TENTH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) REFORMS IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY FOR PARENT CARER FORUMS AUTUMN 2017

In November 2017, the tenth Department for Education SEND survey was completed by local authorities and parent carer forums. The survey will establish how the implementation of the SEND reforms is faring in local areas 3 years after the introduction of the revised SEND legislation. This will be the final survey during the implementation stage. Survey responses from local authorities and parent carer forums continue to identify challenges, support requirements, and highlight examples of good practice that might be replicated in other areas.

Below are the summary findings of the parent carer forum survey based on an England wide response.

A total of 111 parent carer forums responded to the survey, representing a 73% return and a 2% drop from the 9th survey (75%).

Q2 Number of forum members involved in considering the responses to this survey?

61% of responses to the survey had 4 or more forum members involved in completing the survey, demonstrating that responses contained a cross-section of parents’ views. This is up 4% from the 9th survey where 57% of responses were completed by 4 or more members.
Q3 Have you discussed responses to this survey with your local authority?

78% of parent carer forums said that they discussed their responses to the survey with their local authority; this is a 1% decrease on survey 9 when 79% discussed responses with their local authority. Reasons given for not completing together were time constraints, lack of capacity or time to arrange a joint meeting, and that the LA did not respond to the forum’s request to complete jointly. Others did say that they were discussing their responses post-completion. November 2017 was also a busy month for parent carer forums following the autumn half term and with the two-day national parent carer forums’ event.
Key findings:

Q4 In the opinion of your parent carer forum how well engaged are children, young people and parents in strategic planning and co-production of SEND services (e.g. developing the local offer):

69% of forums agree that parents are either largely of fully engaged in strategic planning with their local authority. This is a 5% increase on the 9th survey. As is usually the case, these figures are much lower when considering the engagement of children (9%, a 1% decrease) and young people (18%, also a 1% decrease on survey 9).

Children

[Circle diagram showing percentages of responses]

- Fully – co-production is the approach our LA takes in all or most aspects of these activities
- Largely – our LA co-produces some things with this group and consults them on a range of other things
- Moderately – our LA’s arrangements aren’t properly developed. This is an area they are working on
- Poorly – our local authority is struggling with this
- Non-existent – our local authority doesn’t involve them at all

Young People

[Circle diagram showing percentages of responses]

- Fully – co-production is the approach our LA takes in all or most aspects of these activities
- Largely – our LA co-produces some things with this group and consults them on a range of other things
- Moderately – our LA’s arrangements aren’t properly developed. This is an area they are working on
- Poorly – our local authority is struggling with this
- Non-existent – our local authority doesn’t involve them at all
Q4b. Please highlight any examples of good practice specific to the engagement of children, young people and parents in strategic planning and co-production of SEND services as perceived by your parent carer forum

Parent carer forums listed examples of their involvement locally on strategic boards and how this had impacted on services in their areas. These included:

- SEND development groups/boards/meetings
• SEND work streams
• Health conferences
• Short breaks development and commissioning
• SEND strategy co-production/consultation/documents
• Local Offer working and evaluation groups
• Meetings with health therapies/Therapies working group (SALT, OT, PT)
• EHCP workshops/annual reviews
• SEND Behaviour Strategic Partnership Steering Group
• SEND Challenge group
• Birth - 25 Service collaboration group
• SENDIASS
• Outcomes project
• Sensory Integration Strategy
• SEN Moderating Panel/Moderation Group
• Autism Development Group/Partnership Board/Pathway/Hub
• Transport Policy
• SEND toolkit
• Co-production strategy/charter/pledge/memorandum of understanding
• Inclusion Programme Board/task force
• High Needs Strategic Review
• EP (Educational Psychologist) parent group
• Training for practitioners/schools/outcomes training
• Co-production of 0-25 social care service
• Joint commissioning strategy panel/multiagency steering group
• Children’s Trust Board
• Co-production Board/Communication and Participation workstream/communication and engagement policy/Co-production and SEND evaluation group
• Parent Consultants
• Process Governance Group
• Quality Assurance/Evaluation/Review panels
• Interviewing key staff (up to Director level)
• PfA Development Board/ Supported Internship Board
• Involvement in preparation for local area inspections, during inspections and post-inspection in Written Statements of Action
• CCG/Healthwatch
• Personal Health Budgets
• CAMHS Transformation plan
• Community Paediatrician Steering Group
• Jointly produced guidance, communications and newsletters
• Adult social care team
• Learning Support Service
• SEND representative group
• SEND Mediation
• Capital funding

Children and young people have been involved in Preparing for Adulthood, Children’s Voice group, Local Offer, SEND Challenge group, Listening Partnership, Young Researchers, School Champion group, SEND Board, Participation Strategy, development of free school, short breaks, Disabled C&YP forums (some with really imaginative names), young commissioners, student forum, IASS, CAMHS transformation, 20:20 vision service plan, young people’s champions, participation toolkit, information booklets, transition reviews, SEND Youth advisors. The most mentioned area that young people were involved in was as the last survey, in developing and reviewing the Local Offer.

