

SIXTH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY FOR PARENT CARER FORUMS NOVEMBER 2015

In November 2015 the sixth SEND survey was carried out with local authorities and parent carer forums to gauge how effective they feel the implementation of the SEND reforms is in their local areas just over a year into the new system, and to identify challenges, support requirements, and 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 104 parent carer forums responded to the survey, representing a 68.4% return, a 6.4% increase on the June survey (62%).

69% of responses to the survey had 4 or more forum members completing the survey highlighting that responses contained a cross-section of views.

A third of parent carer forums discussed their responses to the survey with their local authority.

Key findings:

64% of forums feel that parents are largely, or fully engaged in strategic planning with their local authority. A 3% drop on survey 5. These figures are much lower when considering the engagement of children (9%) and young people (16%).

Forums report that only 14% of children, and 18% of young people are either fully or largely involved in making decisions about their own SEND provision. Whilst 40% of parents are largely or fully involved in decision making around their child or young person's provision.

53% of parent carer forums say that their local authority has published a summary of comments received about their local offer.

71% of forums feel that their local authority is referring parents and young people to Independent Supporters. 34% of forums consider that working arrangements between local authorities and IS services are fully developed, a further 35% say they are developed to some extent.

55% of forums say that the local authority's working relationship with the Information Advice and Support Service is fully developed.

45% feel that the working relationship between the local authority and the parent carer forum is fully developed.

Only 2% of forums feel that further education providers are fully reshaping SEND provision in light of the new Code of Practice; a further 26% are doing this to some extent.

60% of forums say that Colleges have made a start in providing a continuum of provision for 19-25 year olds with EHCPs in their area.

Only 36% of forums feel that their local authority has to some extent, or fully put in place processes to assess their use of feedback, data and intelligence to improve their delivery and measure progress and success.

Of those forums who did know the number of new requests for assessments, 33% reported a higher number of referrals than the previous year. These were highest for under 5's and post-16. School age requests saw a reduction of 7% overall.

Just 10.5% of forums say that their local authority mostly meets the 20 week timescales for the completion of an EHCP. 62.5% of forums saw Local authority capacity as a reason for local authorities not meeting the 20-week timescale. Gathering information from health professionals was also deemed to be a heavily contributory factor for 51% of forums. A third of forums felt that gathering information from social care professionals was a barrier to meeting the 20 week timescales. Only 24% of forums believe that gathering information from Educational Psychologists was a contributory factor to the delay.

14% of forums are very, or extremely confident that their local authority will complete the Transition Review process from statements and LDAs to EHCPs between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016. 43% are not at all, or not very confident that this will happen.

Parent Carer Forums were also asked some questions relating to their experiences of working with Health and their views on short breaks in their local area:

76% of forums report that they do not have regular contact with the DMO/DCO in their area. 50% of forums are not aware of any workforce development activity for health staff to support the implementation of the Send reforms. If there has been workforce development, 80% of forums state that they have had no involvement in it.

52% of forums report that health are regularly represented at SEND strategic planning and review meetings.

56% of forums report that there are significant gaps in health services, pathways and eligibility criteria information in their local offer.

55% of forums have a CCG board member that they are able to raise issues with.

29% of forums feel that their local authority and CCG understand the needs of parent carers very well, or extremely well, in relation to short breaks. Only 15% feel that they measure the impact in assisting parent carers 'to continue to care or do some more effectively', very or extremely well.

Just 18% of the forums who responded feel that their local authority and CCG design short breaks based upon an understanding of their needs very well, or extremely well.

