



PAF/04/13

**SEND CONSULTATION REPORT FROM THE SEND TASK AND FINISH GROUP
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Name

Date

1. Introduction

This report focuses on responses and early trends received through our online SEND Consultation. It does not include a separate workbook element of the consultation which targeted children and young people with SEND.

The online consultation ran for three months from February to the end of April and sought views from a wide cross section of people with an interest in SEND services across Essex.

2. Purpose of the consultation

The main purpose of the consultation was to engage with as many key stakeholders as possible and to obtain their views on our six proposed priorities for the future delivery of SEND services.

3. Our approach

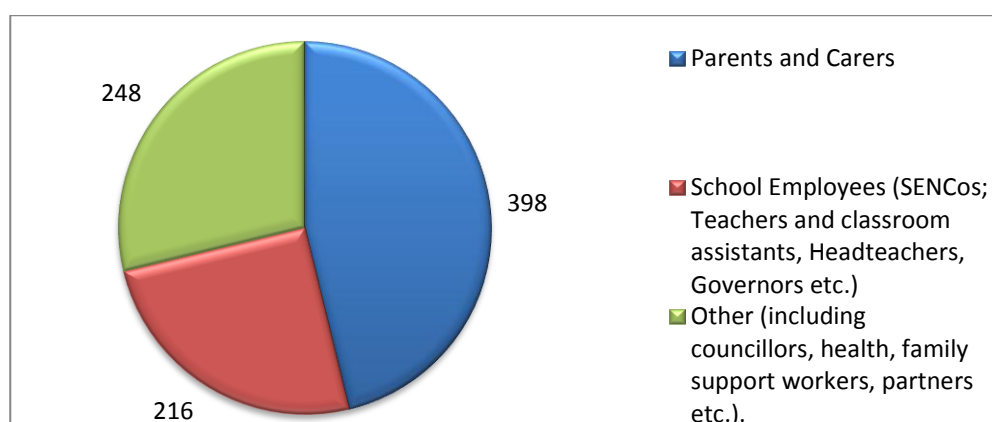
Our consultation differentiated between those who were parents and carers, school employees and other respondents and allowed us to tailor the questions depending on the audience group.

We used:

- The online consultation portal on Essex Insight (our data observatory) was used to capture and undertake initial high level analysis from these audiences upon which, findings within this report are based. The consultation included several other elements (including those listed below) and these are yet to be analysed.
 - Workbook – this contained questions intended to capture views from children and young people with SEND
 - Electronic PowerPoint consultation – this used pictures and audio to allow children and young people with SEND to provide their answers to their carer with minimal assistance.
 - Face to face survey with parents conducted by parents support group FACE. We have received around 130 responses so far.

4. Who responded?

We received a total of 862 online responses. According to the Research and Analysis department within ECC, this is an extremely health response rate. Below is a breakdown by respondent category:

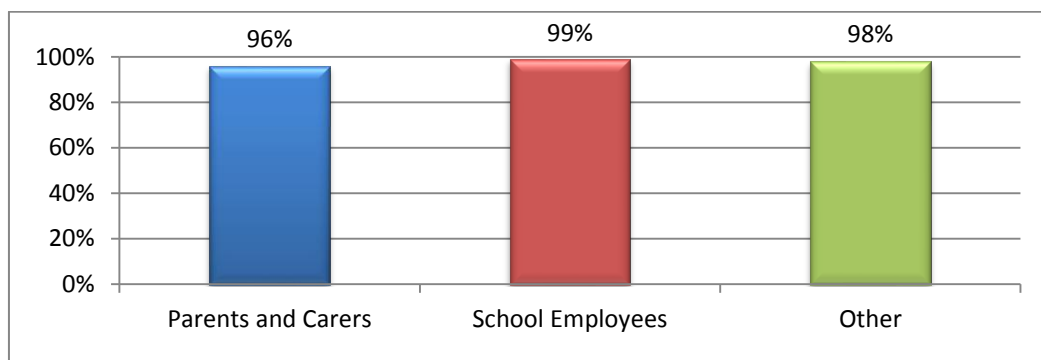


5. Responses received

The consultation asked each type of respondent whether they agreed with each of the six priorities identified, these were -

