

Sam's story



Getting in touch

Sam is 14-years-old. He has a learning disability and is being assessed for autism. He was referred to **My Rights, My Say** by his mum, who was worried about how unhappy he was in school and that his additional support needs were not being met.

Sharing Sam's views

Sam's mainstream school thought he should attend an additional support needs school. Sam attended the suggested school for a trial period but was very unhappy and wanted to return to his old school with support to meet his needs.

A My Rights, My Say advocacy worker helped Sam:

- understand his right to be involved in decisions about his support and to ask for an assessment from an educational psychologist to identify his additional support needs

- feel confident to share his views about how he felt about returning to mainstream school and his worries that they might not want him back.

With the help of My Rights, My Say:

Sam did not want to attend a large planning meeting with his parents and lots of professionals, so his advocacy worker went on his behalf. But with help, Sam felt confident to attend a smaller meeting with just the educational psychologist and Head of Additional Support Needs. His advocacy worker went with him and helped him share his views and take part in the planning of more support to help him cope in mainstream school.

Sam felt his views were taken seriously and that people were working with him to help him stay in mainstream school. He felt that the school had a better understanding of his needs and how to support him. His advocacy worker continues to support Sam to have his views heard at review meetings.

