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## Parent Voice: The Able Group's royal visit, vaccinations for home educated children, funding grants, and an Outstanding Ofsted inspection

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# Parent Voice

For families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

Brought to you by the Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability Team (ISEND)

East Sussex County Council



**October 2018**

*Images not displaying correctly? Right click to download them.*

### A royal visit for The Able Group



The Able Group (TAG) is made up of young people aged 12-25 with special educational needs and disabilities. They meet monthly to speak up about things that are important to them.

Some members recently took part in a planning session for the upcoming Takeover Day alongside the East Sussex Youth Cabinet and other voice groups. They were joined by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who observed discussion groups and spoke to young people about their

plans.

As well as Takeover Day, TAG are planning a big event for young people with SEND and an anti-bullying campaign. They are also helping to develop the new SEND Strategy for East Sussex.

TAG needs new members to help plan these activities. It's not all work though - members have so far enjoyed watersports, art activities and tasty food! **If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining TAG, please email Nic Bryson at [nicola.bryson@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.bryson@eastsussex.gov.uk).**

The group aims to be inclusive and adjustments can be made to meet individual needs. We are also developing other youth voice opportunities for children and young people across the county as we recognise groups don't suit everyone.

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## Flu vaccinations for home educated children



This month, the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust Immunisation Service will offer the Influenza nasal spray vaccination to all children in year groups Reception up to, and including, Year 5 (date of birth range 1 September 2008 – 31 August 2014).

East Sussex County Council are working with the Trust to ensure electively home educated children in the county have access to the immunisation programme.

You can book your child's vaccination at the following locations:

- Shinewater Children's Centre on 23 October
- Ore Children's Centre on 24 October
- Uckfield Children's Centre on 26 October (drop in available before 10.30am)

Call **01892 337248** to book a vaccination.

To find out more, you can [read some common questions and answers about the Influenza Vaccination](#) or email [SC-TR.fluvacc@nhs.net](mailto:SC-TR.fluvacc@nhs.net).

## Funding grants for disability groups



Life More Ordinary grants are available for groups of three or more young people who are disabled, aged 8-19 years. These grants are being offered to help young people make friends, enjoy leisure activities and take part in new experiences.

[Apply for any amount from £500 up to £1,000](#) (funding for up to 90% of the total project cost). The team especially welcome applications from non-specialist groups, as well as those that already include young disabled people in their activities.

Recently funded projects include an indoor play club, staff training to support activities for children with SEND, outdoor activities, music sessions, a choir and trips to Comic Con and Harry Potter World.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday 16 November at 4pm**. If you have any queries or need help completing the application form please email [brenda.smith@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:brenda.smith@eastsussex.gov.uk).

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## Our social care is outstanding!



East Sussex County Council has become one of the few local authorities to achieve the highest possible rating for its work with vulnerable families, following a recent inspection which focused on front-line staff.

The Local Authority has been rated 'outstanding' for the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers and the impact of leaders on social work practice, while the experiences of children who needed help and protection is deemed to be 'good'.

Inspectors were impressed with the *Connected Practice* model used by social care, which focuses on social workers creating "enduring and trusting relationships" with families and children.

[Read more about the inspection](#) on the Your East Sussex website.

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