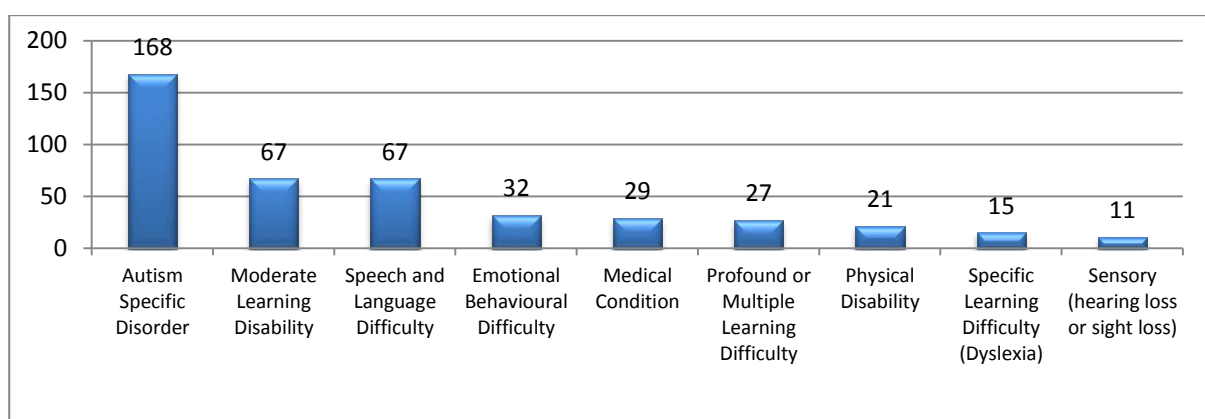
- Ensure all schools and educational settings offer good or outstanding provision for pupils with SEND
- Strengthen and coordinate our approach to preventative work and early intervention programmes
- Improve partnership and joint commissioning
- Ensure pupils with SEND follow a planned pathway through transition into adulthood that supports their progression
- Improve the organisation and delivery of SEN assessments, placements and services including joint assessment and funding arrangements for C&YP
- We want to ensure there is a range of provision in place to support children with SEND.

Levels of support were extremely high for all priorities and by all audience types as shown by the chart below which averages the level of support across each priority: -



Parents and carers

Parents were asked to identify their Child's SEND need, the top three responses were Autism Specific Disorder, Moderate Learning Disability and Speech and Language Difficulty as shown below –



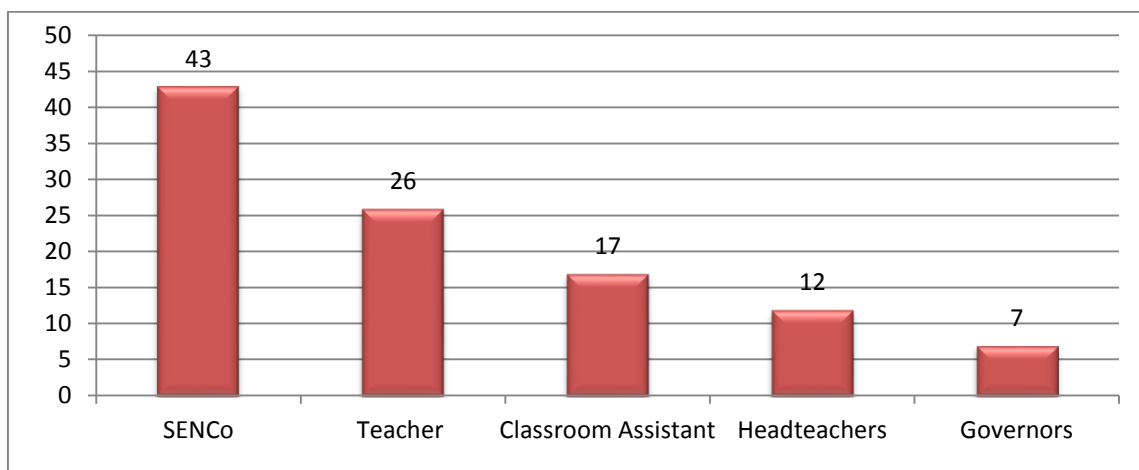
When asked their view on whether the needs of siblings of children with SEND are accounted for enough 80% said no. They were then asked how they could be better supported and common responses included Counselling, increased understanding through events, listen to them, days out, workshops and support groups.

Parents and carers were also asked what specialist support services they thought would make the most impact on their child's outcomes or wellbeing. The most popular responses are shown below: -

Description	Frequency
Specialist Teaching Services	161
Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	160
Speech Therapy	147
Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities	125
Specialist Services for Children with Disabilities	116

School Employees

The chart below shows the number of responses received from five most popular categories of school employee: -



We asked what else we could do to improve progress and achievement for children and young people with SEND and the most popular responses included Training, Easy access to specialist advice and support (local offer) and listening to the concerns of parents and children/young people.

In response to being asked what services we need to target at early intervention the three most popular answers were specialist teacher advice, pre-school and speech and language.

Finally school employees were asked what we could do to improve the way schools, health and social care work together to support children and families. The most common responses included the lack of join up between agencies/partnership working, the need for improved communications and transparency relating to general practices and guidance and better information sharing.

Other

This group were also asked what we could do to improve the way schools, health and social care work together to support children and families. The most popular responses were to improve joint commissioning, to ensure better information sharing and to make expectations around roles and accountability clearer.

6. Next steps

In terms of next steps we will continue to analyse the responses received so far to the online consultation, particularly the numerous open ended questions to search for patterns and to consider how these findings will influence our new SEND strategy for Essex.

We will also analyse the responses to other elements of the consultation identified in this paper including the feedback from Workbooks and the face-to-face survey undertaken by FACE.

The consultation will also continue through engagement sessions with all stakeholders on the 6 priorities (June 2013). These will be informed by the analysis of the consultation activity outlined above.

In terms of timescales we will look to have produced the new strategy by August 2013, for sign off and publication by September 2013.