changes happen straight away.

They will carry on working with young people and families to develop ideas.



Young people said that the government listening to them made them feel:



DfE have already started talking with some of the people who will be part of The Change Programme, which should be completed by August 2025

It's important that we keep listening to young people while they set up and test changes. Ideas for how included:

- Online
- In person
- Through surveys



- Through schools / colleges
- Funded participation groups
- Accessible information and opportunities

Young people told us that these things can help them get the right support when they need it...

- Better training of staff and SENCOs including current language, different needs, mental health and reasonable adjustments
- Better communication including understanding that behaviour is communication too
- Plans in place and regularly reviewed together
- Access to information, assessment and resources

Young people's ideas for a better system

- Disability education leading to changes in attitudes, in the education system and across society
- Improving the local offer in all areas
- Focussing on individual needs and strengths
- Plans that grow with you and last throughout education
- Meaningfully listening and working with us, including people at the top!