



Please find below further feedback to the consultation we would like to take the opportunity to feedback on those areas the Government is **"WE WILL"**.

We have also attached our online submission

We ask you to reconsider some of those areas given the strength of feeling expressed to us by our members. We have held drop sessions and open meetings and have been invited to coffee morning by schools to ensure our parents were better informed . What followed is the general narrative and feedback from parents . On the whole all our parent carer community feel that the current system is not working and something needs to change .

Highlights

- On the whole parents welcomed the increased funding to be allocated to training staff in schools.
- There was feedback that the Expert at hand proposals did go some way to address needs and gaps in the current send system
- Parents welcomed the proposal that every child with SEND regardless of the level of need would be legally entitled to a Individual support Plan (ISP)
- On the whole parents welcomed the idea of a digitised EHCP
- Parents were pleased that improvements are already underway (e.g. £31 million investment to train 600 new Educational Psychologists, 10,000 new specialist placements, SEND training for teaching staff)
- Increased Workforce and specialist placement capacity building
- Development of national standards and guidance
- The focus on early intervention is welcomed by parents
- The concept of working in clusters / areas is welcomed by parents – sharing knowledge and expertise
- The changes within the Ofsted Framework November 25 is also welcomed by parents
- Parents welcome the development of national standards especially where independent schools are concerned.

- Design guidance to help make the physical environment accessible for children with SEND is welcomed
- Increased Mental Health Support Team (MHST) coverage is welcomed particularly as there is very little mention about the role of health and mental health
- Some parents welcome an emphasis on needs rather than diagnosis

Concerns

- That EHCP'S won't be personalized and take in to account parental feedback and opinions - parents feared that there would be more of a focus on fitting their child into one of the packages – a box – even more concerns were raised that after such a long time there is still no detail behind each of these packages.
- What will be in place of tribunals that gives parents a voice- there is a strong feeling from parents given 98% of tribunals are won in favor of the parent /CYP - so the law works when adhered to.
- Restricting children and families' powers regarding EHCP
- Wasting money is the funding for children or staff
- Poor communication between services - every parent voiced concerns about unequal relationships in reality, often at the heart of misunderstandings and breakdown of trust has been when parents feel unheard and perhaps not clear of the process and decision-making remit
- Support and development activities for post 16- parents felt at the heart of disputes and the need to fight is because little was available or understood at SEND support level
- Concerns that YP post 16 would lose out even more than they do now – because of thresholds . There are many children who are academically able but at a high cost mentally .
- There is no mention of mental health and little mention where health fits in or in fact where social care support our children to develop life and coping skills - this model is not holistic enough.
- What about those children with communication language disorders .
- There were major concerns about schools taking on the responsibility from the LA – when all there is in ways of redress is the complaints process – these changes would add much more on schools and funding such as the inclusion fund when spread across the country relates to very modest increases
- Its wonderful news that there is more training being offered – what about back fill and inclusion teams – this could have real impacts on smaller schools
- Class sizes – just won't work – parents fear there will be an increase in ESBA – pressure then pushed back to the parents
- Doesn't address issues such as masking

Mixed feelings about inclusion rooms if the reality as the rooms seen on the DoE adverts

- Given that there will be a 3-year lead in , primming the system who will be accountable for overseeing – what roles will the ISB/LA and forums such as the Heads forum have?
- Universal, Targeted, Targeted Plus and Specialist (EHCP) layers and Individual Support Plans (ISPs) for all Children and young people with identified SEND (including those with an EHCP)- this feels like action school and action school plus – so now more local area / where will social care and health fit in?
- National eligibility thresholds and nationally defined Specialist Provision Packages for EHCPs what we have learnt is the impact other areas of a child/YPlife have on their ability to thrive and learn – wasted opportunity to join the dots a bit more and join budgets across sectors
- What leads us to think that strengthening reasonable adjustments will work as its always been law.
- Whilst the new Ofsted framework focus is on inclusion there is concerns that at the heart of a system working well is open/honest and equal relationships – where everyone is hea
- Schools to publish an Inclusion Strategy every year-how will this be different to the current send information plan schools are required to publish on their website.
- Increased Mental Health Support Team (MHST) coverage welcomed but there is concerns that parents need more support directly to them into areas at home and seen as supportive not that parents are the problem – how they are as parents –
- Concerns about the 7 packages – and the decision-making process
- Where does diagnosis fit in – where there is talk about viewing childrens needs rather than as a diagnosis - parents feel that 7 packages look very medical!
- New LA led statutory needs assessments to determine if a child or young person needs a Package- what would this look like – how will the LA once decision is made will be moved to the school – when ?

So to highlight our membership are concerned about the reduction to parents' legal powers , feeling that the schools' complaints process would not be manageable leaving parents and schools in fight mode at a time we should be working together - so projects like PINS and all the learning will be lost.

Taking away the ability of a tribunal to instruct a LA to name a school was a real concern to our parents

Changing the threshold leaves parents with dread and feeling many of their children will miss out

- How can you ask parents to comment on vague ideas with no detail ?

Suggestions

- We welcome the concept of working in clusters across health /social care and education, we feel that the establishment of cluster working could also strengthen

relationships, community understanding, develop specialist working and whole system working.

- We welcome the development of MDTs made up of key people along with connecting to meet local area needs – development of a lead key worker
- The expert at hand in Brent we feel is creative and addresses actual need we are as were parents pleased to be seen as part of Brent's offer
- We feel there are opportunities to develop and build on parental relationships and to enhance knowledge and confidence.

Best Wishes

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