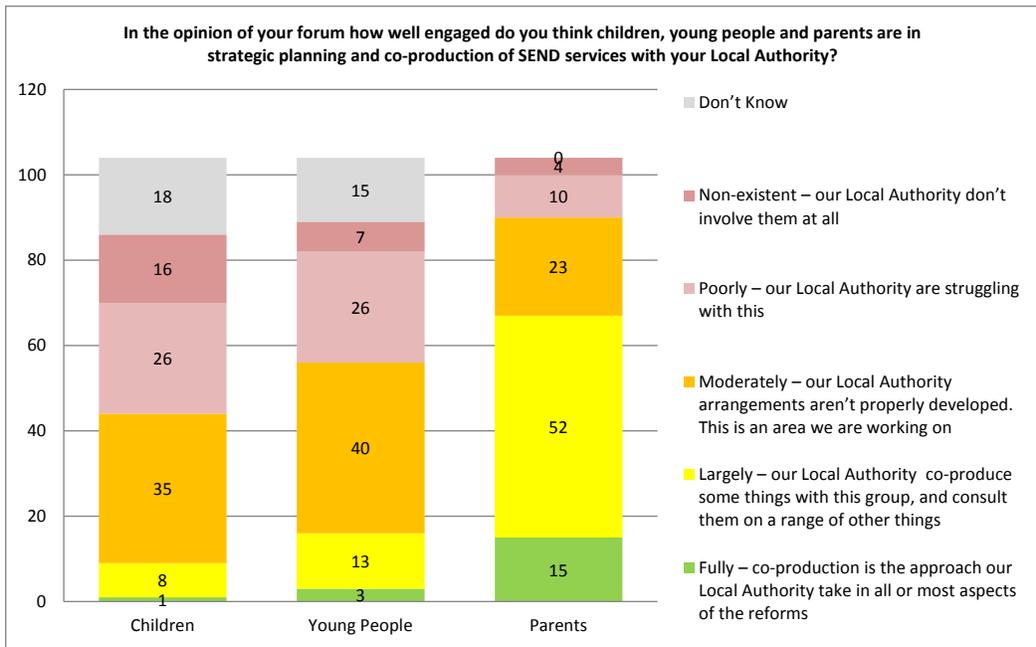
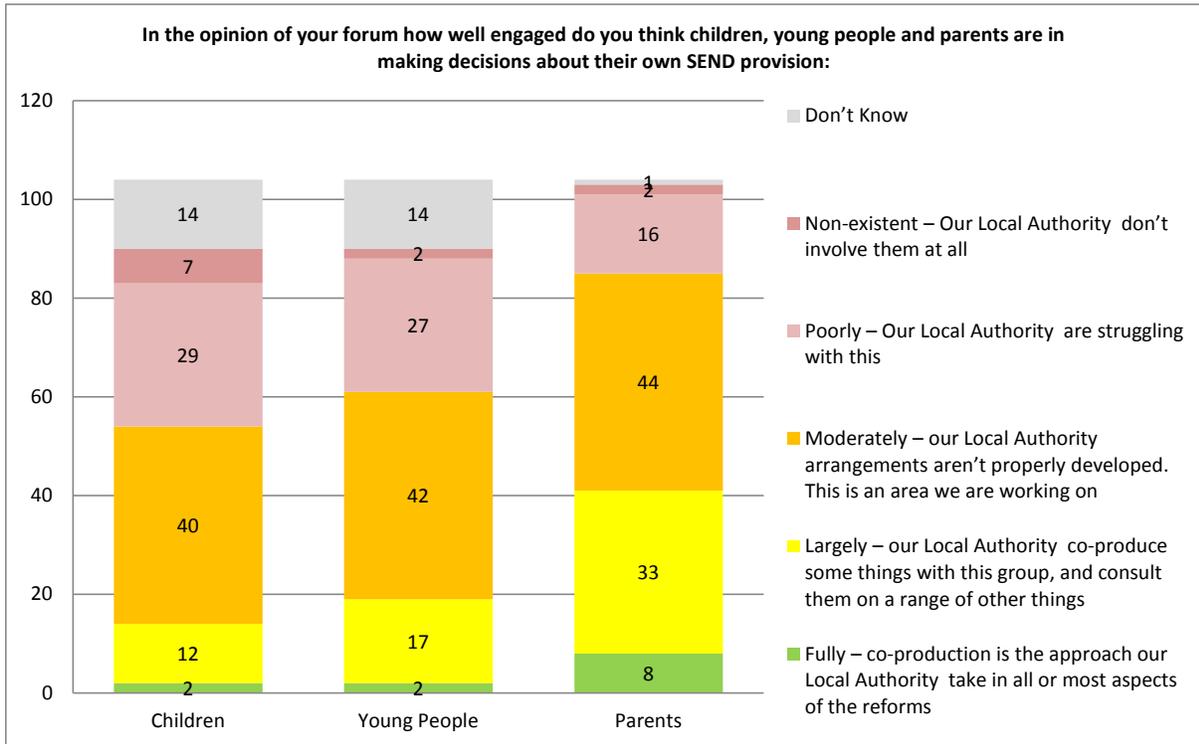
Of the forums who responded, 24% feel that their local authority and CCG work very well, or extremely well with their parent carer forum on the short breaks service statement and local offer. A further 29% report working moderately well.

