Suffolk Joint Learning Disability Strategy

Suffolk Learning Disability Strategy
My Home Focus Group

Wednesday 8 February 2023

My Home Focus Group

Suffolk Learning Disability Partnership

Consent for Recording

- Taking part is voluntary
- You can leave at any time without giving reason
- Your personal details will not be shared outside this group
- We won't mention names, unless you ask us to
- Recordings may be used on social media and our website

Welcome And introductions

5 minutes

Meeting rules

5 minutes

1

Please try not to interrupt guest speakers or people when they’re talking.

3

If you have a question or comment please raise your hand

4

5

Toilets are straight out the door and on the left

Agenda

Item 1. **Anglia Revenues Partnership** - Sarah Hyman Liaison Officer Benefits

Item 2. **Housing options** Vimmi and Jez

Comfort break

Item 3. **People's solutions to and stories about the cost of living crisis**

Item 4. **What guests and subjects people would like?**

Item 5.
Any other business

Item 1.

Anglia Revenues Partnership

Sarah Hyman

Liaison Officer

Benefits

25 minutes

Anglia Revenues Partnership

Housing Benefit, Local Council Tax Reduction and Discretionary Housing Payments

Anglia Revenues Partnership

Partnership of five Local Authorities across East Anglia

Providing Revenues and Benefits Services – Council Tax, Non Domestic rates, Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Reduction

Breckland Council

East Cambridgeshire District Council

East Suffolk Council

Fenland Cambridgeshire Fenland District Council

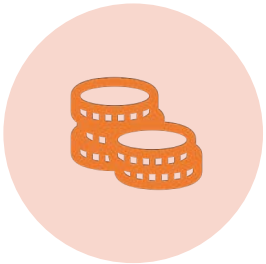
West Suffolk Council

Housing Benefit

FINANCIAL HELP WITH RENT

DWP BENEFIT – ASSESSED AND AWARDED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

PRIVATE AND SOCIAL RENTED – AWARD CALCULATED DIFFERENTLY



PAID 4 WEEKLY IN ARREARS

PENSION AGE HOUSEHOLDS

SINCE UNIVERSAL CREDIT INTRODUCTION, NO NEW CLAIMS FROM MOST WORKING AGE HOUSEHOLDS

How much do people receive?

SOCIAL RENTED ACCOMMODATION

PENSION AGE, ACTUAL RENT IS THE USED FOR HOUSING BENEFIT CALCULATION.

WORKING AGE, SUBJECT TO SIZE CRITERIA DEDUCTIONS, SPARE ROOM SUBSIDY, 14% FOR ONE BEDROOM OVER REQUIREMENT AND 25% FOR TWO OR MORE BEDROOMS

PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION

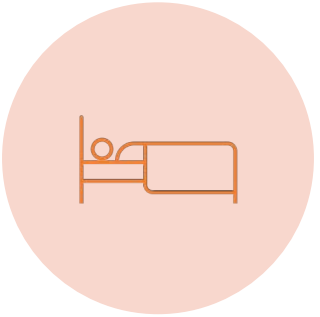
WORKING AGE AND PENSION AGE CLAIMANTS, BENEFIT RESTRICTED BY LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE.

SIZE OF CLAIMANTS 'HOUSEHOLD' USED TO CALCULATE AMOUNT RATHER THAN ACTUAL PROPERTY SIZE

SPECIFIED ACCOMMODATION

SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION AGREED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

MAXIMUM BENEFIT BASED ON ACTUAL RENT



TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

MAXIMUM BENEFIT BASED ON ACTUAL RENT

Calculating the final award

BENEFIT AWARD WILL BE DECREASED IF OTHER ADULTS (NON-DEPENDANTS) ARE LIVING WITH THE CLAIMANT

BENEFIT AWARD WILL DECREASE IF THE CLAIMANT HAS MORE INCOME THAN THE AMOUNT THE GOVERNMENT STATE THEY NEED TO LIVE ON

THE AWARD WILL ALSO REDUCE IF THE BENEFIT CAP IS APPLIED

How to apply

APPLY ONLINE AT ANGLIAREVENUES.GOV.UK

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO APPLY OVER THE PHONE

Local Council Tax Reduction (LCTR)