Q4c. Please highlight any examples of areas where your parent carer forum perceives your local authority is having difficulty or facing challenge

Challenges to the strategic engagement of children, young people and parents in strategic planning and co-production of SEND services included:

• Poor leadership and lack of coordination/no buy-in from the top
• Lack of commitment, resources, planning and understanding of co-production
• Operational demands on services
• Engaging the wider parent groups not engaged with the forum
• Lack of capacity of the forum to engage/LA to engage with parents (staffing shortages)
• Changes to personnel, restructures and retention of staff
• Poor communication with families/forums
• Circumstances of parents and ever-increasing demands on their time; lack of emotional support for engaged parents
• Culture and lack of consistency in approach – some engagement is done to tick a box only, not involved as a matter of course and receive little feedback; sometimes decisions have already been made
• Participation/co-production not embedded
• Engagement in EHCPs and reviews/timescales/outcomes/quality
• Health and social care not as keen to engage
• How to meaningfully engage children and young people/lack of formal engagement of young people – lack of structured/formal approaches; engaging those with communication difficulties/younger children
• Lack of behavioural support
• Forums struggle to be representative despite their best efforts
• Lack of trust
• Financial challenges/budget cuts
• Not enough notice given to the forum to engage
• Seldom heard communities are often not engaged
• Some parents do not wish to engage
• Communication issues with families whose first language is not English
• Lack of involvement in key areas e.g. Local Offer
• Post-16/Post-19 challenges
• Meetings are not at parent friendly times
• Outcomes of local area inspection
• Lack of committed resources for C&YP participation
• Models based on safeguarding as opposed to SEND focused

Q5. In the opinion of your parent carer forum how well engaged are children, young people and parents in making decisions about their own SEND provision (e.g. developing their own EHC plan):

When considering involvement in decision making about their own SEND provision, forums reported that 20% of children (down 2% from the 9th survey) and 34% of young people (up 1% in the last survey) are either fully, or largely involved. 56% of parents are largely, or fully involved in decision making around their child or young person’s provision, which is a 2% increase from survey 9.

Children

- Fully – co-production is the approach our LA takes in all or most aspects of making those decisions
- Largely – our LA co-produces some things with this group and consults them on a range of other things
- Moderately – our LA arrangements aren’t properly developed. This is an area they are working on
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Non-existent – our local authority doesn’t involve them at all
Q5b. Please highlight any examples of good practice specific to how well engaged children, young people and parents are in making decisions about their own SEND provision as perceived by your parent carer forum.

Young people were felt to have engagement where they (especially those with more complex needs) were well supported to do so, and where the process was person-centred. Some forums felt that this was more individual setting or effective IS service/SENDIASS dependent rather than an overall LA engagement strategy. Others mentioned that one-page profiles or the ‘All about Me’ section were pivotal for the involvement of young people, yet their views were not always reflected in the plans that were produced. Parents appear to be more routinely involved than their children and young people with some forums pointing out that they tend to hear more about where the process is not working, than when it is. It is apparent from the comments that practice is not consistent in many areas and that experiences are varied, yet many forums state that the culture is beginning to change.

Q5c. Please highlight any examples of areas where your parent carer forum perceives your local authority is having difficulty or facing challenge:
Forums highlighted a variety of areas where they thought that their local authority had challenges relating to the engagement of children, young people and parents in their own SEND provision. Some of these included:

- Difficulty/reluctance in effectively engaging parents, children and young people; challenge of capturing views
- Meaningful involvement on C&YP; ensuring that the views are theirs and not their parents’
- Lack of consistency of involvement; patchy; varied; pockets of good practice but not for all
- Lack of commitment to engage to the end of the EHCP process
- Lack of promotion of personal budgets
- Funding challenges and overstretched resources
- Need to coordinate approach with IS/SENDIASS and other agencies
- Capacity of LA/health/SENDIASS; the number of plans exceeds the expected number
- Poor practice in terms of SEN support
- Effectiveness of SENDCOs
- Poor communication with families
- Access to Health and social care services; timeliness of input
- Time constraints and the 20-week deadline; rushing; quality; copy and paste; missing targets
- Lack of knowledge and understanding of the system – LA, health, and parents; capacity of some parents; training of practitioners
- Information sharing still not permitted
- Over focus on academic achievement
- Staffing shortages; high staff turnover
- Refusals to assess
- Process not as effective in mainstream settings

The most prevalent response was that children and young people were not routinely engaged, and that even when they were, the final plan did not always reflect their views or wishes.

