

The Collective Get Together (**CGT23**) was held on Friday 25th August 2023, in London, Nottingham and Online.

This write up will give you an overview of the event.

If you want more detail, this is in the write ups for the different sessions



Power Hour



Power Hour 1 shared the updates on the things young people have impacted locally and the achievements of The Collective. There is some amazing participation work being done and your voices are making a real difference.

We gave out the first ever **Collective Achievement Awards**.

The first for Group Achievements and the second for an Individual's input.

Practical support for independence!

This session was about young people sharing their top tips for developing independence and being a happy, healthy and successful adult. The top tips were shared across 8 key areas: Cooking and food, travel, personal appearance, shopping, jobs and work, relationships, money, and chores and house skills.

This is part of an on-going co-production project started by young people from The Collective. They are keen to involve parents, carers and practitioners who support young people with SEND to be successfully independent



We had a lunch break

Power Hour Power Hour 2. This session we talked about The Change Programme!

This is how Department for Education are testing their ideas for changes to SEND services and support. We thought about how young people with SEND share their ideas, thoughts and opinions and how we learn from the experiences you have had.

Young people were clear that participation groups are needed for better working together and the people at the top / decision makers must listen and be involved.



Mediation

The final session included young people looking at a guide to mediation, and thinking about how they might like to receive information about solving disagreements with support.

There were some very difficult words to understand and young people gave lots of feedback and ideas for how to make this easier.



Evaluation



Young People who attended the in person sessions were very positive about them. There were some things to improve but also some things that young people said were AWESOME!

The goodie bags, interactive discussions and having DfE there to listen highlights!