

SEND Strategy and redesign Engagement



Essex County Council

We ran a public engagement survey from 22nd March 2019 to 31st May 2019.

We asked for views from

- parents/carers of children with SEND,
- practitioners that work in an education setting,
- practitioners that work within Essex County Council, both in social care and education,
- practitioners that work in the health profession and
- young people

We were gathering views on the following;

- Our vision for SEND
- Principles for SEND and ways of working
- Enabling and supporting the development of a School-Led SEND System
- Growing the Specialist SEND Provision in Essex
- The redesign and new approach for ECC SEND teams

We widely advertised the consultation across the local area:

- Directly contacted all Special Schools and Enhanced Provisions
- Contacted all Headteachers and SENCOs via the Education Essex newsletter. We asked all schools to share these details with their families
- Contacted all Early Year settings via the Early Years Newsletter
- Directly contacted all Further Education settings
- Published via Essex County Council routes and their social media pages including, Essex Short Breaks Service, Youth Service, Essex Local Offer
- Through our Essex Family Forum and the SEND Family Champions

In addition to the survey, we wanted to maximise the engagement from our families so we;

- Held a Family Support group meeting with all voluntary parent support groups
- Essex Family Forum held 17 parental engagement workshops across Essex, as a mixture of day and evening sessions for parents to share their experiences as well as sharing with them the vision and strategy for SEND

Engagement



1027 responded to the survey, including 511 parents and carers, 358 from an education setting and 104 who work for Essex county council across education and social care and 4 young people.



Just over 200 participants booked on to attend the parental engagement sessions ran by Essex family forum



31 individuals (over 15 different parental groups) attended the voluntary groups event on 27th September

Summary of what we found out

We have collated all responses from the survey, including 874 comments in the free text boxes, and 1000 comments that were received from the Essex Family Forum graffiti wall which will inform the new SEND Strategy.

92% of respondents agreed with the vision for SEND

- ❖ Health and wellbeing and participation were also seen as a high priority to be included

90% of respondents agreed with our principles of working

- ❖ Feedback was to add clarity and further principles to cover clear, openness, consistency, realistic and non-judgemental

71% of respondents agreed with the School-Led SEND System

- ❖ 373 respondents entered comments; 11 negative comments; 17 strong reservations; 325 seeking clarification or making a comment and 20 personal experiences

91% of respondents agreed with growing our specialist provision

- ❖ 250 respondents entered comments; 3 negative; 5 strong reservations; 225 seeking clarification or making a comment and 17 personal experiences
- ❖ 251 respondents entered comments regarding the redesign; 14 negative; 9 strong reservations; 221 seeking clarification or making a comment and 7 personal experiences

Areas for development



Jargon-free, clear messages – removing education speak that could mean something slightly different to any group of individuals



Further clarity and understanding around School-Led SEND system, funding in schools and how the new SEND teams will work differently to how they currently do



Transitions between phases of education, and how to ensure this is as smooth as possible



Joint working across health, social care and education teams – ‘tell it once’ approach



Building trust and better relationships with our families – increased parent support and communication

Next steps

This term, we are focusing on engaging with **schools and settings**

- 26 sessions with primary, secondary and special headteachers, SENCOs and Chairs of Governors across Essex between 7 Oct – 22 Nov
- 1 Further Education setting in Oct
- Various sessions with early years settings through our quadrant teams in Nov

Continued engagement with our **families** and support groups

- Creating a video to share with all families about the new SEND strategy and new SEND teams
- Working closely with the Essex Family Forum on the SEND Strategy and communicating the messages about the redesign clearly and jargon-free

Communicating with our internal and external **colleagues**

- Update on SEND Strategy to health colleagues
- Continued engagement with social care and the wider education teams in ECC