SEND Power in Haringey – Co-producing Change with Families and Partners



"True Co-production is the representation of the collective voices of children and young people, parents and carers, education, health and care services. It means equal and shared ownership and accountability". **Amanda Bernard, Chair, SEND Power**

SEND Power, Haringey's parent carer forum, works with partners to build more open, accountable and collaborative relationships ensuring that lived experience directly informs local systems.

A key milestone was their first 'Voices Day' in March 2023 when parents, young people and professionals came together. Young people special education needs and disabilities spoke directly about their experiences and parent carers' discussions widened beyond education to include housing, transport and daily life. The event marked a shift towards shared understanding and joint ownership of solutions and recognised that children's needs sit within the whole environment around them, not just within services.

A second Voices Day in March 2025 deepened this work. Following training from Genuine Partnerships and their cornerstones of co-production approach, it launched a charter with council and health partners, which set out the values that underpin good working relationships. The values they agreed included:

- I and my child feel welcomed and cared for
- My child is valued and included – (and so am I)
- Communication is open and clear – and is a two-way channel
- Partnerships are supported and valued – across practitioners and families

Building shared accountability

Co-developed with partners, the charter:

- Sets clear, shared expectations across services
- Supports stronger relationships - and their repair when needed
- Is used across schools, health and local services

Key Learning from SEND Power and partners

SEND Power's work shows how co-production can move from principle to practice to create lasting, system-wide impact. Some of the key learnings from this work were:

- Co-production must be embedded in structures, not one-off engagement
- Clear, respectful communication is critical to building trust
- Shared frameworks can help maintain and repair relationships
- Children and young people's voices are central to meaningful change



At a recent event the parent carer forum shared Jorgie's Story about the Importance of Language and Approach

Jorgie shared her experience of navigating early support for her son, a "Covid baby" who spent his first 14 months largely at home.

At their first nursery:

- Her son became distressed and unhappy
- Staff raised concerns and asked Jorgie to sign a form for an assessment
- The language felt abrupt and unclear, leaving Jorgie feeling *judged and attacked*
- She chose to withdraw her son from the setting

At his 18-month review:

- A health visitor identified developmental delays and introduced SEND support more sensitively

In a second nursery:

- Staff took time to explain the process clearly
- Communication was supportive and jargon-free
- Strategies were discussed collaboratively
- Jorgie felt comfortable, informed and included

Her experience highlights a core message, that the way conversations are handled can shape trust, engagement and result in positive outcomes for families.

Take a look at Haringey's SEND Working Together Charter.

Find more about Genuine Partnerships and the Voices approach or contact your Contact Regional Adviser about embedding Genuine Partnerships cornerstones of co-production and inclusive practice into your work with partners.

Download the free Quality Indicators of Co-production Framework tool on our Forum resources webpage.