

Have Your Voice Heard in February Mencap Events



26th January 2016

Hello all,

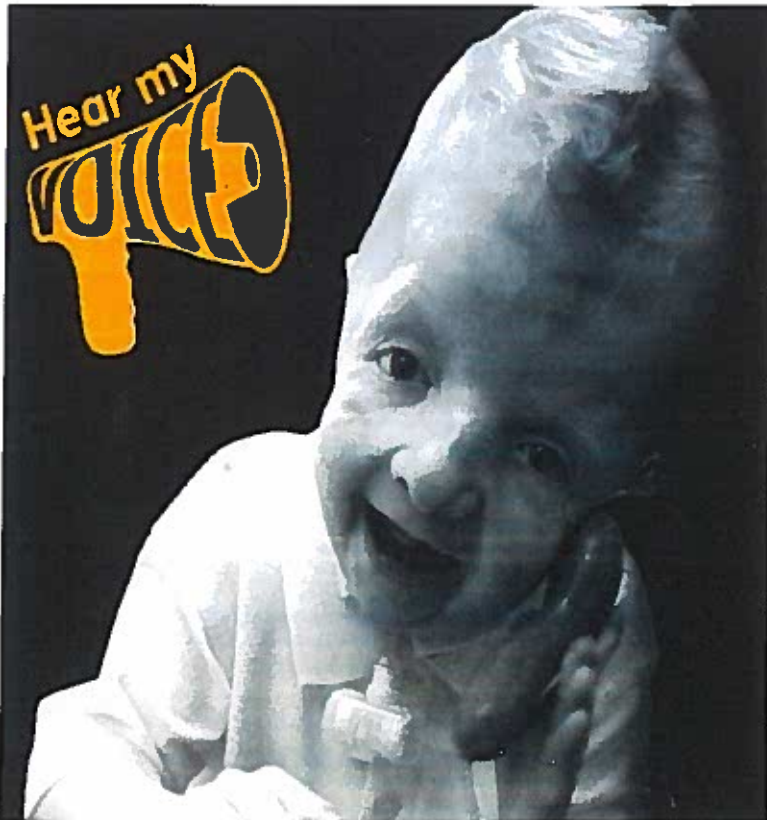
My name is Fiona Cole Campaigns & Policy Officer in Mencap.

February is going to be fantastic in terms of opportunities to engage with different departments and organisations (like the Education Authority) who make decisions that will affect your family's futures. It is very important that we try and influence those decisions by sharing our experiences of what works and what doesn't.

March 2nd 2017 is the date of Northern Ireland Elections and with it comes an opportunity to make sure candidates listen to voices of families who have a son or daughter with a learning disability so when they get elected they can make a difference for the better. Writing, Tweeting or emailing your candidates. If you need more information on how to do this or how to register to vote, please get in touch fiona.cole@mencap.org.uk or ask for me at reception.

Please hold these dates in your diary and return the form so we know which ones you can attend:

Cafe Conversations with Candidates



Café Conversations with Election Candidates

Mencap's Café Conversations is an informal way for people to speak directly to NI Assembly Candidates in South Belfast on issues that affect people with a learning disability, their families and carers.

Like political speed dating, candidates will speak to a group of people at various tables for a limited time, to hear their issues and answer their questions, before moving on to the next table and the next group of people.

Wednesday 22nd February 2016

Mencap Centre, 5 School Road, Belfast, BT8 6JR

5:30pm-7:00pm

Candidates will include Paula Bradshaw, Alliance, Claire Hanna, SDLP,
Minister Martin O Muilleoir, Sinn Fein, Christopher Stafford, DUP
Other Candidates TBC

As places are limited please RSVP to Fiona.Cole@mencap.org.uk

Tea, coffee and buns supplied

**22nd February 2016
5.30pm – 7.00pm**

This event is like speed dating with a political twist!

Come along to raise issues that affect your children with a learning disability and your families to South Belfast Candidates.

Each candidate will have 10-15 minutes at a table to listen and learn from constituents about issues they face and talk about what they propose to do on these issues in Stormont if they get elected. Candidates will then move round to another table, giving you the chance to directly speak to every candidate on the issues you face.

This is another opportunity to raise the issue of SEN pre-school hours for your children. If you would like to reserve a space fill out the form, or email fiona.cole@mencap.org.uk



**Have Your Chance To Feed into
Children & Young People
Strategy
Thursday 23rd February 2017
6.30 – 8.00pm**

The Department of Education are coming to Mencap to hear the views of children and young adults with a disability about their future. It is also an opportunity for parents to comment separately.

For Children and Young Adults

We have 4 rooms full of activities and ways to express how you feel about the future come along and let us know what matters most to you.

For Parents Carers and Family Members

There will be a round table discussion to explain the 8 themes in the strategy and to allow an opportunity to have your say on what is most important in your son or daughters life.

Registration Form

Please complete this form and return to Mencap Reception
or Email Fiona.Cole@Mencap.org.uk

Name	
Contact Number	
E-mail Address	

Events

Please note we need to know numbers for the events, so please return as soon as you can.

Event	Tick to confirm Attendance	Names of any other attendees	Number Children Attending & Ages	Do you have any additional requirements? Ex. Dietary
Wednesday 22 nd February 5.30pm – 7pm Café Conversations With Candidates				
Thursday 23 rd February 6.30pm – 8pm CYPS Engagement Meeting				

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me: Fiona.Cole@mencap.org.uk or 028 9069 1351