



Families First Youth Participation – Newsletter

December & January Update

Hello everyone!

Thank you to all the young people who joined our Families First Youth Participation subgroup meetings in December and January. Your ideas, honesty, and energy are already shaping how services will work for children, young people, and families across Sefton.

Here's a quick look at what we covered and what happens next!

🌟 Renaming the Single “Assessment” and Plan

You all shared that the word *assessment* doesn't feel right. It sounds intimidating, doesn't match your experience, and feels like something done *to* you — not *with* you.

Your top three name choices were:

- **Family Help Support Plan**
- **Our Family Support Plan**
- **Our Family Plan**

These ideas are being taken forward to the Single Assessment subgroup – We will let you know the final decision soon.

📍 Where Should Future Meetings Be Held?

You gave us a brilliant list of ideas, including:

YMCA Southport, Netherton Activity Centre, Magdalen House, Formby Family Hub, Bootle Town Hall, Waterloo Town Hall, Maghull Library, Crosby Library, Edge Hill University, The Pavilion (Southport FC Coffee House), Maghull High School, Meols Cop, and Hillside High.

You also suggested using **Teams** and technology like **Owls** to help make hybrid meetings easier and more accessible. We'll explore all these options!

How Should We Communicate?

You were very clear:

“Young people don’t really use Facebook!”

You told us the platforms that *do* work:

- **Snapchat**
- **Instagram**
- **TikTok**

Other good ideas included:

- An open day/event once our work is further along
- A WhatsApp group in the future (to be reviewed once the group is more established)
- Sharing information through schools, teachers, and SENCOs
- Post updates for those who prefer it
- Using youth groups like Buddy Up to help with recruitment
- Reducing dependence on email

Great suggestions — Where we can safely take these ideas forward, we will. When we can't do this, we will explain why we can't, and this will be shared within the group meetings.

What You Want to Gain from Being Part of the Group

You shared some powerful reflections about what being involved means to you. Here are a few highlights:

- “I want to gain confidence.”
- “It will look great on my CV.”
- “I want to create the change that younger me needed.”
- “I want to know other families will get quicker, better help.”

- “It’s good to know people will be listened to.”
- “I want to feel more confident speaking to strangers.”

Thank you for being open — your voices are shaping this group and the wider Families First work.

Naming *This* Youth Participation Group

You suggested keeping it simple — something short, with a nice ring to it or maybe an acronym. One idea so far was:

- **Young People Participation Group** (straight to the point!)

We’ll revisit this later so everyone has time to think.

Next Meeting details below:

 **Maghull High School Ormonde Drive, Liverpool L31 7AW**

 **11th February 2026**

 **4-5pm**

We’d love to see you there — and new members are welcome!

Want to Join the Group?

Open to all young people aged **12-18**, and up to age **25** if you have SEND, across Sefton.

Sign up using the QR code below:

