

What next for SEND? Shaping a strategy during a crisis

**NNPCF Co-Chair
Mrunal Sisodia**

What next for SEND?



The SEND AP Improvement plan

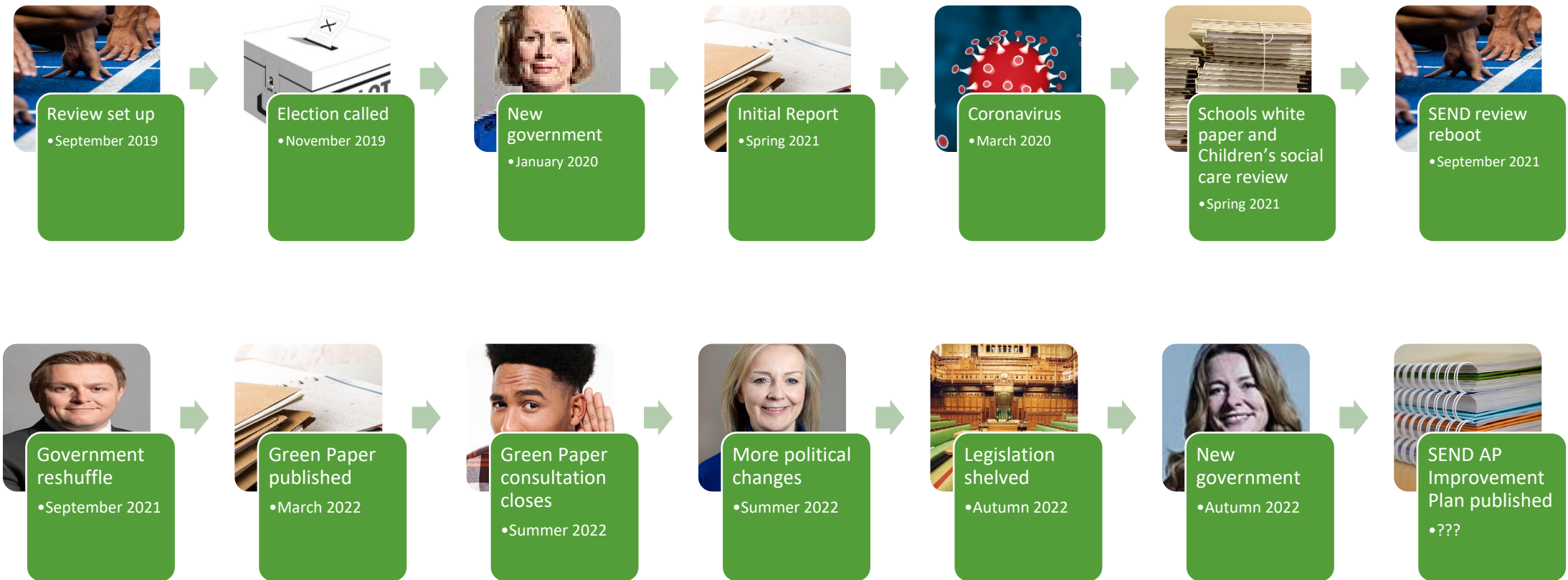


NNPCF priorities



The wider environment

The SEND AP Improvement plan has been a long time in the making



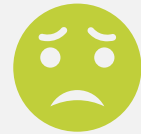
Today, I'm
trying to walk
the tightrope



What are our expectations of the SENDAP Improvement Plan?



What are we looking for?



What are we worried about?



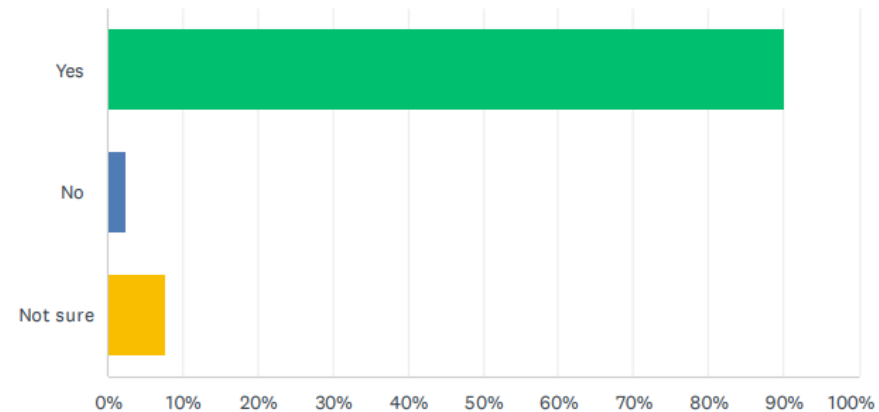
What needs more clarity?

What are we looking for? National Standards

- Establish a new national SEND and alternative provision system setting nationally consistent standards for how needs are identified and met at every stage of a child's journey across education, health and care

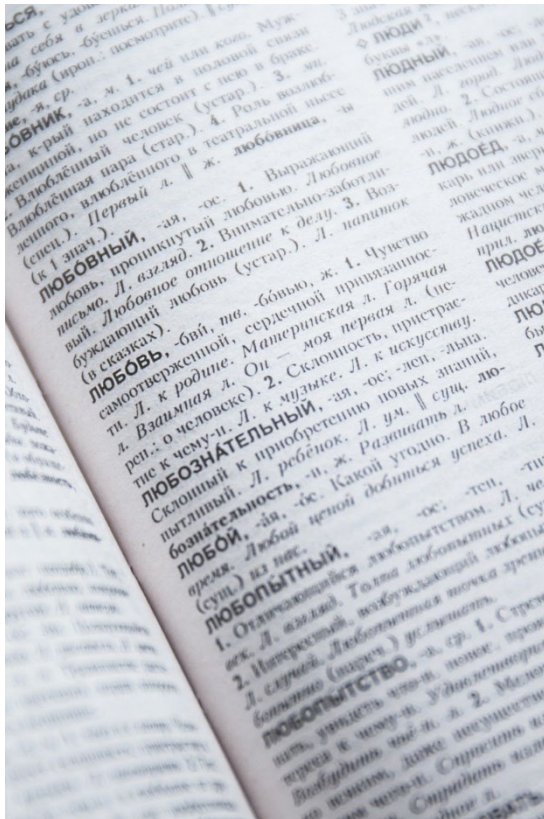
Q4 Do you think there should be national standards for SEND services?

Answered: 1,236 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.05%	1,113
No	2.35%	29
Not sure	7.61%	94
TOTAL		1,236

National Standards – Some mythbusting



National standards are **not** a dictionary of SEND needs with the prescribed services next to them



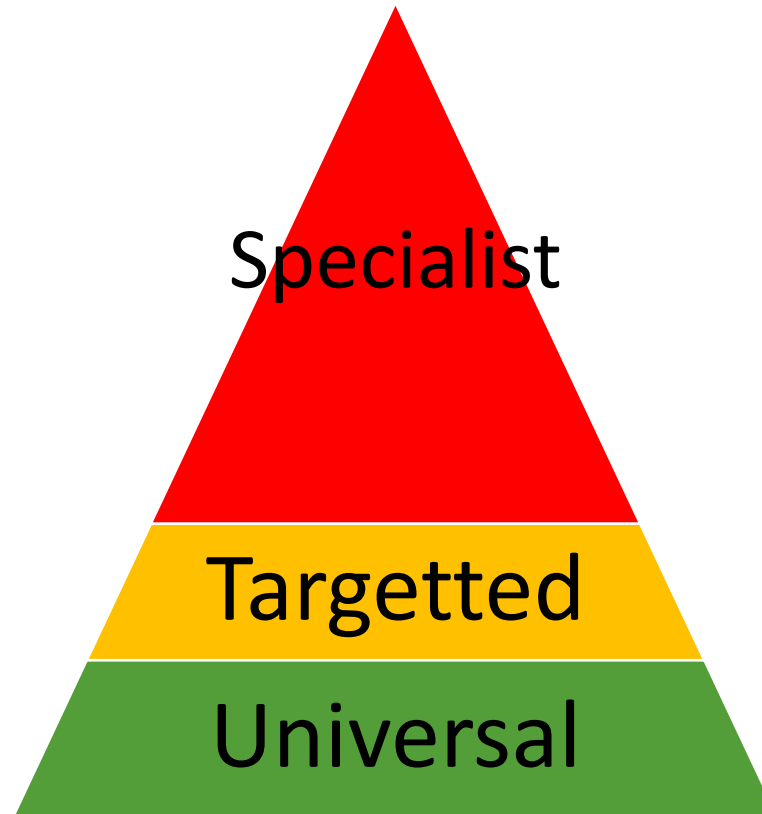
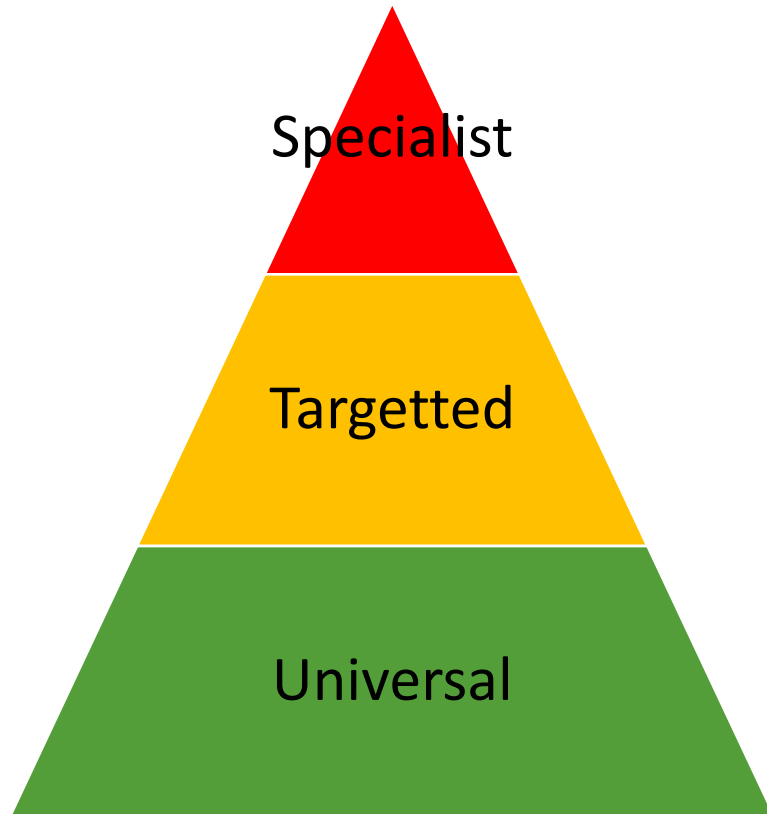
National standards are **not** a cap on the services that should be provided to meet needs.

The principle of meeting individual needs remains

National standards are the key



Why we need national standards



Special educational needs, definition

A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision

Learning difficulty a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age

A disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age

Special educational provision means educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age

Plus, for children below compulsory school age ...have SEN if they would be likely to have SEN at compulsory school age if no special educational provision were made for them

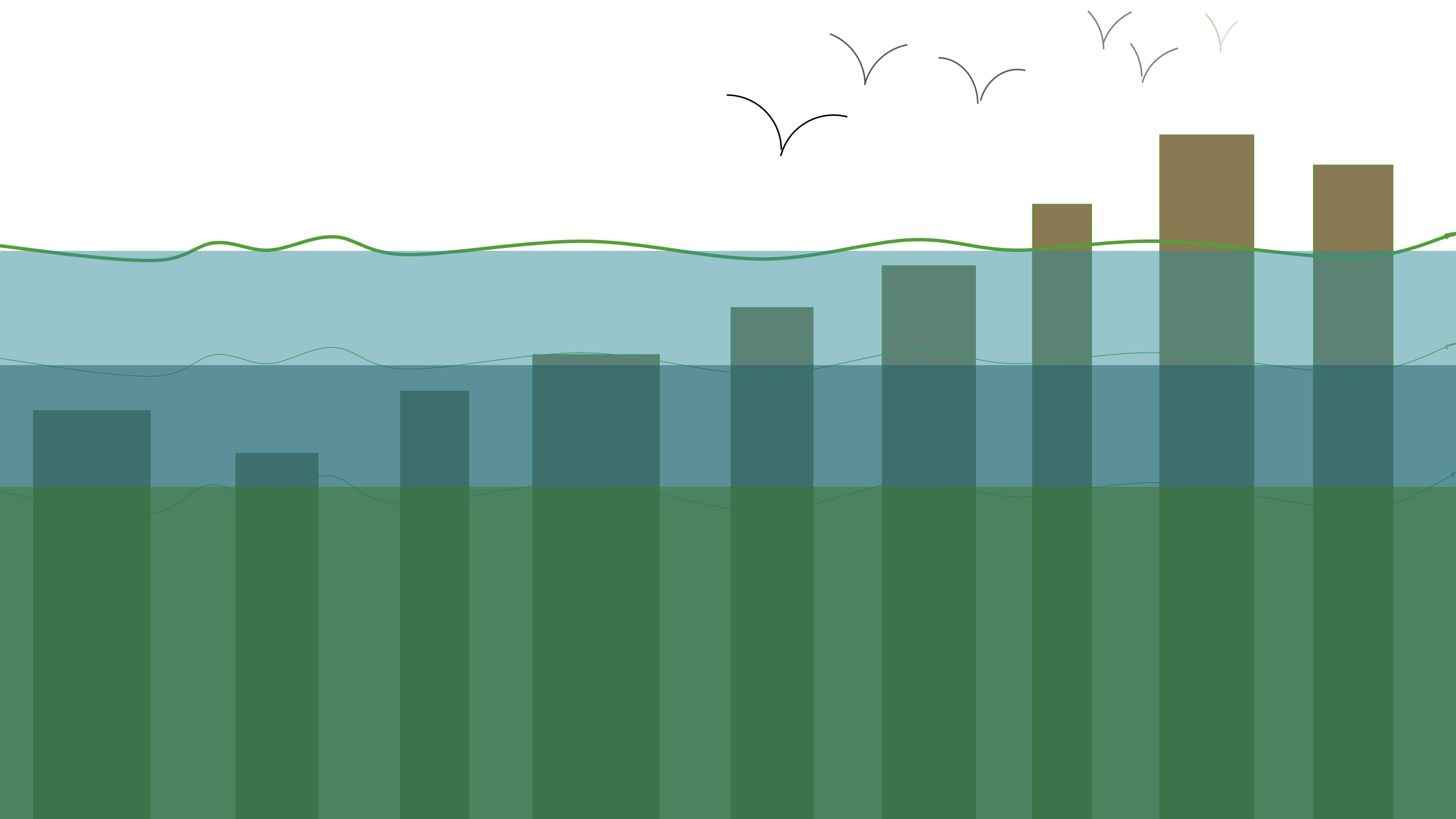
A twice relative definition:

- We compare one child with others: 'greater difficulty in learning than...'
- Special educational provision is compared with 'that made generally available'

Generally available provision:

- As 'that made generally' provision improves, fewer children need additional or different
- As 'that made generally' diminishes, more children need additional or different





What are we looking for?

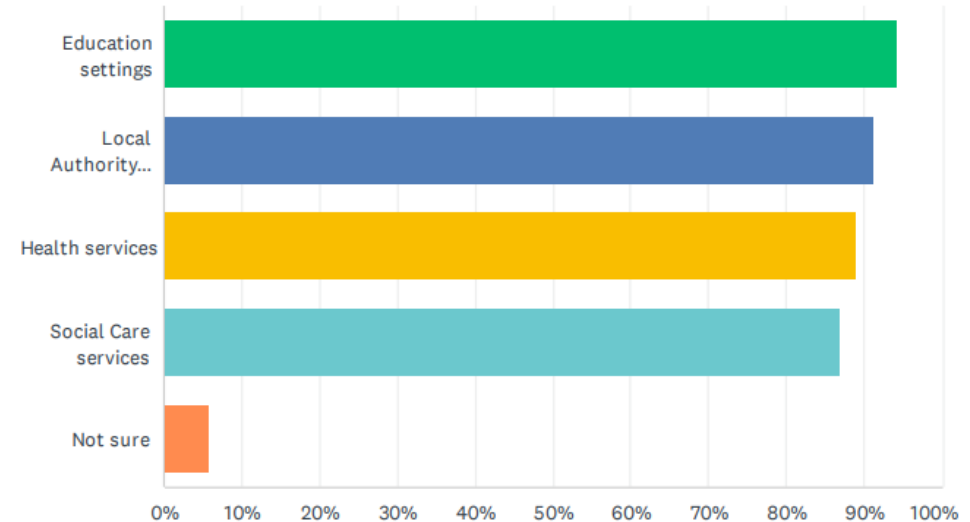
SEND and AP

Partnerships and local inclusion plans

- Establish new local SEND partnerships, bringing together education (including alternative provision), health and care partners with local government and other partners to produce a local inclusion plan setting out how each local area will meet the national standards

Q5 Do you think that the national SEND standards should apply to (tick all that apply):

Answered: 1,231 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Education settings	94.23%	1,160
Local Authority services	91.31%	1,124
Health services	88.95%	1,095
Social Care services	86.76%	1,068
Not sure	5.77%	71
Total Respondents: 1,231		

What are we looking for?

Closer working between Education, Health and Care

- deliver clarity in roles and responsibilities with every partner across education, health, care and local government having a clear role to play, and being equipped with the levers to fulfil their responsibilities
- provide statutory guidance to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to set out clearly how statutory responsibilities for SEND should be discharged

National guidance on “who pays for what” across education, health and social care services including what should be jointly commissioned.

What we said in 2021 – NNPCF
Skunkworks report

What are we looking for?

Learning the lessons from 2014 – a proper change programme



- publish a national SEND and alternative provision delivery plan setting out government's response to this public consultation and how change will be implemented in detail and by whom to deliver better outcomes for children and young people –
- establish, for implementation of the national delivery plan, a new National SEND Delivery Board to bring together relevant government departments with national delivery partners including parents, carers and representatives of local government, education, health and care to hold partners to account for the timely implementation of proposals

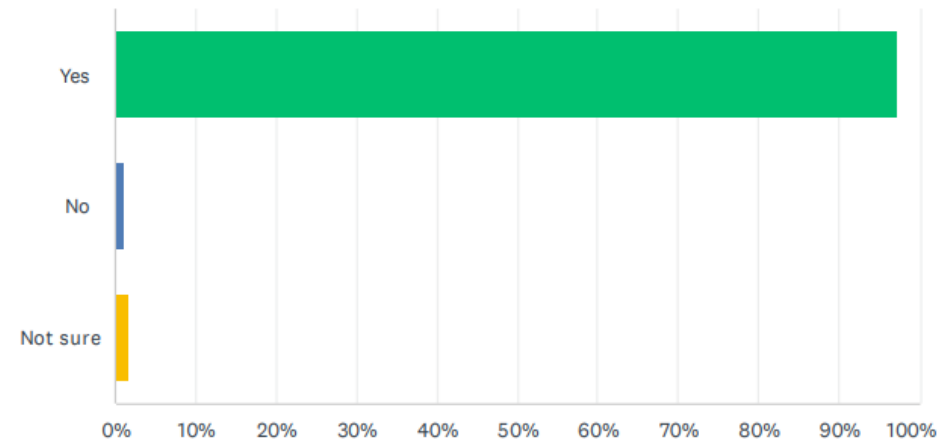
What are we looking for?

Training and support for school staff

- consult on the introduction of a new SENCo National Professional Qualification (NPQ) for school SENCos, and increase the number of staff with an accredited Level 3 SENCo qualification in early years settings to improve SEND expertise
- commission analysis to better understand the support that children and young people with SEND need from the health workforce so that there is a clear focus on SEND in health workforce planning

Q22 Do you think teaching staff need more SEND training to understand and support the children they teach?

Answered: 1,234 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	97.33%	1,201
No	1.05%	13
Not sure	1.62%	20
TOTAL		1,234

What are we looking for?

Better data to incentivise inclusion and enable accountability

- Introduce new inclusion dashboards for 0-25 provision, offering a timely, transparent picture of how the system is performing at a local and national level across education, health and care

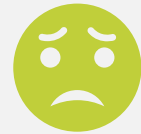
We know that the data the DfE gathers drives behaviour and priorities. Refocusing the data gathered will also refocus priorities.

What we said in 2021 – NNPCF
Skunkworks report

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What are we worried about?



What needs more clarity?

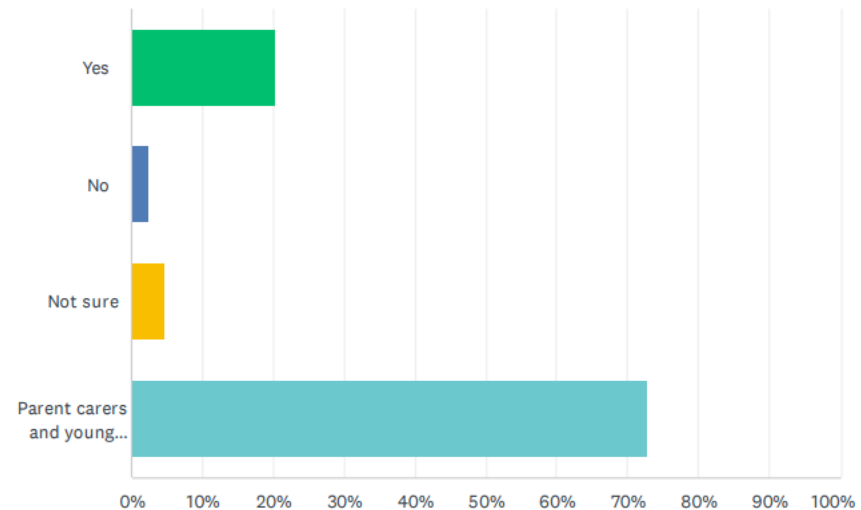
What are we worried about?

Tailored list of settings

- support parents and carers to express an informed preference for a suitable placement by providing a tailored list of settings, drawn from the local inclusion plan, including mainstream, specialist and independent, that are appropriate to meet the child or young person's needs

Q13 Do you agree that children with an EHC Plan should be able to pick a school/setting from a tailored list in their local area?

Answered: 1,239 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	20.34%	252
No	2.26%	28
Not sure	4.76%	59
Parent carers and young people should be able to pick any setting that they think is right for them	72.64%	900
TOTAL		1,239

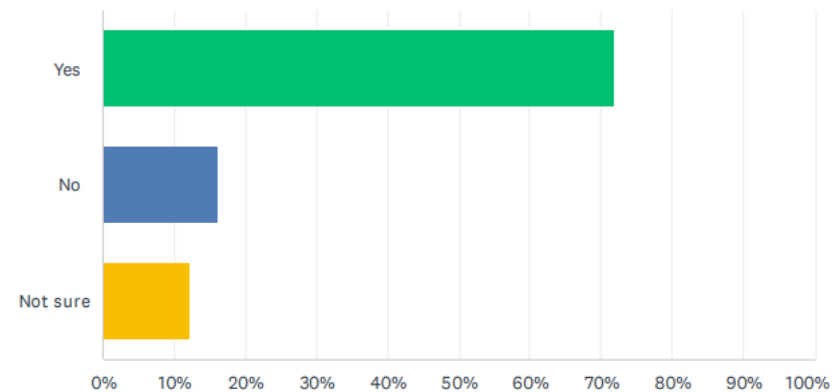
What are we worried about?

The role of mediation

- streamline the redress process, making it easier to resolve disputes earlier, including through mandatory mediation, whilst retaining the tribunal for the most challenging cases

Q16 If there is a dispute about an EHC Plan, do you think that the local authority and family should have mediation to resolve any problems before going to tribunal? (Mediation means talking through the issues with an independent person and helping everyone to come to a joint decision).

Answered: 1,228 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	71.82% 882
No	16.12% 198
Not sure	12.05% 148
TOTAL	1,228

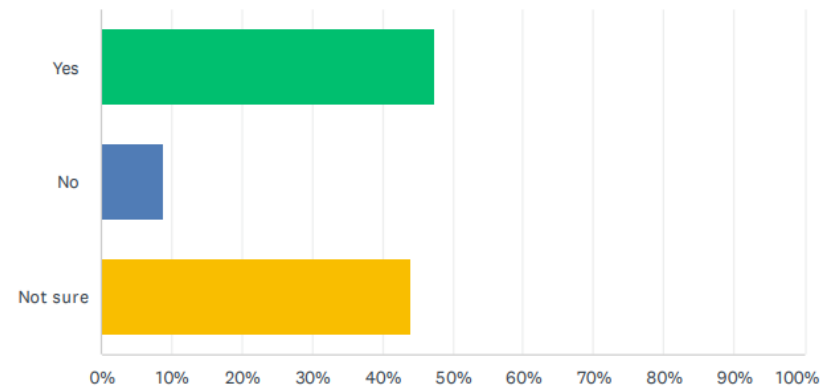
What are we worried about?

Bandings and tariffs

- Introduce a new national framework of banding and price tariffs for funding, matched to levels of need and types of education provision set out in the national standards

Q27 Do you think that schools delivering similar provision for a child or young person should be required to charge similar tariffs?

Answered: 1,232 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	47.32%	583
No	8.69%	107
Not sure	43.99%	542
TOTAL		1,232

What are our expectations of the SENDAP Improvement Plan?



What are we looking for?



What are we worried about?



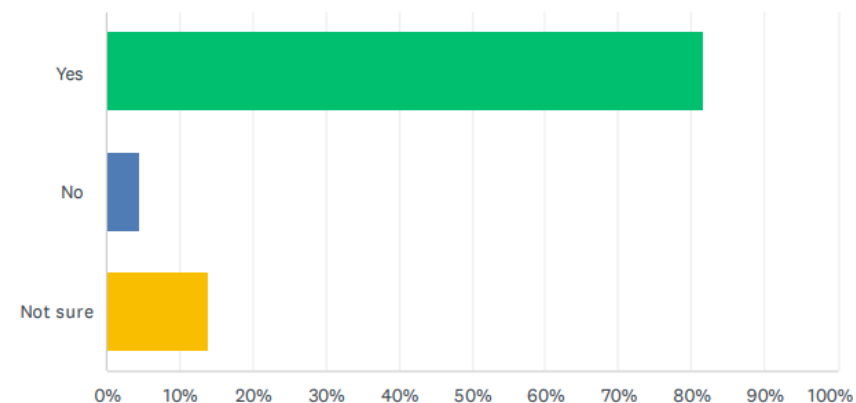
What needs more clarity?

Where do we need more clarity? Accountability

- equip the Department for Education's (DfE) new Regions Group to take responsibility for holding local authorities and MATs to account for delivering for children and young people with SEND locally through new funding agreements between local government and DfE

Q29 Do you think the government needs more powers to make schools, local authorities and health services deliver national standards for SEND services or provision?

Answered: 1,235 Skipped: 4



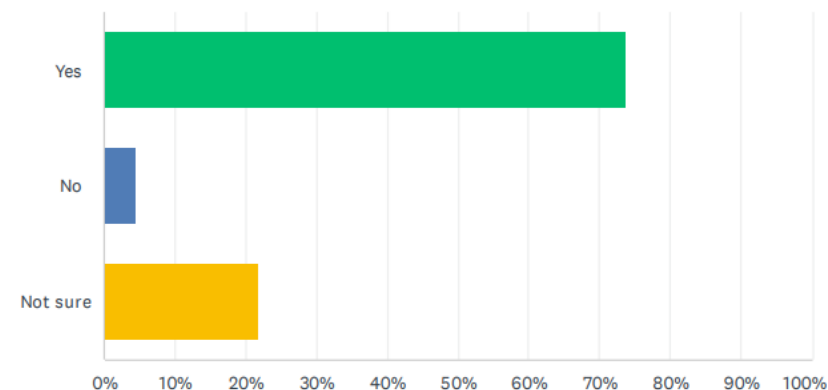
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	81.62%	1,008
No	4.53%	56
Not sure	13.85%	171
TOTAL		1,235

Where do we need more clarity? Accountability

- equip the Department for Education's (DfE) new Regions Group to take responsibility for holding local authorities and MATs to account for delivering for children and young people with SEND locally through new funding agreements between local government and DfE
- Academies Regulatory and Commissioning Review

Q21 Do local authorities need additional extra or additional powers to hold schools/settings to account?

Answered: 1,236 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	73.79%	912
No	4.53%	56
Not sure	21.68%	268
TOTAL		1,236

Where do we need more clarity?

Legislative programme

- A lot of the reforms listed above were intended to be underpinned by legislation
- It is now clear that there will not be legislation in this Parliament
- Not just an SEND Bill but also the Schools Bill
- What does this mean for the reforms: Guidance vs law?



Where do we need more clarity? Pace of change



Arun in 2014



Arun in 2023

What next for SEND?



The SEND AP Improvement plan



NNPCF priorities



The wider environment

Long Term vs Here and Now



Long Term

- SENDAP Improvement Plan
- NHS Long Term Plan



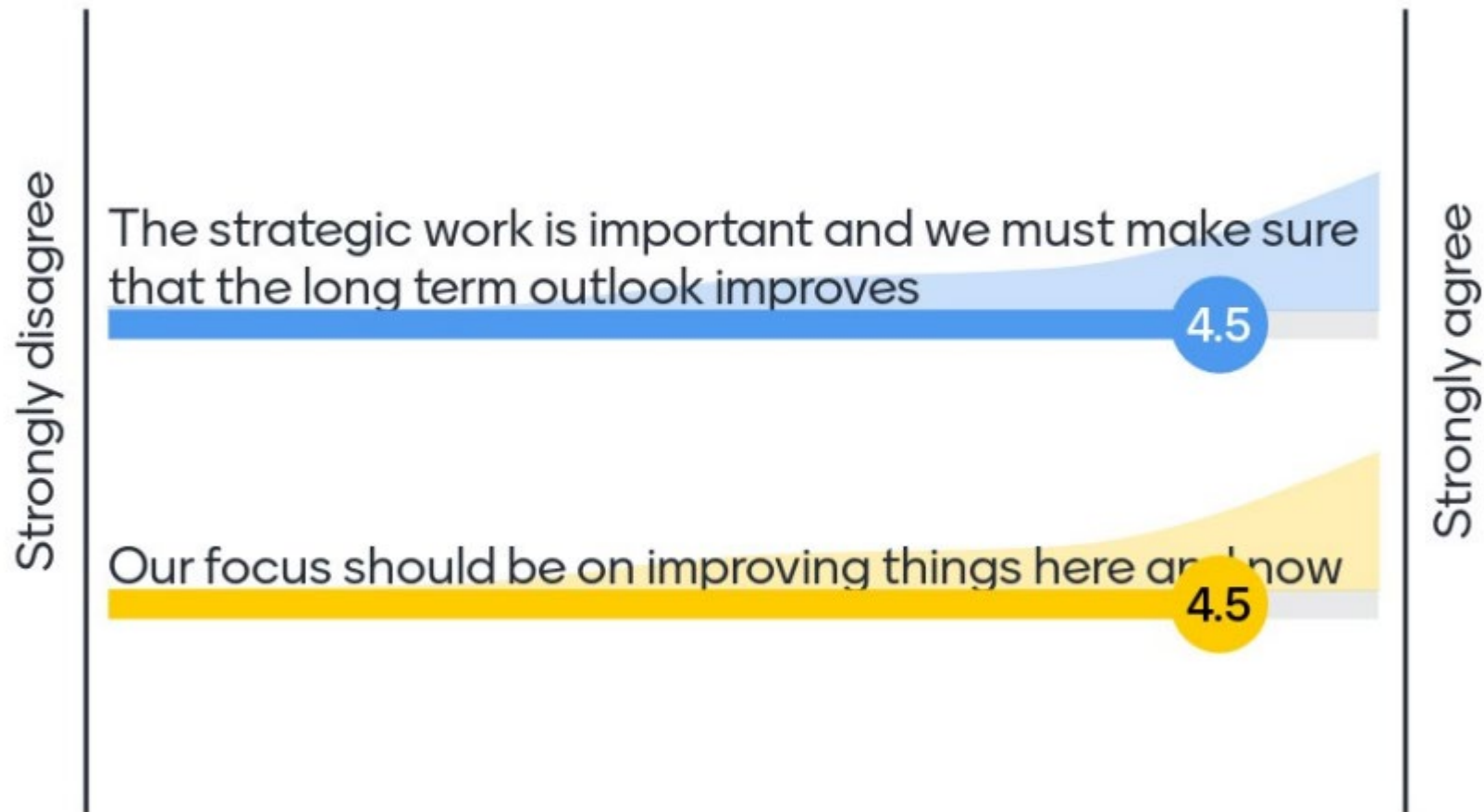
Here and Now

- NHS Long Term Plan
- Delivering Better Value in SEND
- Wellbeing of Parent Carers
- Ofsted / CQC Local area inspections
- Health services after the pandemic

