

## Through the Looking Glass – Our Call to Action



driver youth trust

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On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we launched our third research report: **Through the Looking Glass**. Driver Youth Trust has a proud history of commissioning research that aims to ensure that all children get the right support to learn to read and write, so that they can access the curriculum and experience success.

This is an important report – at an important time. The UK is the only economically developed country where 16 to 24-year-olds have the lowest literacy skills of any age group in society. Yet with an average cut of £74,000 per primary school and £291,000 per secondary school the potential to solve this problem through our education system is waning.

Our report highlights the fact that unless and until we talk about **universal provision for all** and mean it, including those with SEND, our literacy levels will not change.

What we need to do is radically change the agenda.

**Acknowledge these children exist** – reports either ignore those with SEND or address them as if they are in special schools or are only the concern of specialist staff. In reality 9 out of 10 children with SEND are sitting in classrooms in mainstream schools.

**Put the right resources in place** – this is not just about money, it is about having trained teachers and specialists working together through a whole school approach.

**Accept** – there are those who will never catch-up but can still experience success and they should be judged by what they know rather than how well they can read and write.

### Our plan of action

- Establish a cross-sector forum as a vehicle to deliver sustainable change and drive improvement. We seek an active and positive engagement with the organisations we have mentioned in the report so that we can work towards achieving the constructive recommendations we have set.
- Provide training opportunities through our Drive for Literacy programme which aims to improve provision of specialists in the mainstream system.
- Campaign and lobby government, its agencies and the wider sector to reflect on our recommendations, identify what is achievable and develop a plan of action to deliver.

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