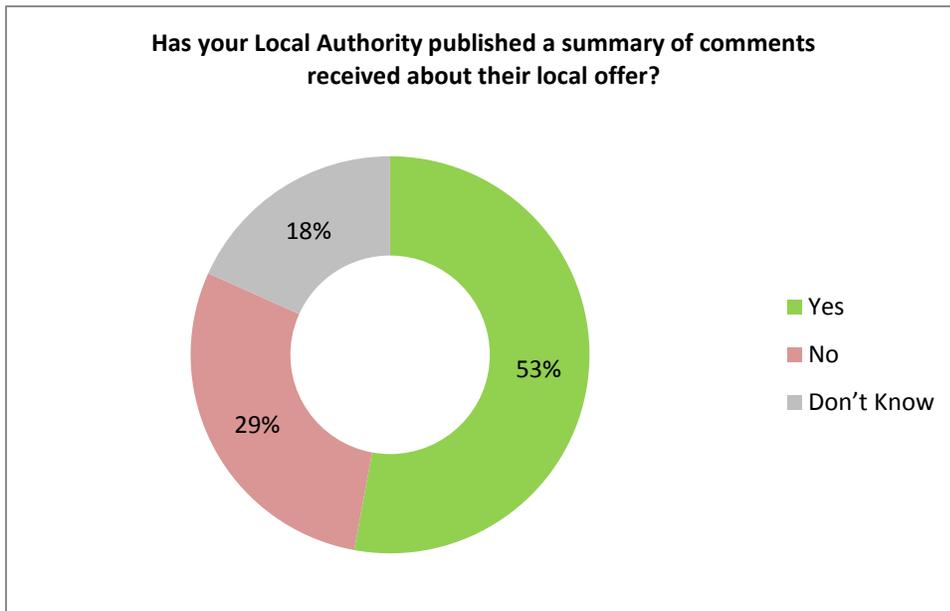
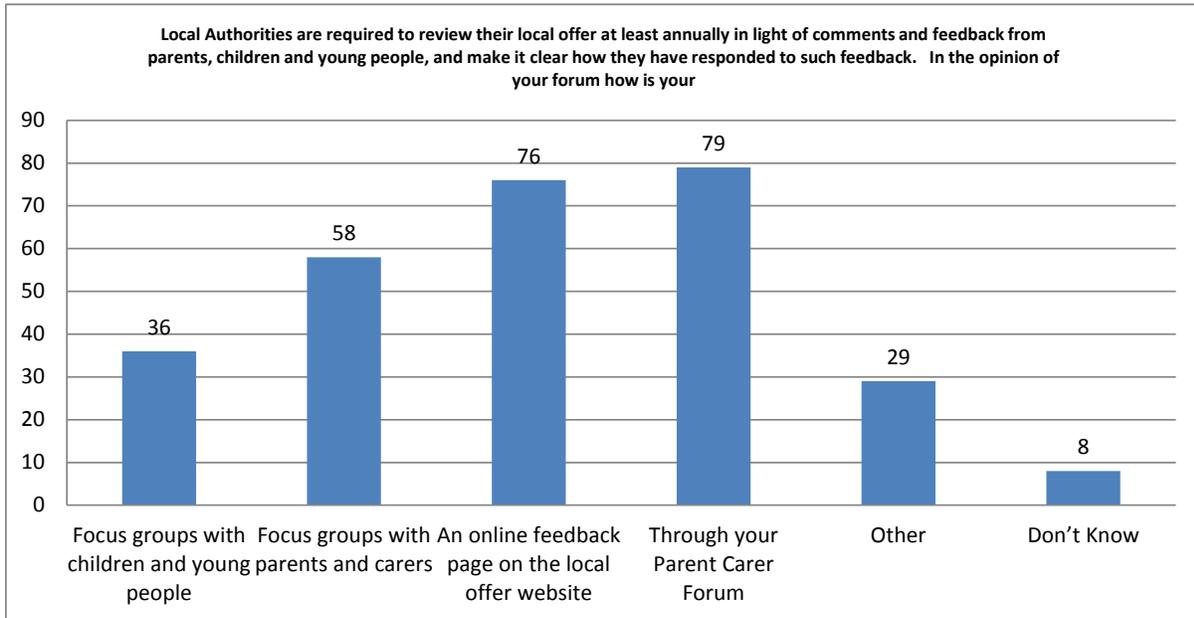
Just 15% of forums believe that the short breaks service statement and local offer are very well, or extremely well based on the needs of families, a further 29% agreeing that they are moderately well based on needs.