Q6. In the opinion of your forum, how are children, young people and parents engaged in the ongoing development of the Local Offer?

Like the last survey, many forums reported that there has been continuing development work on their areas’ Local Offer and that they are fully/actively involved in the work, or that the forum chairs the working group; one authority commissioned parent champions to promote the Local Offer, others use consultants to engage with parents on working groups. Forums from many areas say that young people are involved in shaping their Local Offer or have been
involved in workshops aimed at increasing the accessibility of the Offer. Other forums state that children and young people have had little or no meaningful involvement in their area’s local offer; in some areas this also extended to parents who had been given scant opportunity to make/suggest improvements. Some areas have relaunched their Local Offer in response to feedback and had Local Offer ‘live’ events, whilst others do not appear to listen to the feedback that they receive from parents and young people.

Many forums reported that there has been more engagement with parents, and not so much with young people. Other forums said that they had been fully engaged but that development work seems to have come to a halt, or that they are no longer consulted about changes; one forum commented that the Local Offer is not live in their area for families to access; in other areas development is stalling due to staff on long term sick. Several forums commented that links and information on their area’s Local Offer is out of date and that search facilities are poor. A concern for many forums remains the visibility of the Local Offer to families with many stating that if families are not able to find it, how can they be engaged in its development? However, one area has a Local Offer helpline and a 90+% satisfaction rate with its Local Offer.

Some local authorities utilise and act upon feedback provided by families, others according to forums, do not. Some local authorities seek feedback more proactively than others. Several forums state that all work on their area’s Local Offer appears to have ceased with some expressing their frustration with the state of affairs. Some still feel disillusioned that their opinions are not acted upon.

Q7. To the knowledge of your parent carer forum, has your local authority published online a summary of comments received about their Local Offer?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Yes</th>
<th>65%</th>
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<td>No</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Forums report that 65% of local authorities have published an online summary of the comments received about their Local Offer, this is a 3% decrease from 68% in survey 9.

**SEN Support**

**Q8 Overall, how confident is your parent carer forum that Early years settings provide good SEN support and that they enable children to receive good outcomes?**

16% of forums who responded to the survey are very confident that their local authority area’s Early Years settings provide good SEN Support which enables children to achieve good outcomes; a further 60% of forums were moderately confident. (This largely echoes the previous survey which was 15% and 63%)

92% of forums believe that training and workforce development opportunities are offered to all Early Years providers, this is an increase of 3% from the previous survey (89%). 72% of forums say that their Local Offer provides clear information about what Early Years providers should make available through SEN Support. This is a 3% increase from survey 9. There was a 10% increase in the number of local authorities providing Area SENCO support to Early Years Settings, up from 74% to 84% this survey. 96% of forums say that their local authority provides other specialist services to support Early Years settings, an increase of 5% from the last survey (9) and a continued increase from survey 8. 87% of local authorities make it clear how Early Years providers can access high needs funding where appropriate, a 10% increase from survey 9. Forums felt that published guidelines about the threshold for an Early Years EHC needs assessment and the evidence they normally expect has also increased by 9%, with 82% of local authorities now providing this. The overall picture for SEN support in Early Years settings is more positive than in the last survey from Spring 2017.
Q8b. To the knowledge of your parent carer forum, specifically, which of the following are in place to develop and maintain effective SEN Support systems in the Early Years sector:

a) Training and workforce development opportunities are offered to all early years providers.

b) The Local Offer has clear information about what you expect EY providers to make available through SEN Support.
c) The local authority provides Area SENCOs to support EY settings

- 84% Yes
- 16% No


d) The local authority provides other specialist services to support EY settings (please provide details of other specialist services in the comments box below)

- 96% Yes
- 4% No
e) The local authority makes it clear how EY providers can access high needs funding where appropriate.

f) The local authority has published guidelines about the threshold for an early years EHC needs assessment and the evidence they normally expect

