



What young people think about the SEND Review





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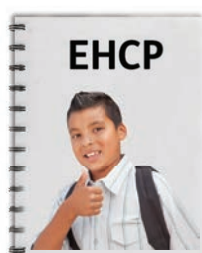
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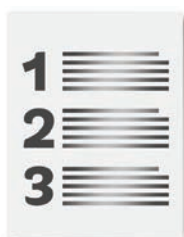
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What is SEND



Some children and young people may find it harder to learn.



They may need extra support at school or college.



Some children may have a disability that makes it harder to learn.



SEND

We say children who need extra support to learn have **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**.

We call it **SEND** for short. We say it like this: **send**.



The SEND Review

A **review** means looking at how something is working.



The Government has been looking at SEND support in schools and colleges in England.



They asked young people, their families and staff what they think about SEND support in schools.

This was called **The SEND Review**.



The Government looked at everything people said.

Then they came up with some ideas about how to make SEND services better.



About this report

We are the **Council for Disabled Children**.



We asked young people what they thought about the Government's ideas for SEND services.



123

We spoke to **123** young people aged between 12 and 25 years old.

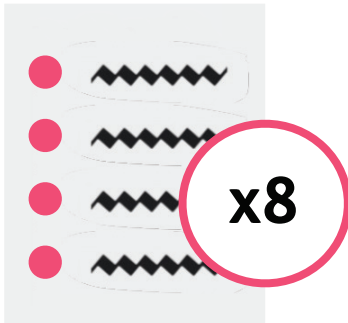


The young people we spoke to were from all over England.

They had a mix of different disabilities and health needs.



We listened to what everyone said.
Then we put it in a big report.



Here are the 8 main things we found out.

1. National SEND Standards



The Government wants all children and young people to have the same good SEND services.



They plan to write a list of rules called the **National SEND Standards**.



All local councils must follow these rules.



The rules will be the same all over England.

What young people think about this idea

Young people said the standards should include:



- training for teachers about SEND. This will help them to support young people in the best way



- better information about SEND in schools. This will help staff and pupils understand and respect young people with SEND



- more support for young people with **sensory needs**.

Sensory needs means things that might affect your senses like sound, light, taste or touch



- more help and support in schools around mental health. Also more support around bullying



- more time for young people to learn and have quiet spaces to learn in



- more social clubs and activities for young people

2. Choosing which school or college to go to



The Government wants to give parents a list of schools.



Parents would use the list to choose the school they want for their child.



The schools that go on the list will be chosen by the local council.

What young people think about this idea



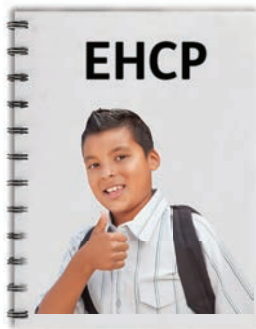
Half of the young people we spoke to said they want to choose their own school or college to go to.



Some schools do not have places for children and young people with SEND.

Lots of young people were not happy about this and said it felt unfair.

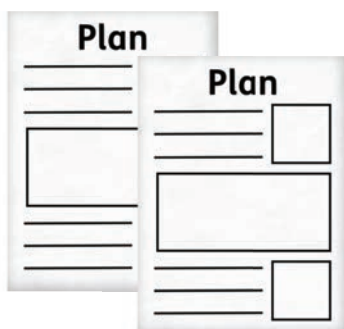
3. Education, Health and Care Plans



An **Education, Health and Care Plan** lists a young person's health and care needs. It is called **EHCP** for short.



A plan says how to support someone at school or college.



The Government wants everyone in England to use the same layout.

This means everyone's plan will have the same parts and questions to fill in.

What young people think about this idea



Some young people thought it is a good idea to for everyone's plans to have the same parts and questions.

It might make the plans easier to read and understand.



But some young people thought it was a bad idea. They said it is important that the plans show what each person needs.