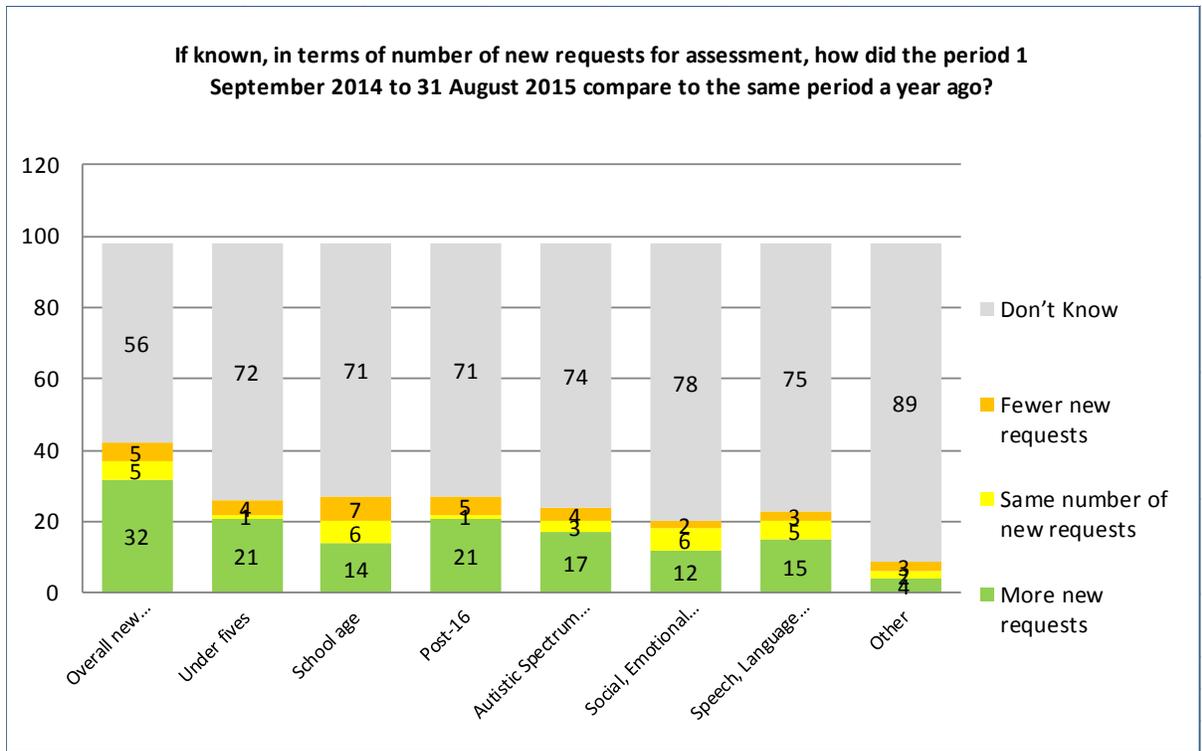
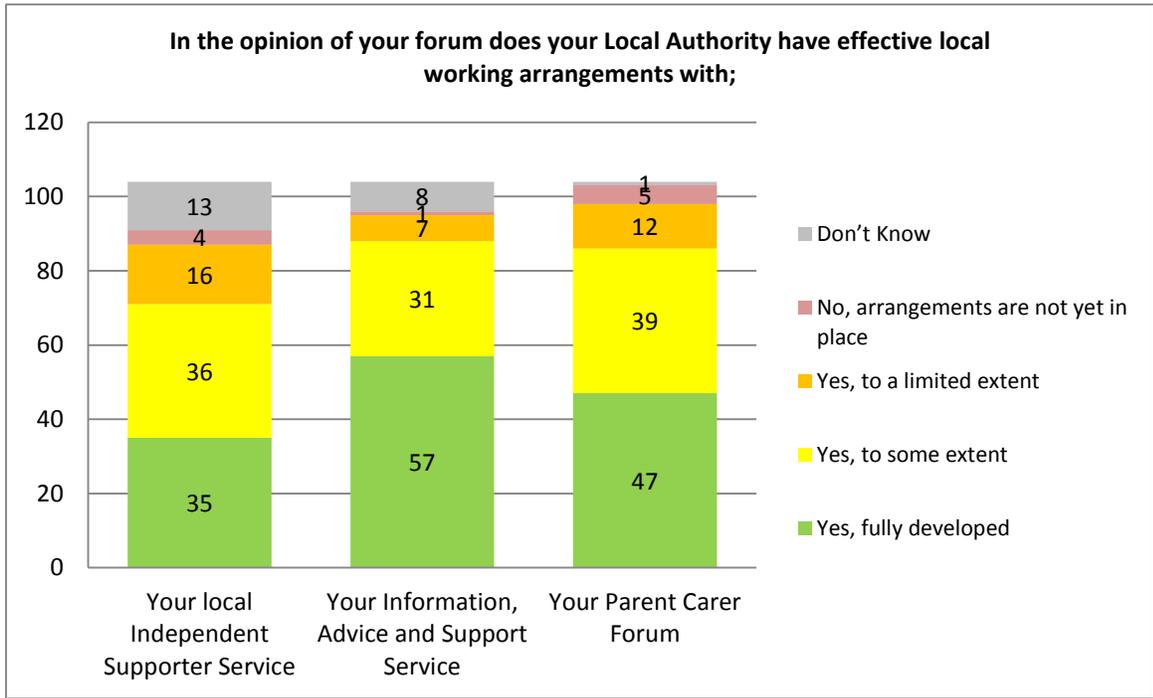
Very low numbers of forums report that their short breaks statement or local offer meet the requirement to contain up to date information on eligibility criteria, or how services meet the needs of parent carers very well, or extremely well, just 14% and 13% respectively.