Replaced Council Tax Benefit from 01.04.2013

Award applied directly to Council Tax account as a ‘reduction’

Working age entitlement calculated against 91.5% of Council Tax liability

From 1st April 2018, automatic notification of Universal Credit New Claim from DWP to Benefits system can be treated as an application for LCTR

Universal Credit income change tolerance – no change to LCTR award unless UC monthly income changes by more than £100

Online application form

How to apply

APPLY ONLINE AT ANGLIAREVENUES.GOV.UK

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO APPLY OVER THE PHONE

What are Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)?

Discretionary fund given to each Local Authority, each year, by DWP

Payments are for households who need 'further financial assistance towards housing costs'

In general terms, the aims of DHP is to alleviate poverty and prevent homelessness

When assessing we look at the 'Housing cost' and we look at whether there is 'financial hardship'

Application is required – applications should be made online, Customer Services can provide a telephone application if needed

Awards of Discretionary Housing Payment will usually paid to the applicant or Landlord

Who is eligible for DHP?

Must be entitled to Housing Benefit

Or Universal Credit that includes Housing Costs Element

AND requires ‘further financial assistance with housing costs’

What can, and can't, be covered by DHP?

Housing costs' is not defined in law, but in general we consider these to be

- Weekly shortfalls in rent – income tapers, benefit cap, non dependant deduction, spare room subsidy etc
- Rent in advance or rent deposit
- Removal costs
- Rent arrears

Some things cannot be covered by DHP

- Ineligible Service Charges
- Increases in rent due to outstanding rent arrears
- Sanctions and reductions in benefit
- Benefit suspensions
- Shortfalls caused by repayment of HB or UC overpayment recovery

How to apply

APPLY ONLINE AT
ANGLIAREVENUES.GOV.UK

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO
APPLY OVER THE PHONE
WITH CUSTOMER SERVICES

Any Questions ?

Item 2.

Housing options

Vimmi and Jez

25 minutes

Social housing

To have the chance of social housing you can register with your local council. There is a national government site which directs you to where you need to go.

There is a process that is followed to ensure social housing available is given to people with the most needs.

Social housing

Organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Shelter can provide advice on applying for social housing.

You may be able to get support to live in social housing, Suffolk County Council would assess your needs.

You may be able to get help to pay your rent through Housing Benefit.

Social housing - Useful links and resources

Home - HomeChoice (gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk) - Most areas of Suffolk (except West) and some areas of essex

About Home-Link (westsuffolk.gov.uk) - West Suffolk and come areas of cambridge

Getting a council home - Citizens Advice

Allocations Policy - July 2022 - HomeChoice (gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk)

Contact adult social care (Customer First) - Suffolk County Council

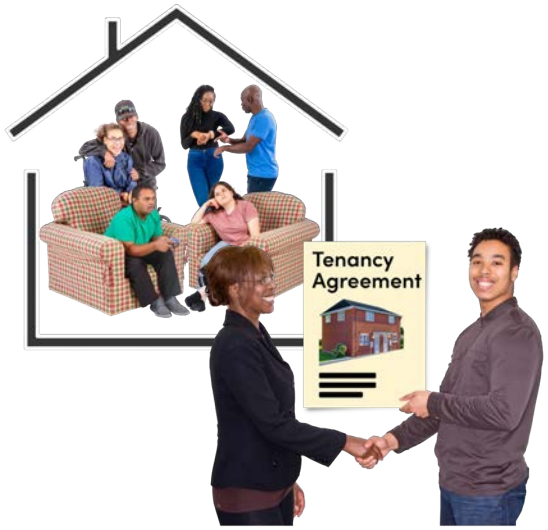
Supported Living

Supported living is a type of housing for people who want to live independently, but may need some support

Usually supported living houses are shared with other people, occasionally they are individual accommodation.

Supported Living

Depending on your needs, you would get support from a care provider that is responsible for the supported living home.