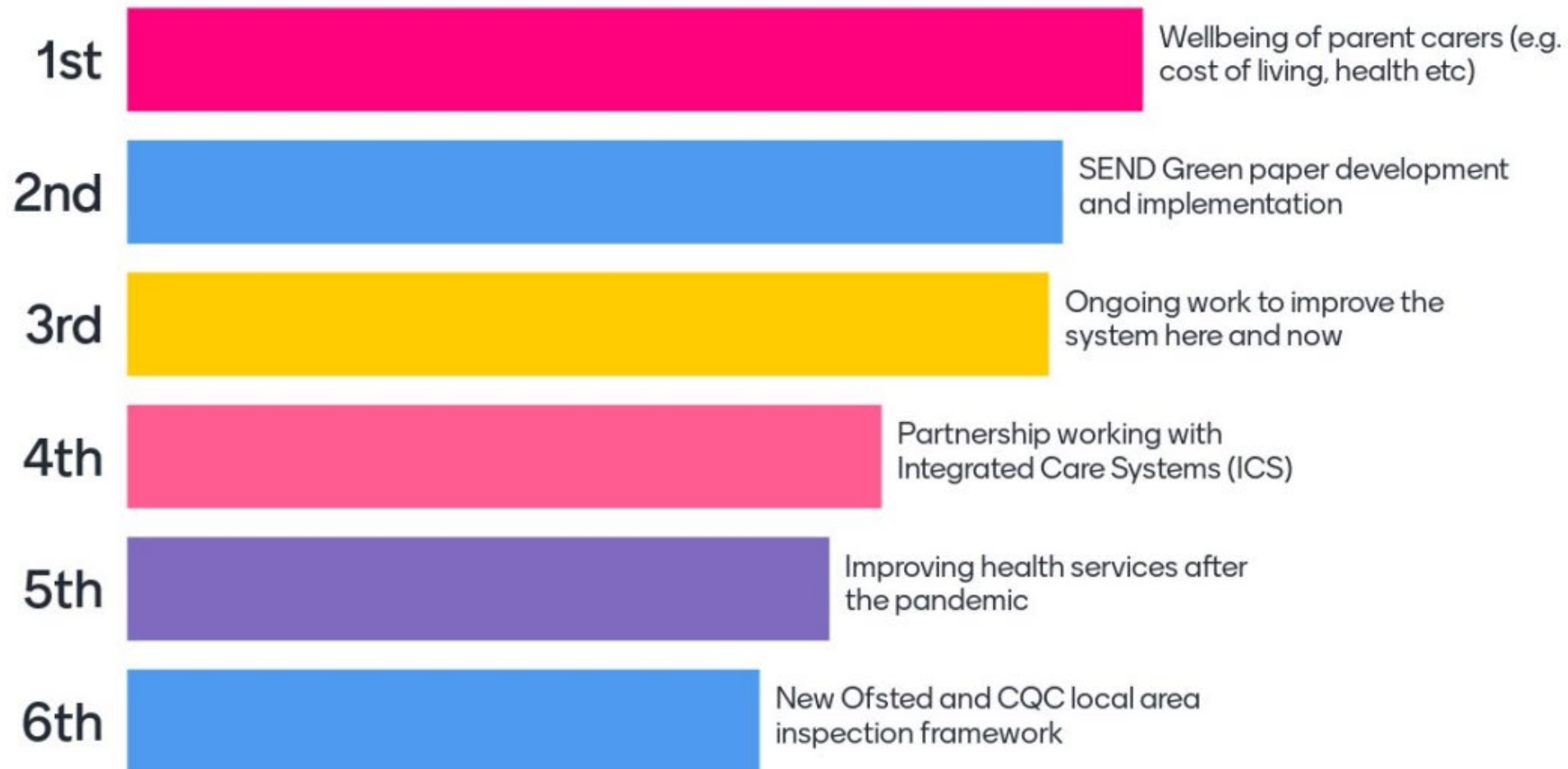


AGM poll – where should our focus be?

We asked you how strongly you agreed or disagreed with these two statements



We also asked you to rank some of the big themes we are hearing from regions



Next steps – our business plan 2023-24

Education	Health	Preparing for Adulthood	Wellbeing	NNPCF Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivering Better Value in SEND• Ofsted / CQC local area inspections <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SENDAP Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Disability Autism workstream• Recovery of community services• ICS set up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NHS Long Term Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employment work with DWP• Transitions standards with DfE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ?????	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governance• Finance• HR• Compliance

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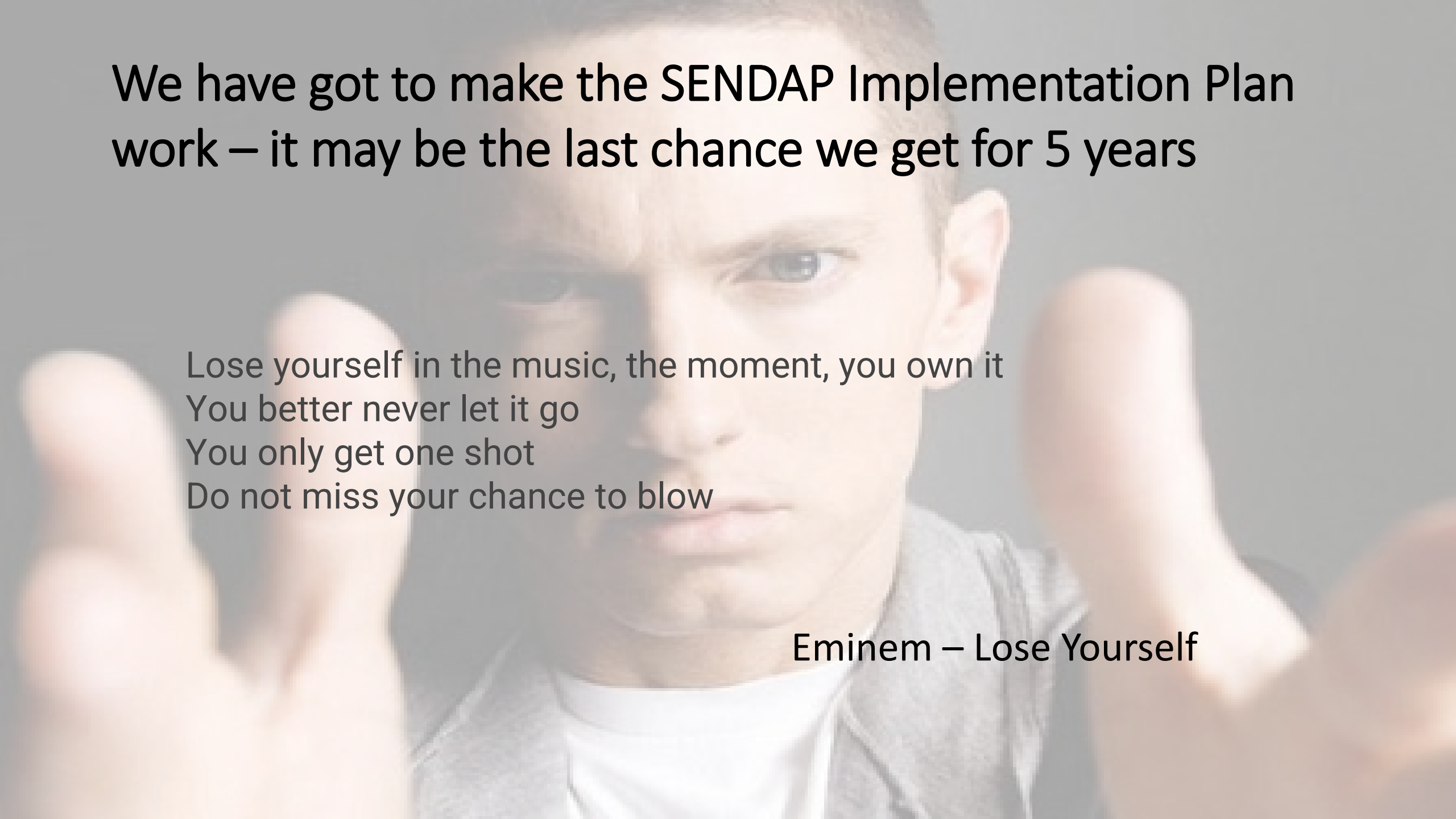
NNPCF priorities