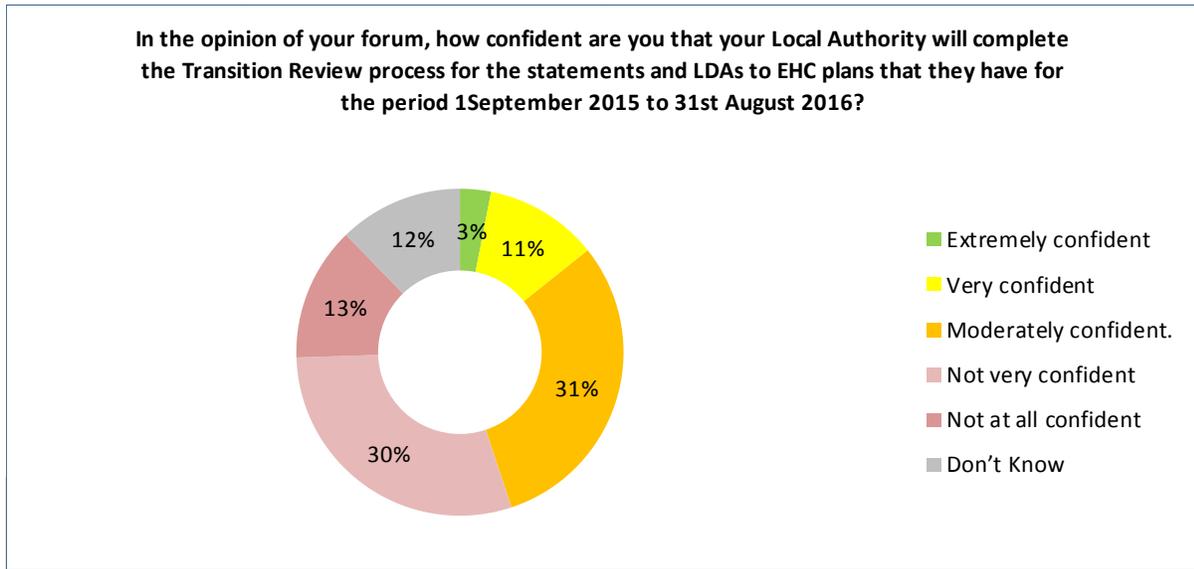
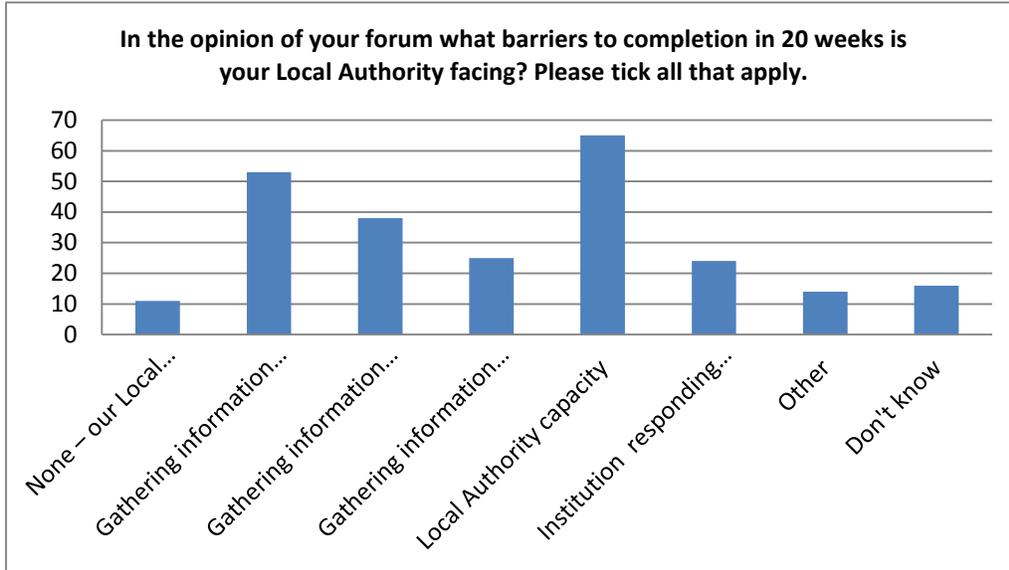
54% of forums report that their local authority is making changes to their short breaks provision during 2015/6 or have changes planned in 2016/7. However, 41% of forums don't know if their local authority will be making any changes to provision, and just over two thirds of forums don't know whether the budget will increase, or decrease. However, 0% of forums who do know their area's planned short breaks budget stated that the budget in their local area will increase.