Examples and comments on what is in place to develop and maintain effective SEN Support systems in the Early Years sector included:

- Portage/enhanced portage/portage home visitors/EY Inclusion service
• ASD outreach/early outreach/Early Bird
• Early Years graduated response
• Local Offer updates
• Multiagency working
• Specialist services in EY settings
• Educational Psychologists
• Sensory Support
• Early Intervention Strategy/Team
• Therapies – OT, SALT, PT, MSI
• CAMHS
• SEN Toolkit
• Child Development Team/Enhanced Children’s Centres
• EY conference
• Sleep Support
• SEND focused training offer
• Early Support keyworking
• Visual and Hearing Impairment Teams
• EY SENCO champions/SENCO surgeries/Area SENCOs/SENCO networks and training
• Triple P
• Specialist Early Years teachers/teaching assistants
• Local Offer/EY support App
• Early Years School Alliance
• Makaton training
• SENDIASS
• Vulnerably (Early Learners) Audit Tool
• New born hearing screening programme
• Specialist nurseries/pre-school
• TIPS transition funding
Q9. Overall, how confident is the parent carer forum that school settings (including academies) in your local area provide good SEN support and that they enable children to achieve good outcomes?

Since the last survey there has been a further dip in the confidence levels of parent carer forums in school settings providing good SEN support that enables children to achieve good outcomes. Only 2% of forums are very confident, with 35% moderately confident. This sees a marked drop from the 9th survey (which were 2% and 45% respectively).

Q9b To the knowledge of the parent carer forum, specifically, which of the following are in place to develop and maintain effective SEN Support systems in schools, including academies:

When asked about developing and maintaining effective SEN support systems in Schools, forums in 96 out of 111 areas (86% of those who responded, a drop of 2% from the last survey) reported that their local authority leads or facilitates regular SENCO forum meetings for LA maintained Schools; the figure for Academies was 15% lower (71%). 96 forums (86%) said that their local authority provides training and workforce development opportunities for all Schools, whilst only 76 forums (68%) said that Academies provide the same for their workforce, which represents a slight drop for Academies’ workforce development. Forums state that 96 local authority areas (84%) provide a range of specialist services that support school settings with pupils who are at SEN Support in Maintained Schools, with 78 local areas’ Academies also providing this (70%). As in the last survey, 61% of forums said that local authorities do monitor the availability and quality of School Information Reports from maintained Schools, whilst the figure for Academies was 50%, a slight drop from the last survey (54%). With regard to the Local Offer, 72% of forums state that their area’s Local Offer holds information about what the local authority expects schools to make available through SEN Support for maintained schools, whilst only 60% of Local Offers hold the same information for Academies.
NB – percentage figures have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

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<th>Yes: LA maintained schools</th>
<th>No: LA maintained schools</th>
<th>Yes: Academy schools</th>
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<tr>
<td>a) Training and workforce development opportunities are offered to all schools.</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>b) The local authority leads/facilitates regular SENCO Network/ Forum meetings.</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>c) The Local Offer has information about what the local authority expects schools to make available through SEN Support.</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>d) The local authority monitors the availability and quality of SEN Information Reports.</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>e) The local authority provides a range of specialist services that support school settings with pupils who are at SEN Support (please list the key services they provide in the comments box below).</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>f) The local authority has published guidelines about the threshold for an EHC needs assessment and the evidence we normally expect.</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>75</td>
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Examples and comments about what is in place to help school settings (including academies) in local areas provide good SEN support included:
Some challenges include parents not knowing the system; failure to identify needs, support not being in place, or delays to support due to the capacity of settings and support services; the effectiveness of SEN support being patchy or inconsistent, and a lack of information generally, on the Local Offer and on School Information Reports particularly of Academies, and Schools’ attempts to reduce the number of SEN pupils on their roll. Some forums report that Schools do not appear to know how SEN funding works, and others are reluctant to assess children.
Q10. Overall, how confident is the parent carer forum that college settings provide good SEN support and that they enable children to achieve good outcomes?

Just 2% of parent carer forums are confident that college settings in their local authority area provide good SEN support and that they enable children to achieve good outcomes (the same as the last survey); a further 33% were moderately confident, which represents a slight drop since survey 9.

