

## NCB Consultation Question set for children and young people with SEND about the impact of the pandemic on them

### Aims of the consultation

To hear from children and young people what they think the key impacts have been of the pandemic on them and what can be learned from that:

- What types of impacts (positive and negative) have CYP experienced on their academic studies, and has it had them alter their aspirations?
- What types of impact has it had on their emotional wellbeing – what things have been particularly challenging to mental well-being and what things have been supportive or beneficial
- How has it impacted on the support they receive from family/friends/statutory providers and what types of support are most helpful

### Notes for Facilitators about the questions

- Some organisations are speaking with their children and young people individually, some in groups
- We realise that every child and young person is an individual and that these questions will be more of a direct fit for some than others. Those supporting the CYP in answering them can adapt them in whatever way is best for the CYP which can include answering all or some of the questions and through words or any other means, such as through Makaton signing, talking mats, art etc
- It would be great to have drawings or any other visuals the children and young people might want to include as part of the consultation
- We have put a link to the online version of these questions in the FAQs case that's useful for you to have; this version has facilitator notes in too, the online version just has the questions
- **There are 8 questions and we've laid them out with space between each question so you can write the feedback directly onto this - please feel free to use more paper if you need!**

### Introduction to the consultation

*Below are some examples of things to cover in the introduction which we've written as if Kaizen are facilitating the session. We know that many of you are facilitating your own sessions and conversations with the cyp you're working with - of course say whatever you want in your own words.*

Thank you very much for taking the time to give your thoughts on the impact of the pandemic and lockdown on you, we really appreciate it. **(slide 1)**

We have some questions we're going to be talking about - you can say as much as you want and you can also draw pictures afterwards as your response to questions if you would like and then get to your worker who'll email them to us

You are our pandemic heroes/volunteers (*adapt according to age/need*) who by speaking with us will be helping us to write a report that will be sent to different people to let them know what is important to you and the other people we speak to. We won't put your names in it, so you can be as honest as you like, no one will know who said what in the report, it will be anonymous.

Your worker might check back in with you after the session ends to see how you are doing - this is our way of helping you to stay safe, happy and well.

I know you've already said to your worker that you're happy to be part of this - can you say that again now either by raising your hand actually or online...

Remember to listen to each other, to be kind and supportive and not to take any screengrabs or recordings. If you have any questions, just ask, and if it gets a bit noisy, mute yourself and wave or put your hand up button on so we know you want to talk **(slide 2)**

Let's get going!

**Pandemic Superhero Icebreaker** (NB *the timing for this conversation will need managing so it doesn't take more than 5-10 minutes. You don't have to do this icebreaker if you don't want, could be something else*) **(slide 3)**

I can see most people's names, but if you can say your first name for me then we all know who is here.

Because we are all pandemic heroes, we are going to start off by working out our superpowers. Over the last year we've all had to adapt to a different way of school, or seeing our workers, or our friends. Sometimes it's been easy, sometimes it's been hard. If we created a pandemic superhero, what kind of superpower would they have? Let's have a think...

*Ask the group to think of a superpower to use in the pandemic. To help them or someone else. If you can, draw or write it up so the cyp can see. Try to find at least 4 or 5 different superhero qualities. Listen out for ones that link to the topics for exploration later to be able to refer back to them, making links and connections for the group. For older young people/high functioning, adapt to create a character of someone that is a pandemic volunteer, there to help others.*

Ok so our pandemic superhero/volunteer needs a name... any ideas? XXXX can help us in the session if we need it!

## **Consultation Questions**

We want to think about the last year and what has changed. There are lots of parts of our lives that are different now because of the pandemic. Some of the changes might feel good, others might not feel good. *You might feel it's worth defining with the group what we mean by pandemic and lockdown, either here or before Qu 1*

**(depending on the flow of the conversation in questions 1 and 2, slides 4, 5, 9 could be useful)**

**1. What are some of the things that have been good for you about the pandemic and lockdown?**

Think about different parts of your life - school/uni/college, home, seeing friends, things you like to do, the people who support you. *(NB for facilitator, the cyp can talk about anything they want - can you bring up school, home and support if they haven't mentioned them)*

**2. What are some the things that have been difficult for you about the pandemic and lockdown?**

Think about different parts of your life - school/uni/college, home, seeing friends, things you like to do, the people who support you. *(the cyp can talk about anything they want can you bring up school, home and support if they haven't mentioned them)*

*NB you could have questions 1 and 2 be one conversation if that works better for the group and just record the answers under each category of what's been good/difficult*

*Can draw out some of the feelings if appropriate to do that for the group e.g. we said it was difficult learning from home and not going to school...how does that make us feel – sad/angry/alone. Why do we feel that way?*

**3. What's helped you in the last year during the pandemic and lockdown? see what they say eg. friends/support/pets/activities/family/internet etc**

*Example prompts could be: What things/objects/activities/technology/changes have helped and why? Who has helped and why? What did you like doing/seeing/hearing/feeling/smelling? If we could pick the top three what would they be and why? Where did it help to be? Where did it help to go?*

**(slides 6, 7, 10)**

*You'll see slides 6 and 10 are both images of different types of help - you could start with slide 6 which just has a few images and if you want to give prompts of more possible ideas, there's slide 10. Slide 7 has images of possible types of communication*

**4. Has there been anything to do with your specific needs or support that you think has been better during the lockdown and that now that you would like to carry on? For example some young people have said that they prefer being able to input into their annual review meetings online rather than in person. (NB we're wanting specific examples to do with SEND that have been positive)**

**Do you have examples of things like that that have been better for you?**

**5. What is the number one thing you would like the government to prioritise for children and young people with SEND in our pandemic recovery plan?**

**6. What type of support would be of most help for you right now?**

*(prompts could be things e.g. computer and tech, activities, more contact with my worker, seeing people face to face, independence etc; could ask this question as 'if you had a magic wand and you could magic different support for you right now, what would you magic'...)*

*(could use slide 10 as a supporting image if wanted)*

**7. What are you most looking forward to being able to do once the pandemic and lockdown is over?**

**8. Is there anything else you would like to say?**

**Closing (slide 8)**

Thank you to you all for taking part today and for all your ideas. We've been busy writing them down and will add them to the ideas from other groups around the country. We'll let your worker know when the report is ready so they can send on to you.

Don't forget, if you have any other ideas just let us know! Tell your worker (or send in any drawings) and they'll pass them on to us.

*Host to carry out normal end of session check ins/signing off procedures*

### Section for Facilitators to complete after the focus groups

Name	
Name of organisation	
Did you do a focus group with the children and young people or did you speak with them individually/ various groups spread across the period of the consultation?	
If it was a focus group, when was the date of session?	
How many cyp took part in the consultation?	
How many each who identify as male/female/transgender/self-identify	
Broad description of the range of ethnicities of the cyp that took part	
How did the focus group/conversations go eg feel of the conversations, how able were the cyp to engage with the questions etc	
Is there anything else that you would like to say?	