Sample graphs to illustrate some key responses:







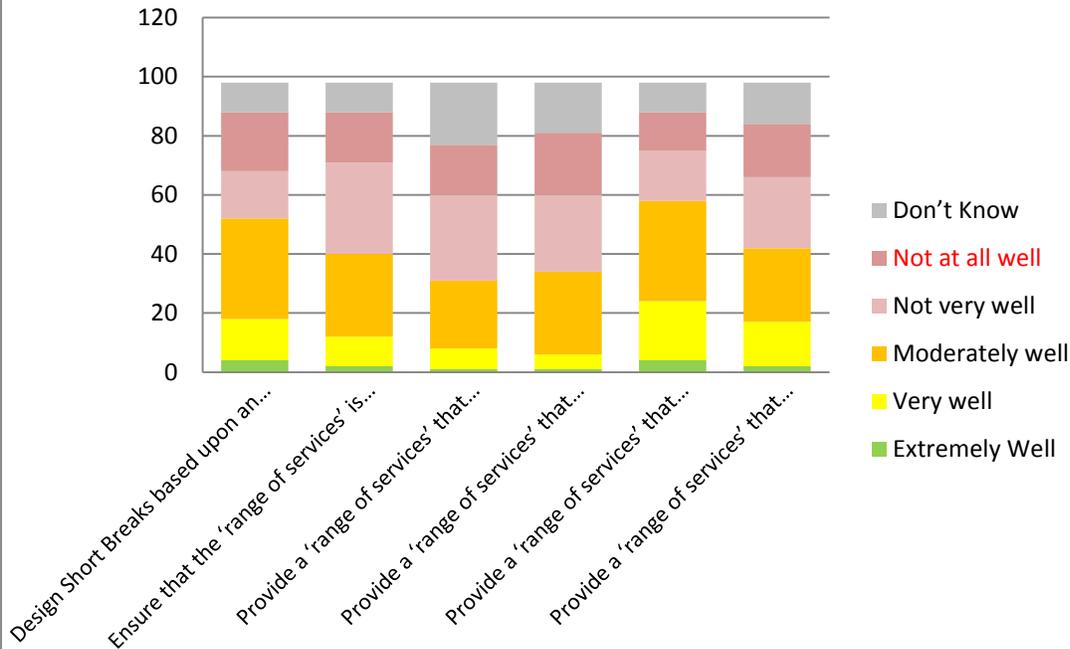