With regard to the development and maintenance of effective SEN Support systems in mainstream colleges there is a mixed picture, with 63% of forums maintaining that training and workforce development opportunities are offered to all colleges (which sees a decrease of 7% from the last survey). 64% say that the local authority leads regular SENCO/ALSM (Additional Learning Support Manager) forums or meetings (down 3%). However, 63% of forums say that their Local Offer includes information about what they are expected to make available through SEN support, which is an increase of 7% on the last survey. 60% of forums state that their local authority provides a range of specialist services to support college settings with SEN support students (up by 7%), with 76% publishing guidelines about the threshold for an EHC needs assessment, a rise of 1% from survey 9.
Q10b. To the knowledge of the parent carer forum, specifically, which of the following are in place to develop and maintain effective SEN Support systems in mainstream colleges:

a) Training and workforce development opportunities are offered to all colleges.

b) The local authority leads/facilitates regular SENCO/ALSM (additional learning support managers) Network/Forum meetings.
c) The Local Offer has information about what we expect colleges to make available through SEN Support.

![Pie chart showing 63% Yes and 37% No.]


d) The local authority provides a range of specialist services that support college settings with students who are at SEN Support (please list the key services they provide in the comments box below).

![Pie chart showing 60% Yes and 40% No.]

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e) The local authority has published guidelines about the threshold for an EHC needs assessment and the evidence we normally expect.

NB the above graph shows actual numbers, not percentages.

Comments and examples relating to college settings providing good SEN support that enables children and young people to achieve good outcomes included:

- Autism and Sensory Support/Service
- Educational Psychology
• Inclusion Service
• Therapies – SALT, OT
• Local Offer
• Post-16 Centre of Excellence (though not yet up and running)
• Post-16 Programme Manager
• Supported Internship working group/Coordinator
• Adult social care
• Transition Team/Working group
• Employer pathways
• Behavioural Intervention and Inclusion Officer
• College Learning Pathways Guide
• Post-16 Champions
• Post-19 day care facility
• 14-19 Commissioner
• Way to Work/Opportunities pack
• LA training for college staff
• Careers fairs
• Links with secondary SENCOs
• SEN Travel Team
• Strong leadership
• Future Focus Team
• Connexions

Concerns from forums include that there is limited information and support for colleges, and that there is little guidance around the EHCP and SEN support process for colleges with some colleges not understanding their duties. Progress in colleges appears to be slower than for Schools with the lack of specialist support, some of which has to be bought in, and apparent dearth of information relating to colleges on Local Offers. Transition, careers, internship and employment support were also highlighted as problem areas.
Q11. In the opinion of your parent carer forum, how effectively is your local authority working in partnership with post-16 providers to deliver the SEND reforms?

12% of forums feel that their local authority is effectively working in partnership with post-16 providers to deliver the SEND reforms, representing an increase of 8% from survey 8. A further of 47% forums say they are working in partnership to some extent, which represent slight drops from the previous survey (13% and 50%). 5% of forums say that their local authority is not working in partnership with post-16 providers at all, which is up 1% from the 9th survey.

Q12. In the opinion of your parent carer forum, what would help your local authority to develop better provision on preparation for adulthood within your local area (list the top three things)?

In the opinion of parent carer forums, local authorities could develop better provision on preparation for adulthood within their local areas by:

- PfA Protocol/Strategic overview group – wider use of PfA materials/keyworkers
- Earlier diagnosis
- Better opportunities for college courses, jobs and apprenticeships, housing, personal budgets
- Increased capacity
- Greater awareness of joint accountability/responsibility/integration – multiagency planning and working
- Greater flexibility
- Listen to parents, children and young people – more engagement and better communication
- Life experience settings
• Prioritising Year 9 transition planning and review – earlier planning with dedicated transition team/workers that includes social care input
• More support for those not meeting the threshold for EHCP
• Outcomes focused joint commissioning
• Understanding what ‘good’ looks like
• Clearer and more comprehensive Local Offer
• National Guidelines for post-16 education – defined pathways
• Improved funding
• Work with adult social care
• Regional support and training
• Penalties for non-compliance
• Clarity over definitions e.g. independence/adulthood
• Access to Connexions
• Creative thinking
• Community based activities
• Increased resources
• Post-19 education
• Job coaches
• Mental Health support
• 5 day attendance
• Sharing good practice
• Person Centeredness

Forums are concerned about those young people with out of borough placements and the general lack of information about support for post-16/19 from settings, the LA and via the Local Offer. There were many comments about meaningful education, employment and opportunities as many forums feel that those opportunities just aren’t there, especially for those with more complex needs.