You would have the security of your own tenancy in supported living.

Supported Living

A care assessment through Suffolk County Council would be able to help you decide if supported living is right for you.

This assessment would also look at how your supported living costs would be paid for.

Supported Living - Useful links and resources

Suffolk County Council

Contact adult social care (Customer First) - Suffolk County Council

https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults/how-social-care-can-help/contact-adult-social-care

Residential care

Residential is usually living in a home with other people.

You don't have the same secure tenancy as you do in supported living, for example if the care provider says they can't meet the persons needs, they may be given notice to leave.

A care assessment through Suffolk County Council would be able to help you decide if residential care is right for you.

Residential care - Useful links and resources

Contact adult social care (Customer First) - Suffolk County Council

https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults/how-social-care-can-help/contact-adult-social-care

Suffolk County Council

Purchasing your own property

Independently purchasing your own property is an option you can explore.

Social care can assess your care and support needs and if eligible can arrange care and support in your own property.

Purchasing your own property - Useful links and resources

Contact adult social care (Customer First) - Suffolk County Council

https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults/how-social-care-can-help/contact-adult-social-care

Suffolk County Council

Help from Suffolk County Council

Suffolk
County Council

Speak to customer first at Suffolk County Council 0800 917 1109 if you do not have a social worker.

Help from Suffolk County Council

If you have needs that are eligible for social care support housing can be discussed at your next review with an allocated worker.

Help from Suffolk County Council

This assessment conversation will help inform your support plan, helping you decide how you can have your needs best met.

Help from Suffolk County Council

The support plan will help you achieve what you want and match the right housing option, helping you achieve your needs and wishes.

Help from Suffolk County Council

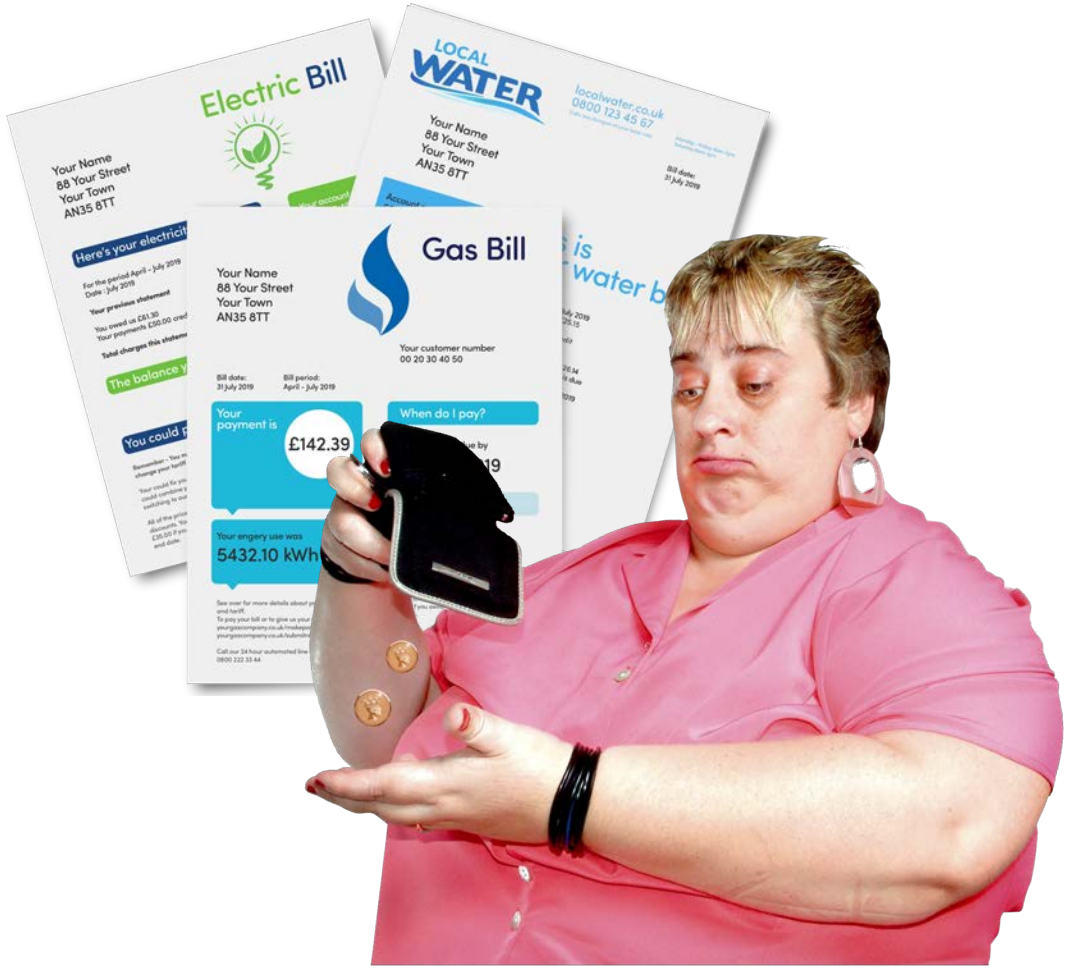
Suffolk County Council will check to see how much money you have as you will have to pay for most sorts of care and support if you can.