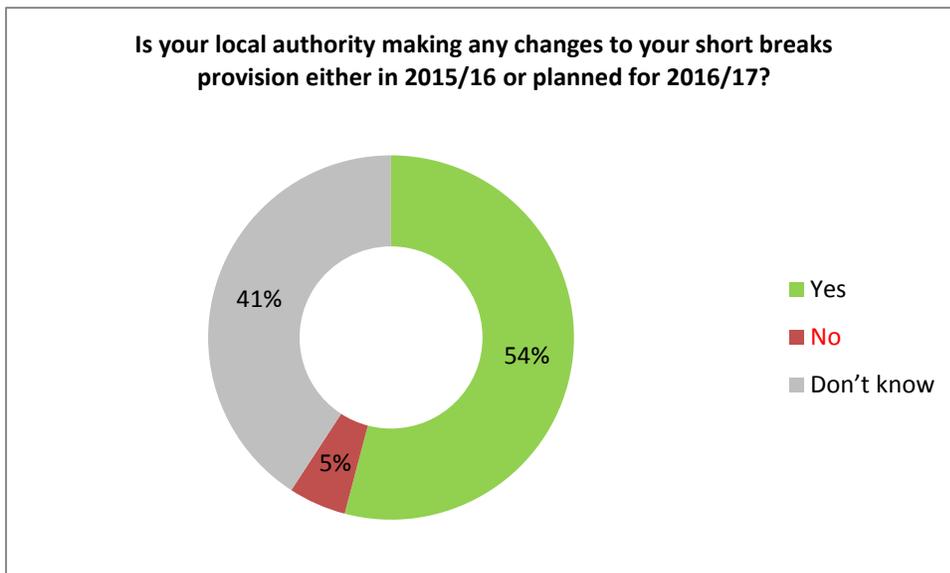
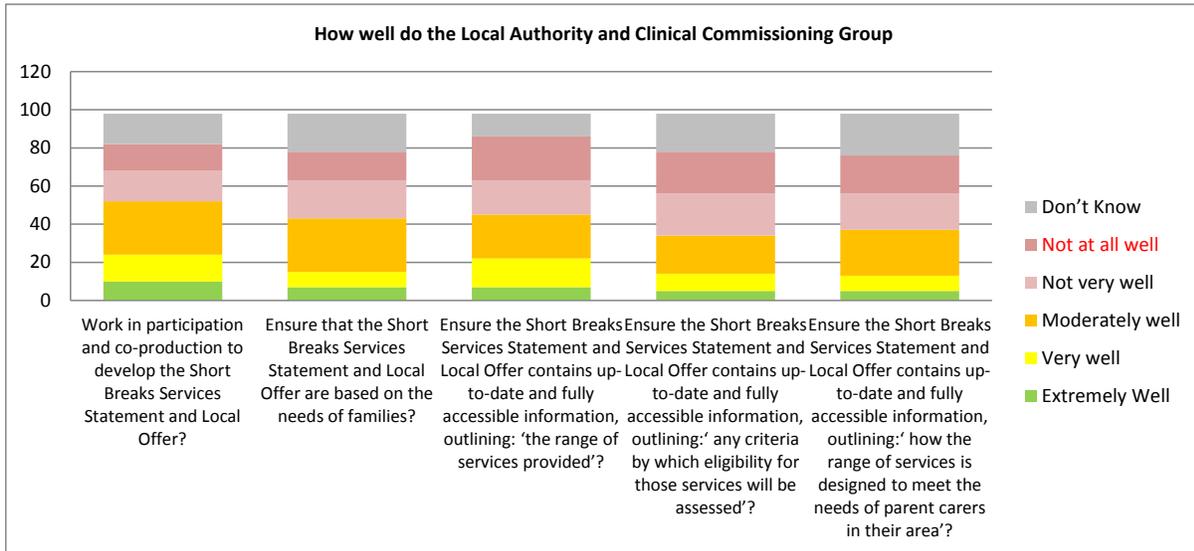