Q13. To the knowledge of your parent carer forum how many supported internships are being delivered within your local authority in the 2016-17 academic year? (number):

There was a mixed response regarding the question about the number of supported internships with responses varying from ‘0 – 60+'. However, 57% were able to specify a figure, which is an increase of 9% from the previous survey. 27% of forums were unable to answer other than to say that they did not know.

Q14. The SEND Code of Practice says, ‘Joint Commissioning is an ongoing improvement cycle…Partners should agree how they will work together to monitor how outcomes in education, health and care are being improved as a result of the provision they make.’ In the opinion of your parent carer forum, to what extent is your local authority meeting this expectation with education, health and care partners in relation to monitoring outcomes?
When asked about monitoring outcomes in joint commissioning, 52% of forums say that their local authority is meeting their joint commissioning expectations with education fully or to some extent; this has remained static since the previous survey (53%). 32% feel that they are fully or partially meeting their expectation with health, a continued decline (35% last survey) and down from 60% in survey 8. Social care in local authorities is meeting expectations fully, or to some extent in 42% of areas which sees an increase of 9% since survey 9.

### Education

- Fully: 43%
- To some extent: 36%
- To a limited extent: 9%
- Not at all: 9%
- Don’t know: 3%

### Health

- Fully: 29%
- To some extent: 48%
- To a limited extent: 10%
- Not at all: 3%
- Don’t know: 10%
NB the above graph shows actual numbers, not percentages.
Q15. In general, how well developed does your parent carer forum think your local authority’s joint commissioning arrangements between Education, Health and Social Care are?

When asked about how well developed those joint commissioning arrangements are, 52% of forums feel that their local authority’s arrangements with education are fully developed, or developed to some extent, which is a decrease of 1% from survey 9. Forums stated that 38% of local areas joint commissioning arrangements were fully, or to some extent, developed in health which is a 2% increase on survey 9. The figure for social care has increased by 12% to 44%.

**Education**

![Education Pie Chart]

**Health**

![Health Pie Chart]
Social Care

The things that are going well with joint commissioning are attributed by forums to joint strategic meetings, strategy boards and action plans; complex cases panel; pooled budgets and joint funding panels; multiagency assessments; data sharing agreements; where there are DMO’s in place, this is helping; plans for joint JSNA; Quality Assurance team. Many forums however, did not have knowledge of where things were going well, or felt that things were not going well in their areas.

Q16. If possible, please offer any reasons known to your parent carer forum to explain where things are going well with joint commissioning arrangements within your local authority.

NB the above graph shows actual numbers, not percentages.
Q17. If possible, please briefly describe what your parent carer forum thinks are the most significant barriers and challenges to joint commissioning, and what action is needed to overcome them.

The challenges and barriers to joint commissioning were listed by forums as:

- Communication
- Prioritisation of joint commissioning/prioritisation of other areas, i.e. older age population
- Silo working/thinking
- Health doing their own thing/lack of joint working
- Budgets/resources not pooled
- Inconsistency
- Lack of defined process
- Lack of transparency
- No joint commissioning manager
- Different systems, policies, processes and language of agencies
- Data gathering
- No representation from social care in JC
- Culture, attitudes, reluctance, entrenched practices, own agendas
- No review of outcomes
- Time pressures
- Staffing and availability of clinicians/officers - capacity
- Lack of follow-up between services
- Protection of own areas/defensiveness
- Accountability
- No action
- Geography
- Statutory guidance
- Lack of strategic management

Several forums commented that they were not involved in discussions or working groups around joint commissioning and so could not answer.

Q18. Is your parent carer forum working in partnership with your local CCGs/Children’s joint commissioner?

77% of forums who responded to the survey reported that they are working in partnership with their local CCG and Children’s Joint Commissioner, which sees a continued upward trend with a further increase of 12% from 65% in November 2016 (and 54% in survey 8).
To what extent is the local authority engaged in promoting this relationship?

There is a typically mixed response to this question. Some forums state that the LA helped to facilitate relationships with the commissioner and ensure that they are included in meetings. Some have been invited to meetings by the LA, others have not and struggle to get a seat at the table. Many forums have a good relationship with the children’s commissioner, if there is one in their area, but it is not clear whether or not this is facilitated by the LA; several forums state that they have a direct relationship with the commissioner. CCGs appear to be at different stages of their development with joint commissioning, some are at the initial meeting stage, whilst other forums cite true co-production backed up by Memorandums of Understanding. One forum quotes that the recent SEND local area inspection led to positive developments in the relationship.