Comfort break

25 minutes

Item 3.

People's solutions to and stories about the cost of living crisis



25 minutes

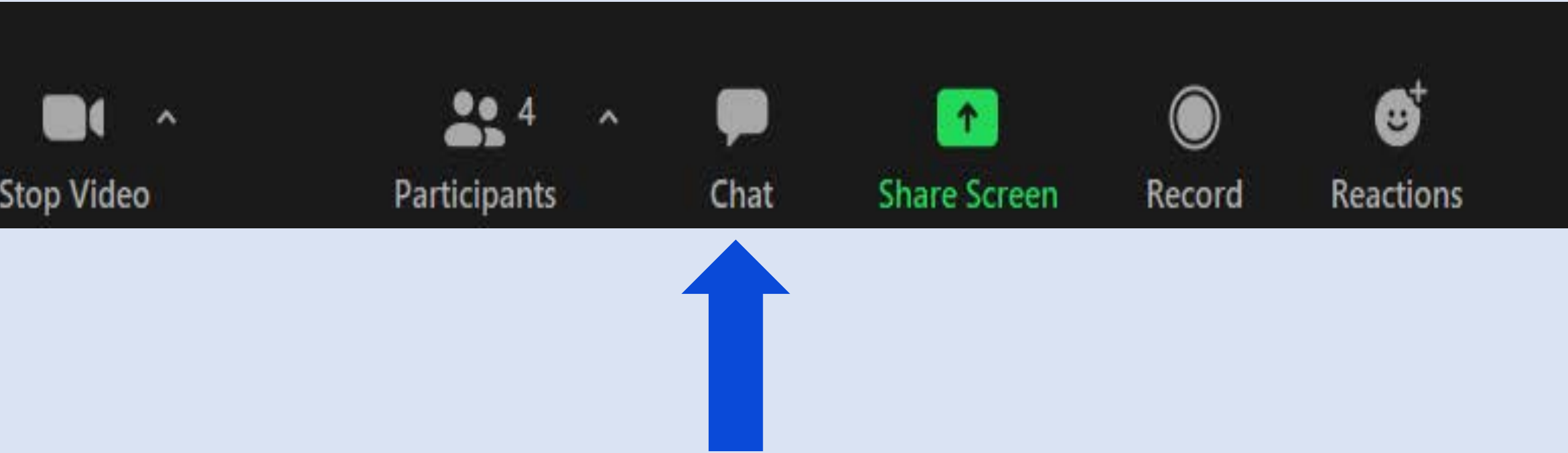
We will be using Flinga today to collect your comments.

For people who don't now how to use Flinga we will explain the steps now.

