



Our Time

All Ability Youth Forum

Our Time Annual Report 2020/2021

Our Time is an all ability youth forum committed to championing the voice of young people. We are a group of young people with different Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The Forum is run by young people for young people between the ages of 14 – 25, with the support of Young Peoples Advice Centre (SEND IASS)

Our aim is to:

- Ensure young people's voices are heard
- Raise awareness of what young people want
- Campaign for change
- Ensure that everyone knows what their rights are
- Meet new people
- Gain new experiences

“Our Time Forum gives us as a voice to ensure that leaders in Tower Hamlets know what Young People want.”

“We want other young people locally to have their voice”

“Our Ambassadors go out and help people understand what its like to be a young person with special needs so we can make things better for other young people like us”

2020 – 2021

This year has been a difficult one for everyone but particularly for us as Young People with SEND. Many of the projects we had planned for this year have not been possible because of COVID. We had been invited to the Houses of Parliament and were looking forward to going but this had to be postponed until it is safe and has now been rearranged. Other sessions we had organised with Young People or Professionals, including the SENCO Conference, also had to be postponed or cancelled but as the year has progressed we have learnt to do more virtually and plan to do even more next year.

We have continued to meet monthly to support each other and look at difficulties that Young People are struggling with especially during COVID. We have discussed how difficult it has been for many of us to get additional support during this time, so being able to meet other Young People and talk about this has been really helpful.

We really enjoyed meeting the new Director, James Thomas, to tell him more about what we do, and we look forward to meeting him again.

One of our members, Sornnaly Hossain, is now a member of the SEND Improvement Board so we can put forward our ideas and let leaders know what works and what doesn't.

The Young People's SEND Ambassadors are part of the Forum and those who are Ambassadors want to keep all young people with SEND Informed, Consulted, and Included. Ambassadors also want to ensure that the community in Tower Hamlets accepts and welcomes all Young People with SEND.

SUMMER PICNIC

In August we were lucky to be able to meet in person for our Summer Picnic, we had a wonderful time and it was really great for everyone to get together.



VIDEOS

These are some of the videos that we have made

- Young people's experiences of living with SEND (Council for Disabled Children)
<https://youtu.be/vJnUDI4nEWU>
- IASSN FAQs: (Council for Disabled Children)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfzdgebmyL0&feature=youtu.be>
- Selection of videos made by Our Time Forum
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOffQIOTNtINebkcIHABKUQ/videos>
- Video made with University of East London for Education Psychologists
<https://youtu.be/ini-wYWTBTO>

OUR PLANS FOR 21/22

- We are writing to schools and colleges to ask if they would like us to come and talk to other students and staff about SEND and being a Young Person in Tower Hamlets
- We will also be writing to professionals to offer to come to their team meetings to tell them more about the Forum and the Ambassadors
- We are working with Jenny to put in a bid for money to be able to make more videos to show people the work we do and encourage other young people to come and join us
- We will be attending as many events as possible to recruit new members and inform people about the Forum
- We are talking with the Youth Council about how we can best work with them
- We want to ensure that there are more fun activities for Young People with SEN and we are planning to do a survey with Young People to see what they would like
- We are going to plan a series of 'mystery shopping' of services and will report on this next year (we have already started looking at Mental Health Services like Kooth)
- We want to work with GPS and other Health professionals to help them understand our conditions and respond accordingly
- We want to work with the Youth Service to make sure that all Young People can use their services and that those with SEND feel truly included
- We will continue to work on YP Zone for Local Offer
- We also want to raise money to be able to have a trip in the summer so we can have fun
- We will continue to meet monthly as will our Ambassadors, hopefully in person, as Zoom is difficult for some of us (though some prefer it!)
- We would like to meet with Senior Leaders from the Council and Health every 6 months
- We are also working to try and raise money so that we can build our website
- We will look at this again in 6 months because there is so much more we want to do

MD Yaomin Ali – Member of Our Time and YP Ambassador

Sornnaly Hossain – Our Time Member, YP Ambassador and Member of SEND Improvement Board

29th March 2021

ypambassadors@gmail.com

[Our Time \(@OurTimeYF\) / Twitter](#)

OUR TIME BUSINESS CARD



"Every Star is Different"

For young people in East London aged 14-25

- Meet new people, have fun and get your voice heard
- Gain new experiences and skills
- Raise awareness about SEN and campaign for change

To find out more please call **020 7364 7127**

Or Email: ourtime.yf@gmail.com



OUR TIME ASD LANYARD CARDS



**I am Autistic please
be patient with me.**

"We are all different and
have different abilities"