Q19. Thinking about planning and policy with health in your area, to the knowledge of your parent carer forum, are the following plans in place within your local authority?

With regard to health, 37% of the forums (an increase of 8% from survey 9) who responded said that the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) actively considers how it will address the needs of children and young people; a further 13% believe that it will within the next 6-12 months. However, a large percentage of forums (41% do not know). 50% of forums believe that the Local Transformation Plan (LTP) for Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing considers how it will address the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), representing a large increase of 25% since the previous survey. A further 7% of forums think that this will be achieved in the next 6-12 months. 36% of forums do not know, a decrease of 16%. 40% of forums say that there is an identified Lead for CYP on the Transforming Care Partnership Board (TCPB) and a standing agenda item on the needs of children and young people in each (TCPB) meeting. This is an increase of 15% from survey 9 in Autumn 2017. 3% of forums say they think that there will be in 6-12 months and 51% do not know, a decrease of 11% from the last survey. 25% of forums
(up from 19%) believe that there are clear plans for identifying the group of children and young people who would be part of the Transforming Care cohort (including those who should be on the at risk of admission register), whilst 54% of forums do not now. A further 13% feel that this will be in place within 6-12 months. When asked about whether STP, LTP and TCPB leaders have been working in co-production with Children and Young People (CYP) and their families, the picture is less positive with 15% of forums saying that they have (down by 1%), with a further 10% saying that this will be in place within 6-12 months. However, a large proportion of forums (56%) do not know. There was an 8% increase in the number of forums stating that there is a link to STP, LTP and TCPB plans on their area’s Local Offer; 28% said that there is not, 12% saying that there will be in 6-12 months, with again, a large proportion of forums (43%) not knowing.

The Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) actively considers how it will address the needs of children and young people.
The Local Transformation Plan (LTP) for Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing considers how it will address the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

There is an identified Lead for CYP on the Transforming Care Partnership Board (TCPB) and a standing agenda item on the needs of children and young people in each (TCPB) meeting.
There are clear plans for identifying the group of children and young people who would be part of the Transforming Care cohort (including those who should be on the at risk of admission register)

The STP, LTP and TCPB leaders have been working in co-production with Children and Young People (CYP) and their families
There is a link to STP, LTP and TCPB plans on our area’s Local Offer (If no, please state which ones are not within the comments box below)
NB the above graph shows actual numbers, not percentages.

Forums pointed out a lack of involvement or understanding of the Local Transformation Plans, Sustainability and Transformation Plans, and Transforming Care agenda, and some were confused with the terminology saying that there is too much jargon used (in the plans, and in the question). Other forums commented that there is no standing agenda item in the partnerships for children and young people and little engagement of parents or young people in this agenda. For other areas, it is a work in progress with some forums being invited to meetings, some partnerships/plans are more established, but very few forums report meaningful engagement in this area. Several areas highlighted the lack of information on their Local Offer which adds to the overall dearth of knowledge, including within the local authority in one area. Some forums said that this is a priority area for them in the coming months.
Has your parent carer forum or your local authority completed and used this with health partners to inform your joint working?

![Survey Results]

46% of the forums who responded to the survey said that they have utilised CDC’s joint self-assessment tool with the local authority and health partners in their area to inform their joint working. This sees an increase of 17% since the last survey.

Q21. EHC plans and young offenders in custody: (Young offenders in custody, are those aged 18 or under, ordinarily resident within your LA, currently remanded or sentenced to Relevant Youth Accommodation which includes Young Offender Institutes, Secure Training Centres, as well as those detained in Secure Children’s Homes. ** At any point in or after the period of custody means they could have entered or left custody during the assessment process, and have their plan finalised in or on leaving custody).

a) To the knowledge of your parent carer forum, how many requests for EHC needs assessments has your local authority received for young offenders in custody* since 1 April 2015?

Only 48 of 111 forums were able to add a figure for this question, the most common answer for those who did answer was ‘0’. Several areas specified that there had been 1 or 2 requests for needs assessments.

b) To the knowledge of your parent carer forum, how many EHC needs assessments for young offenders in custody* (at any point in or after the period of custody**) have been undertaken since 1 April 2015?
Of the forums completing the survey, only 10 gave an answer other than ‘0’ or ‘don’t know’. Of those who answered, responses ranged from 0 – 3.

c) To the knowledge of your parent carer forum, how many final EHC plans has your local authority issued to young offenders in custody* (at any point in or after the period of custody**) since 1 April 2015?