Does your Forum have regular contact with the DMPO/DCO (designated medical officer/
designated clinical officer for your area?)



How well do the Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group:





Some of the additional comments included the following:

As in previous years, we completed surveys side by side

No contact with the LA regarding the survey

As a Forum, we feel that the pressures following the reforms, restructure, cuts, etc, have meant the culture of co-production needs to be some work in order to be embedded again.

Our Forum has gone from excellent co-production to zero since the last survey was completed since children's service have been taken over. There have been 3 heads of service to our knowledge in as many months. We have sent emails requesting meetings to discuss completing this survey but have had no replies.

The LA have signed up to the Coproduction Charter and always try to involve Parent Carers. We have an active Parent Carer network with more than 1300 families who are members which is pan disability. Parent Carers are active on more than 45 working parties and steering committees. The LA are trying to engage with young people and have had some success with User Led Organisations. The same is true with children and Independent Supporters although the success is not so great. The LA are trying to improve the engagement of children & young people.

Parents' views are mixed - some feel that annual reviews and transfers have gone really well, others feel they are not getting the right professionals involved, timescales are too long and they have to chase for everything.

We are aware of a small group of young people that are engaged, but across the board engagement with C+YP is an area that needs developing. The loss of the keyworking support for parents during the EHCP process means that many parents are less able to engage with and contribute fully

The Local Authority receives monthly feedback form the co-production group and amends the website accordingly. Currently looking at identifying gaps on the Local Offer, consulting parents on ease of access and effectiveness of search engine. A progress report was published in September and appears on the Local Offer website news-feed.

Some issues with delays in responding to individual feedback left on local offer. A feedback cycle has been agreed between parent forum and LA professionals where forum act as critical friend to responses prior to being published

The LA do provide a leaflet regarding IS services in their correspondence with families about EHCP's. However there have been no cases that have been actively referred to IS by the LA.

We have an opt out IS service which works really well as it's one less thing for parents to worry about having to find out for themselves.

Our specialist offer is well planned and in line with the Preparing for Adulthood pathways, however, there is limited choice and lack of 'offer' beyond the FE settings i.e. social, leisure and employment opportunities. The offer for young people within mainstream settings needs to be developed as currently they cannot access the support from a PFA Co-ordinator

Very little engagement from health in any form, employment services or reps are yet to be invited to the table, and training providers are yet to fully engage.

As most of our young people have not yet transferred there are many young people who do not have final plans or even started the process. Young people are in college with statements (they should have been transferred) and have had no annual reviews for well over a year. We are aware that colleges have requested support with this to the LA but are unaware of any support that has been offered. We were told that the LA would not be supporting colleges in reviews.

Systems are all completely different between health and social care this is creating barriers regarding sharing information and they all hold different budgets

In our opinion the joint commissioning arrangements have historically and continue to be difficult to arrange due to budget constraints, protocols around sharing of information and wider governance arrangements. We are hoping to take learning from the Regional SEND Health Pilot work that is been led by Contact a Family.

We recently attended training with LA about the Ofsted SEND inspections; there was talk about data capture and feedback. A task and finish group has been talked about but is not yet set up. We are awaiting a date for this, it was confirmed yesterday we are to be part of this group.

Personal budgets has not been progressed beyond the initial offer of: Social care direct payments Personal health budgets (if eligible for Continuing Care Funding) SEN Transport. There is currently some work looking at personal budgets but it is difficult to see how personal budgets can be progressed without effective joint commissioning arrangements