**A drawing of a cartoon character

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The annual SEND Youth Voice Conference was the place to be on Friday 25 January 2019! The group and students from Woodchurch High and Activates were **listened to** by 100 professionals from Health, Education, Social Care, Commissioning, Merseyside Police, Wirral Chamber of Commerce, DWP, Voluntary and Charitable organisations. Last year’s successful event acted as a catalyst for significant change including offers of paid employment and new business ventures. By working together, we really can make a difference! Safety was the topic they chose this year, specifically re independence, relationships, safeguarding and exploitation. Wirral is working hard to support the SEND young people in its care and appointed a Local Offer lead, Sally Tittle to progress engagement with families and young people and to feedback re services and gaps in local provision. Sally works alongside Seline Wakerley and her dedicated youth workers to champion the SEND Youth Voice group. Through the Arts the young SEND people express views and share experiences. Young people’s feedback:

*“I hope the professionals will stick to what they say and follow up on their pledges.”*

By working together, we CAN make a real difference!

*“I liked that I was listened to!”*

*“It was so nice that people didn’t judge me!”*

Professionals gave feedback too:

*“I just wanted to say how wonderful the conference was, the young people were amazing and the discussions I was part of were really positive, as was the commitment to make a difference.”*

*“Really enjoyed it and though the turn out and diversity of the audience was exceptional!*

*“Thank you for showing us the way forward! You’re right we can all make a difference if we work together.”*

By listening we learn, let’s hear their voice!