FLINGA

1

Click on the link sent in the chat box



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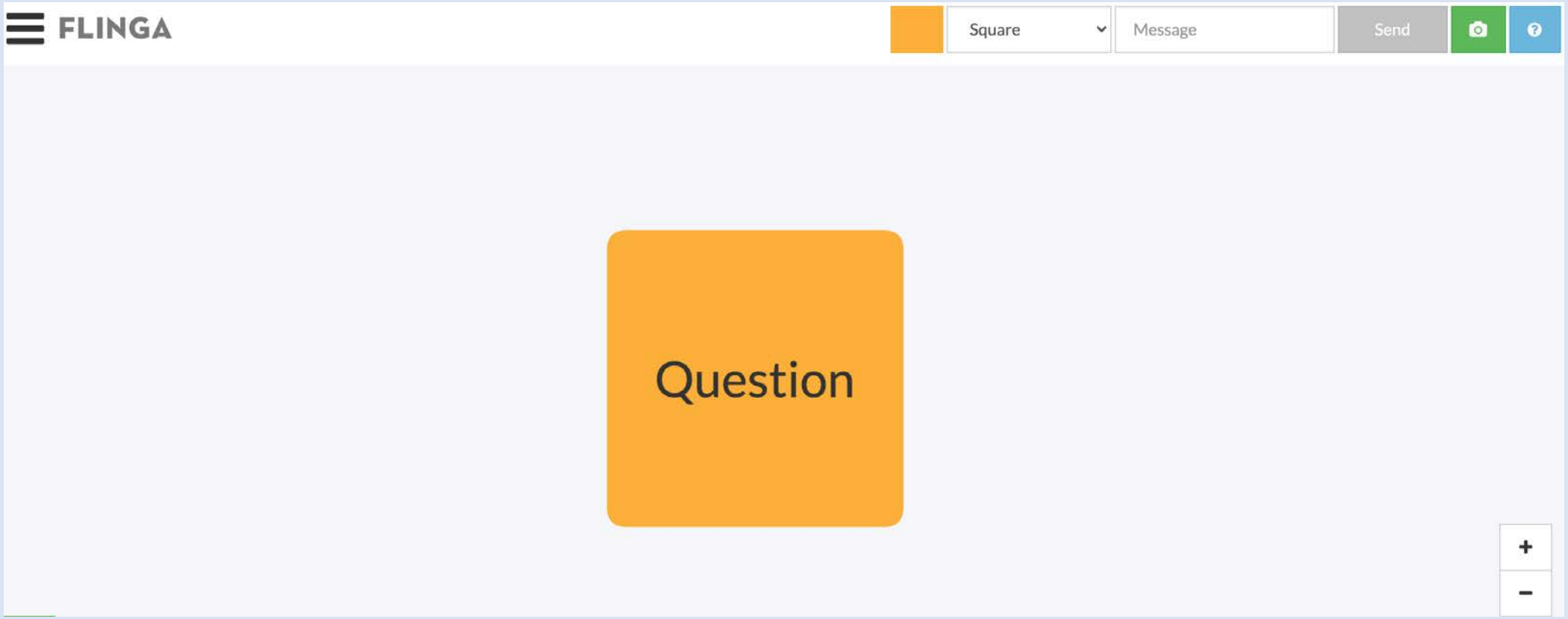
A question will appear on the screen