Of the forums completing the survey, only 7 gave an answer other than ‘0’ or ‘don’t know’. Of those who were able to quantify, 1 was the most prevalent answer.

Any comments?

Of the forums who were able to respond to this question, most stated that they are not involved in this area of work, or that they had requested local figures from the local authority but had not received them; whilst others quoted low numbers of young offenders with SEND. A handful of forums said that they would work on the area of young offenders in the future, or felt that they should not be involved in this area.

Q22. To the knowledge of your parent carer forum, is your local authority currently managing to issue most (at least 90%) of new EHC plans within 20 weeks (unless statutory exceptions apply)?

49% of forums believe that their local authority is meeting the 20-week deadline to produce at least 90% of new EHC Plans, which is a continued upward trend from 44% in survey 9, up from 38% in survey 8.
Q22b. Where possible, please offer examples of factors that contribute to your local authority successfully meeting the 20 week deadline:

Many parent carer forums feel that the quality of plans and meaningful co-production of plans with families is compromised in order to meet the 20-week deadline, e.g. data being cut and pasted. Receiving information to go into reports in a timely manner was also cited as a reason. Effective leadership, organisation, communication, hard work and employing more staff/assessors to help meet the timescales were other factors. Other forums misinterpreted the question and commented on the reasons why timescales are not being met.

Q23. Where you have indicated NO, what in the opinion of your parent carer forum are the main barriers to your local authority’s completion of EHC Plans within the 20 week statutory timeframe? Please tick all that apply.

The top five forum reported barriers to completion of EHC Plans within the 20-week timeframe were:

1. The timeliness of the advice from Health professionals (51 forums, up from 47 in survey 9)
2. The capacity of the Local authority SEN team (46 forums, down from 52 last survey)
3. The capacity of Educational Psychologists to provide advice (40 forums, down from 44 last survey)
4. The quality of advice from Social Care (38 forums, up from 37)
5. The timeliness of advice from Social Care (35 forums, down from 38 in survey 9)

Barriers to completion of EHCPs within the 20-week statutory timeframe largely echo those from previous surveys, though timeliness of the advice from health is now deemed to be the most prevalent reason for authorities missing the deadline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Timeliness</th>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advice from Social Care</td>
<td>35 (5)</td>
<td>38 (4)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice from Health professionals</td>
<td>51 (1)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice from educational specialist teachers</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice from educational psychologists</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>40 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice from educational institutions</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responses from institution when consulted over being named in a EHC plan</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local authority SEN team</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>46 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
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Q23b. If the 20 week deadline is not being met in the majority of cases, please offer further examples of barriers/challenges within your local authority area:

Forums perceive that there are the following barriers to their local authority not meeting the statutory timescale:

- Capacity (as demonstrated above)
- Health information, time taken
- Not enough time allocated to completing plans
- Unfilled/vacant posts/high staff turnover
- Increase in the number of requests for plans
- Lack of communication from Schools
- Pressure of meeting deadline
- Quality of advice received is not always good
- Poor administration
- Lack of training for plan writers
- Poor processes
- Lack of specificity
- Unrealistic expectations
- Lack of joined up working
- Demand exceeds supply
- Lack of understanding of the process (parents, who are often given incorrect information)
- Joint commissioning arrangements not well established
- Poor process for over 16’s/18’s/19-25’s
- Missing information/errors
- Lack of funding
• Lack of provision
• Inconsistency
• Transfers/conversions taking priority over new EHCPs

Many forums note that they would prefer a high-quality plan than a rushed plan, which is not fit for purpose, but which is produced within the statutory 20-week timeframe.

Q24. The Department is always interested in hearing about examples of good and emerging practice as a result of the reforms and we are often asked if we can collect and share these examples more widely. If you would be willing to work with the Department or Contact to produce a brief case study, or if you can share a quotation on how practice is developing in your area, please let us know the subject area and provide contact details in the box below so that we can follow this up with you.

Forums were asked to share examples of good practice from their areas and submit any further comments about anything they’d like the DfE to be aware of. All comments have been passed on to the DfE for consideration.

Possible data quality issues:
The forum data is subject to a few caveats. In many instances forums reported that they did not know the answers to the data driven questions as their local authority had not supplied them on time; they had not managed to meet to discuss, or that their relationship was not such that the figures would be provided to the forum. There were several questions that received a low number of responses, therefore the statistics for those questions (i.e. the questions on youth offenders) do not give a true reflection of the national picture.