The most important thing for young people was that their plan lists all their needs.



Young people and their families must be involved in writing their own plans.



4. Putting EHCPs online

The Government wants to keep people's plans online.



They think it would make it easier for young people, their families and staff to see the plans.



What young people think about this idea

Some young people said it is a good idea.



They thought it would be easier to check their plan and see any changes.

But some young people:



- were worried that people might not have a computer or the internet at home



- were worried if their information would be safe online



- did not want their parents to be able to see changes they made to their plans.



This might be things like changing their name or **gender**. **Gender** is if you feel like you are a man or a woman or neither.



- thought you should be able to choose if you want your plan to be online

5. Working out problems earlier



Sometimes young people and their families don't agree with the council about what support they need.



The Government wants to try to stop this from happening. They want to try to solve any problems earlier.



What young people think about this idea

We asked young people what would help if they did not agree with the council.



Young people told us it is important:

- to feel listened to and included by all adults supporting them



- to feel able to say no if they don't agree with something



- to have someone at the council to talk to and who can help



- to understand their **rights** and get good support.

Your **rights** are things you are allowed to do and how you should be treated

6. Common transfer files and Adjustment passports



The Government have suggested making 2 new files. These would be used by young people when they move from school.

File 1: Common transfer files. From school to college



The file will have all the important information about a young person. This includes information like their name, address and support needs.



The information would be seen by both the school and college when the person leaves school.



This would help the college put the right support in place before the young person starts.



What young people think about this idea

Young people thought this file would be very good.



It is important the young person says is ok to share their information in the file.



The teacher and young person should write the file together. This will make sure the right information is in it.



Some young people were worried the file would tell their new teachers private things about their past.

File 2: Adjustment passports. From college to university or work



Young people can use this document if they go to university or start a job.



It would help them to share all the important information about their support needs.

What young people think about this idea



Young people said:

- the passport is a good idea



- people could use the passports to share good things they have done and are proud of



- young people should be involved in writing their passports.



- The passports should be written in a way that the young person can understand



- some young people said there are other documents that give the same information.

They would rather have a face to face chat instead of filling in another file

7. Including young people in making decisions about services



All children and young people have the right to be included in making decisions.



We spoke to the young people about different services they use.

We asked which services they would like to be included in making decisions about.

What services young people want to be included in:



- school support services



- mental health and health services



- youth groups



- young people felt transport services and getting about was really important

How young people want to be involved

We asked young people what was the best way to involve them in making decisions. They said:



- having a one to one chat



- phone calls and video calls



- online events



- at youth groups and activities



- questionnaires

8. Working together with children and young people



The Government wants children, young people and their families to be more involved in planning and running SEND services.

What young people think about this idea

Young people told us they want:

- people to talk to them about planning or changing new services





- to be involved in interviewing new staff for groups and services



- to be involved in plans or decisions from the very beginning to the end. This is called **co-production**

Things we think need to happen



After speaking and listening to young people, here is a list of the main things that need to happen:



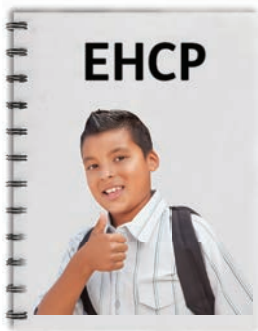
1 Young people from all backgrounds and communities should be involved in making the SEND standards.



2 Parents should have a choice about which school or college their child goes to. The council should offer a good list of schools and colleges to choose from.



3 If people are unhappy about their SEND support, it should be clear what they need to do.



4

EHCPs should be easy for children and young people to understand. The plans should fully meet the young persons needs.



5

EHCPs should be stored online so that the young person and their family can see them.



6

Young people should be able have their say in a way that best meets their needs.



7

Any documents about the young person should be written together with them. It should include their thoughts and wishes.



8

Children and young people should be fully included in making decisions about services they use.



We would like to thank all the young people, families, carers and staff for helping with this report.