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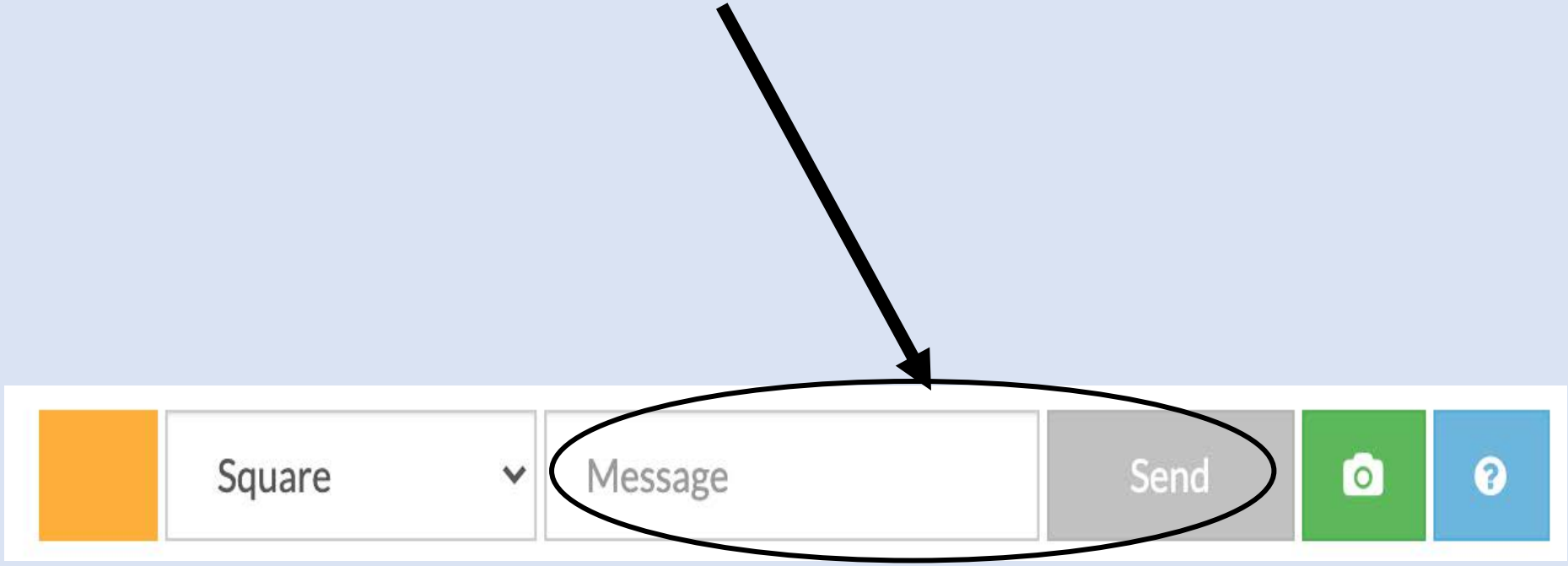
Enter your message in the message box on the top right corner and press send



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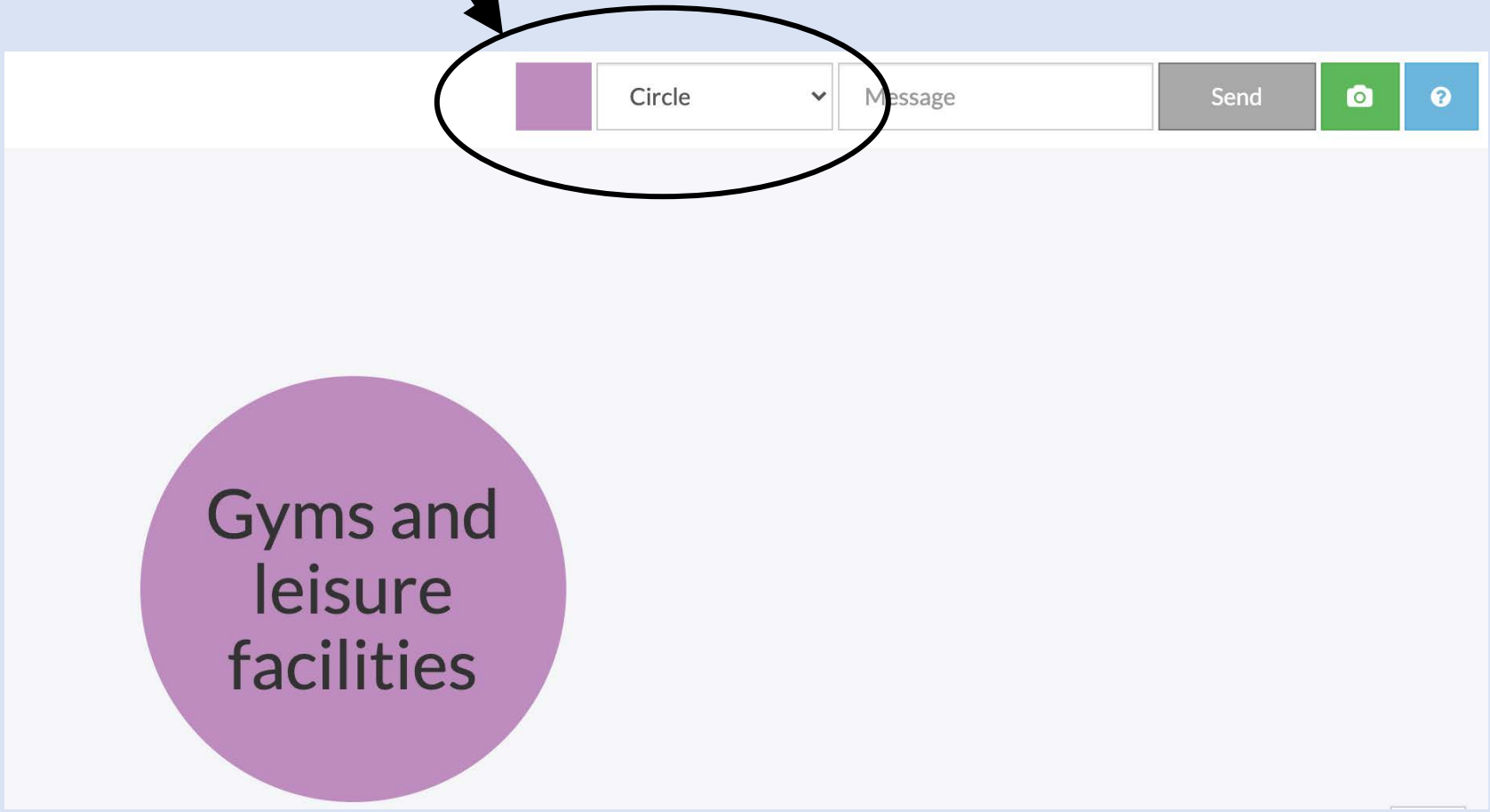
You can change the colour sticker and shape if you would like to