The wider environment

Mrunal's
Musical
Messages

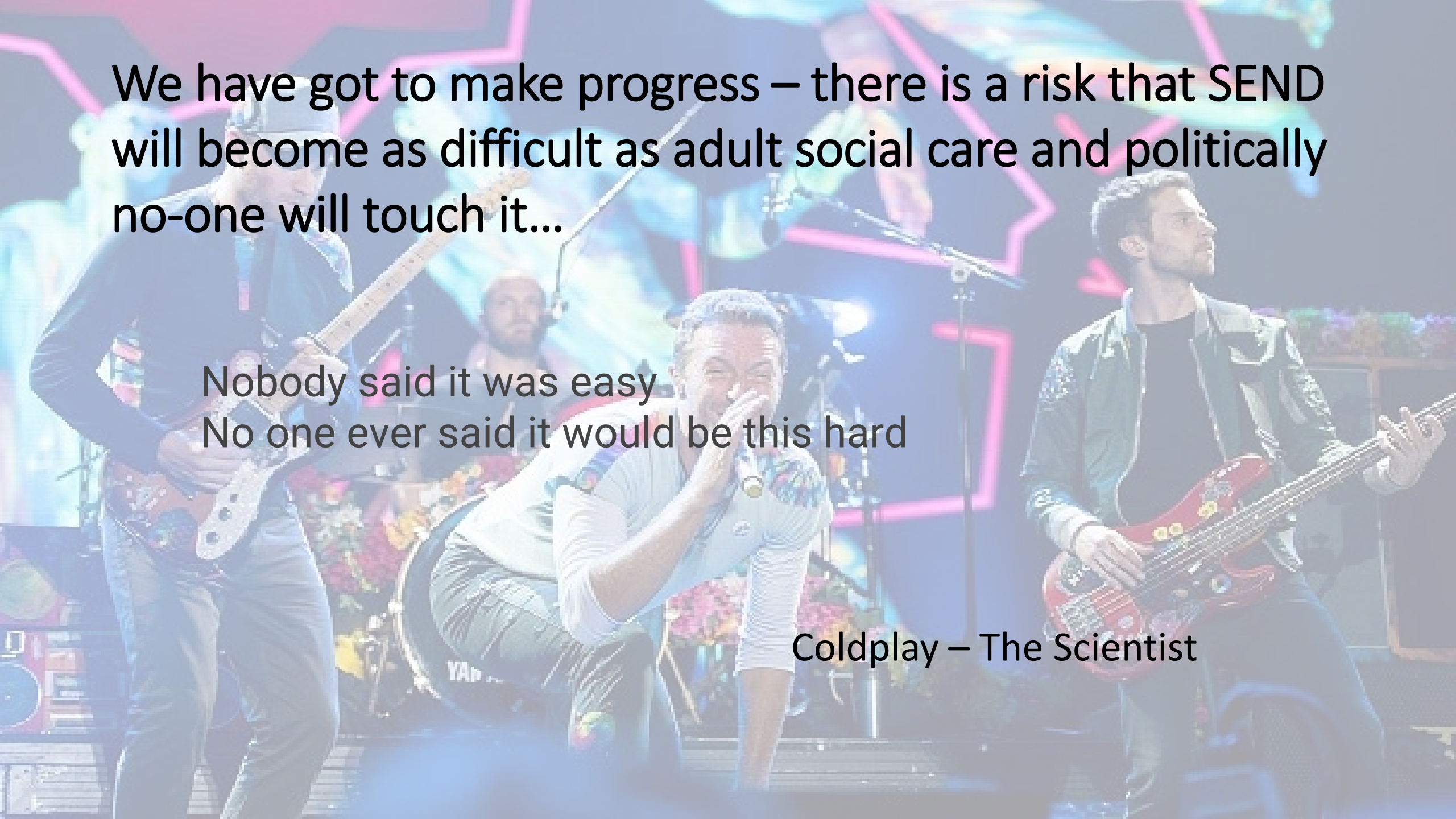




We have got to make the SENDAP Implementation Plan work – it may be the last chance we get for 5 years

Lose yourself in the music, the moment, you own it
You better never let it go
You only get one shot
Do not miss your chance to blow

