

# The Changemakers



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
YOUTH  
NETWORK**

#YoungPeopleCan

# Who are we?

“We are a group that involve young people with a disability or who are neurodivergent.”

“We learn new skills, get more confidence, and make friends”

“When we meet up we can share our experiences and opinions which makes things better for other young people”

“There are fun activities”

# What have we been focusing on?

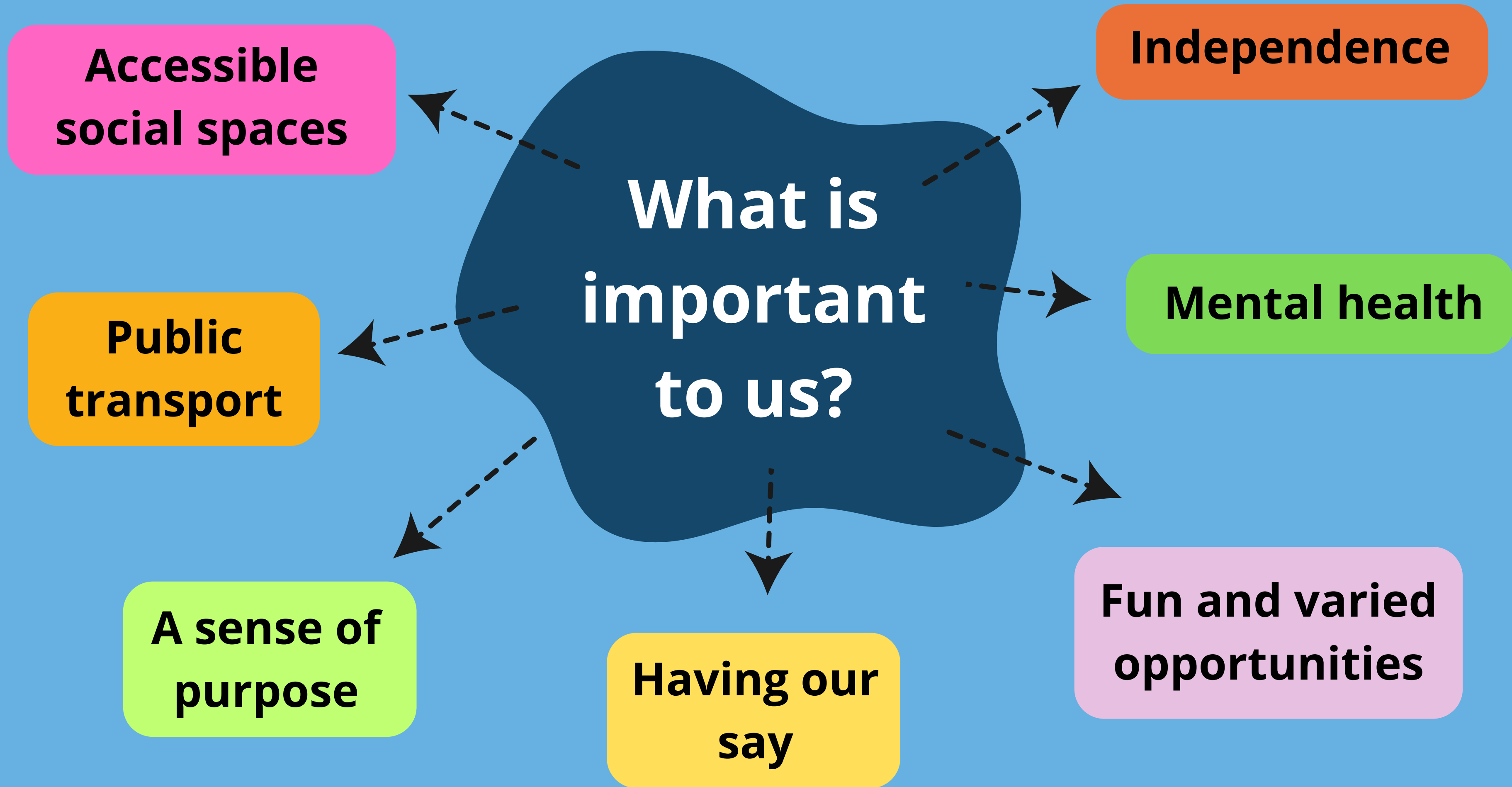
Language  
around  
'SEND'

Change  
programme

Making the  
Local Offer  
website more  
accessible

Healthcare  
professionals

Independent  
skills



# Social Spaces

**Not all social spaces suit us**

**Some of us prefer chatting to people online**



**BUT online spaces can be hard to access for others**

**Lots of people feel really lonely after leaving school**

# Independence

**Don't make us feel like we have to eventually be able to do everything by ourselves**

**We want help doing the things WE want to do, not what you want us to do**

**Parents are sometimes the biggest issue!**

**What independence looks like is different for each person**

# Language

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

“It’s  
condescending”

“Special is what  
you would call a  
baby”

“I don’t get this  
because I left school  
ages ago”

“I’m not special just  
because I’m autistic”

“Who I am isn’t just about  
how I learn stuff”

**A shift to ‘Deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent’?**

# **What do we want from you?**

**Understand the value of  
different types of socialising**

**Don't 'bubble wrap' us**

**Use language that we prefer**

**Help us find purpose if we don't  
have a lot going on in our lives**

**Recognise our uniqueness rather than  
grouping us into labels**



**Thank you  
for listening!**