Item 4.

What guests and subjects people would like?

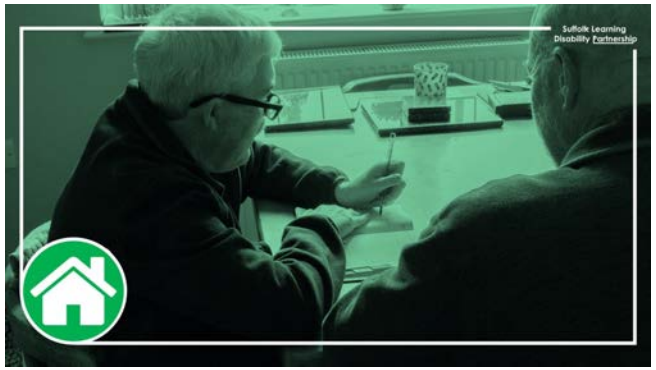
25 minutes

Item 5.

Any other business

25 minutes

Suffolk Learning Disability Strategy Focus Groups



For more information about when the next focus groups are on please visit:

www.suffolkordinarylives.co.uk/events

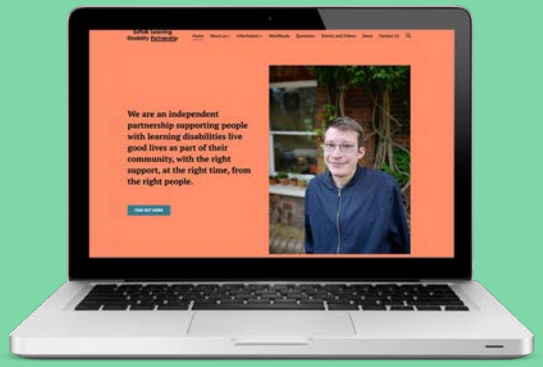
My Home Focus Group

Suffolk Learning Disability Partnership

Thank you for coming and see you soon...

Our Whatsapp Service
Please text JOIN and your name to 07398 699001 to receive updates.

Email:
suffolkordinarylives.co.uk



Website:
suffolkordinarylives.co.uk