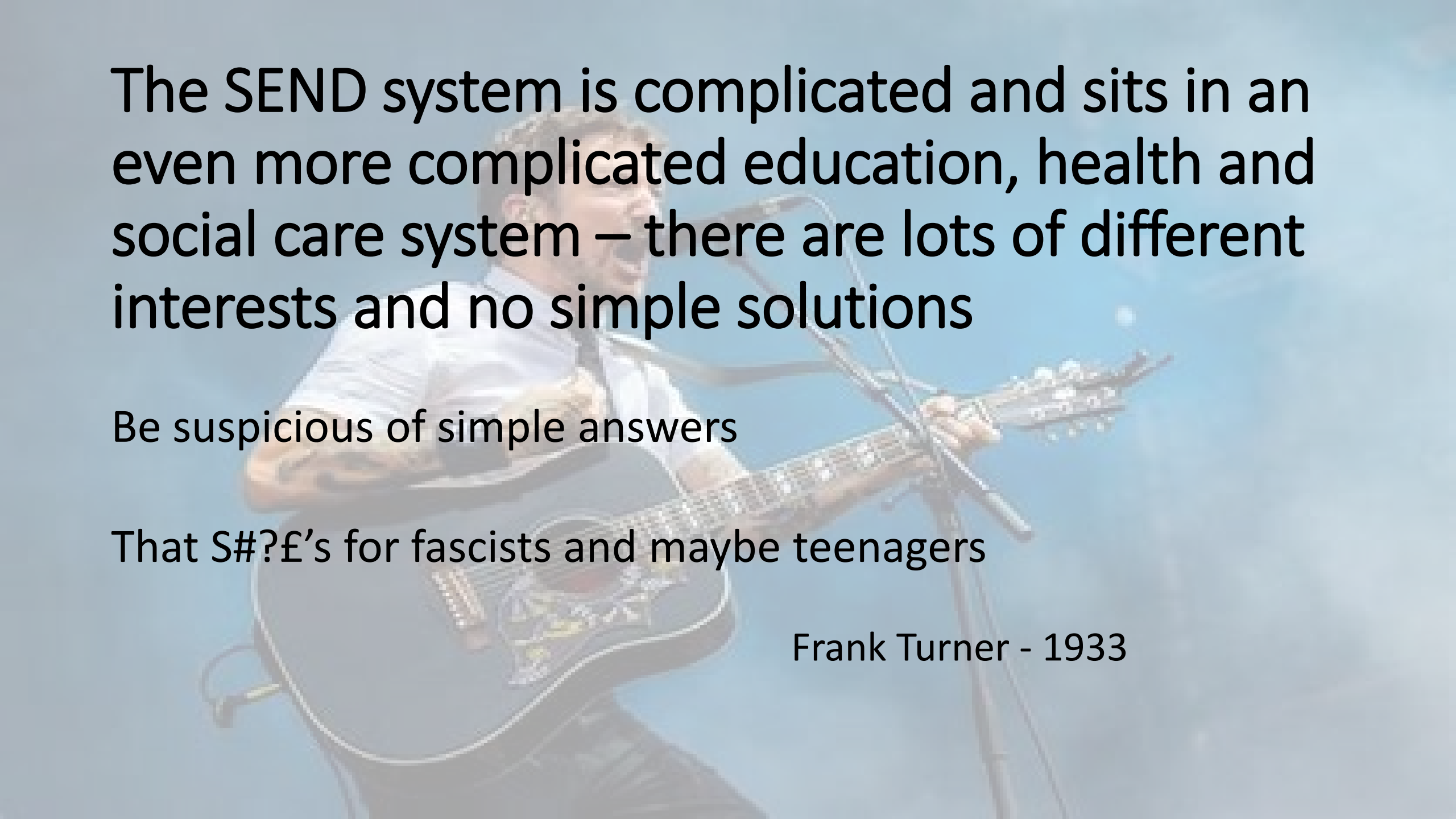
Eminem – Lose Yourself

A photograph of the band Coldplay performing on stage. The lead singer, Chris Martin, is in the center, wearing a white t-shirt with a colorful pattern and dark pants, crouching and covering his mouth with his hand. To his left, a guitarist in a dark jacket and blue cap plays a red electric guitar. To his right, a bassist in a dark jacket plays a red bass guitar. The background features a large screen with abstract, colorful patterns in shades of blue, pink, and purple. The overall lighting is dim, with stage lights illuminating the performers.

We have got to make progress – there is a risk that SEND will become as difficult as adult social care and politically no-one will touch it...

Nobody said it was easy
No one ever said it would be this hard

Coldplay – The Scientist



The SEND system is complicated and sits in an even more complicated education, health and social care system – there are lots of different interests and no simple solutions

Be suspicious of simple answers

That S#?£'s for fascists and maybe teenagers

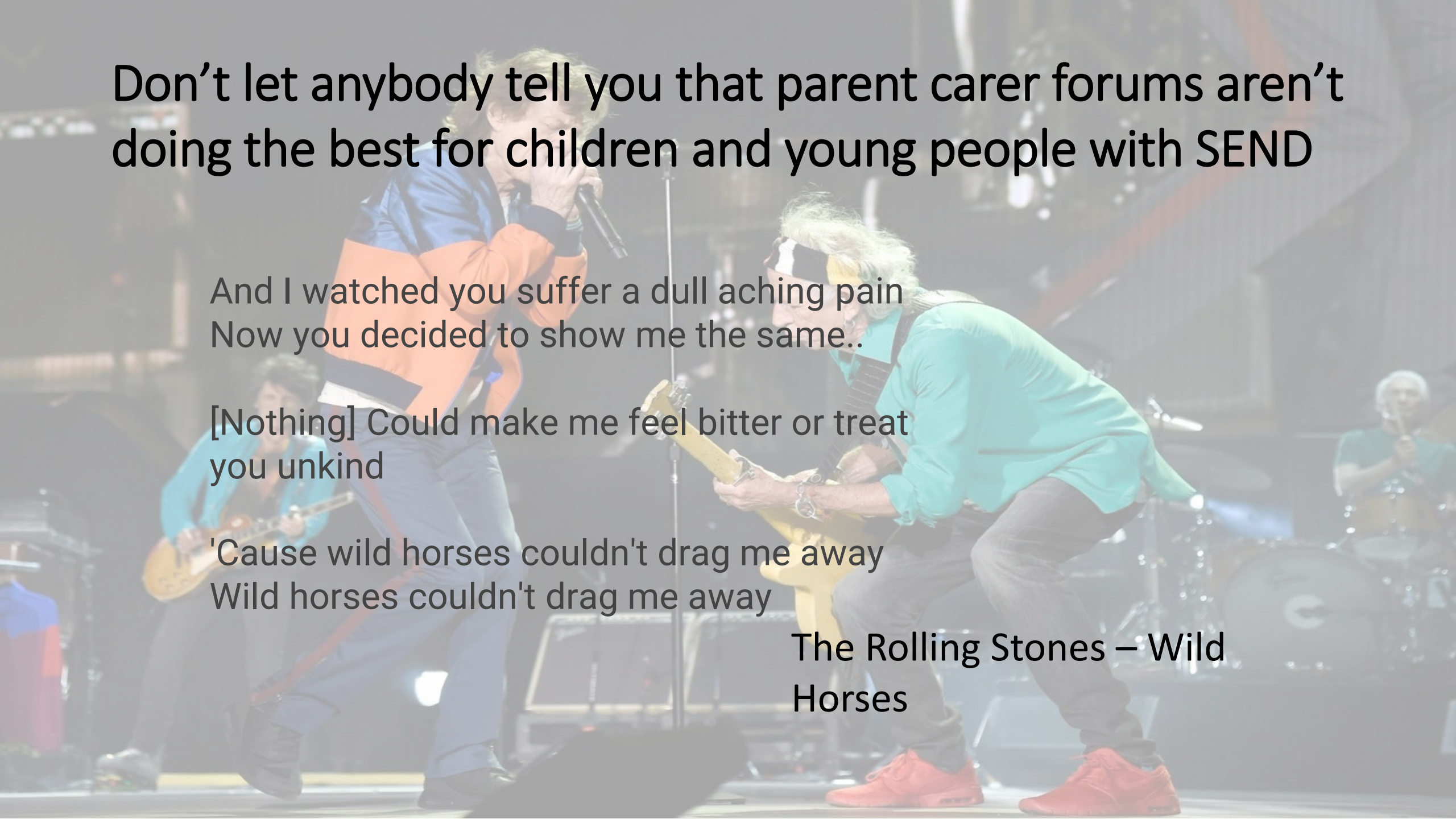
Frank Turner - 1933

A photograph of Taylor Swift performing on stage. She is wearing a dark, sequined dress and has her arms raised in a celebratory gesture. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and purple light.

The temperature is going to go even higher
after SENDAP publication – keep doing the right
things for the right reasons

'Cause the players gonna play, play, play, play, play
And the haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate

Taylor Swift – Shake It Off



Don't let anybody tell you that parent carer forums aren't doing the best for children and young people with SEND

And I watched you suffer a dull aching pain
Now you decided to show me the same..

[Nothing] Could make me feel bitter or treat
you unkind

'Cause wild horses couldn't drag me away
Wild horses couldn't drag me away

The Rolling Stones – Wild
Horses



Ooh yeah, you're amazing

We think you're incredible

Kate Bush - Wow