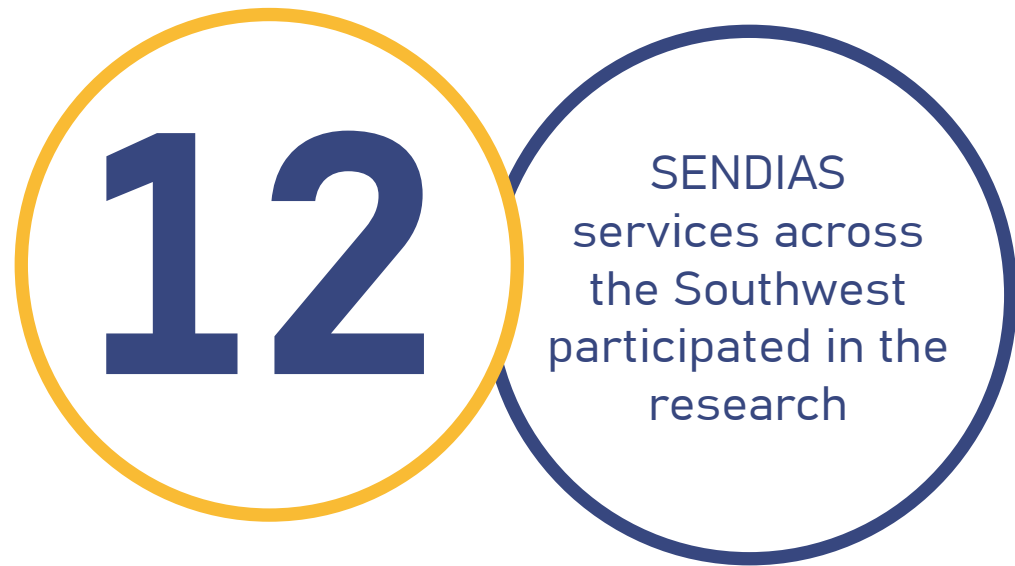




The Impact of Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support, (SENDIAS) services in the Southwest Region

The research was commissioned by the Southwest SENDIASS Network to investigate the impact of the delivery of IAS services in the region in relation to:

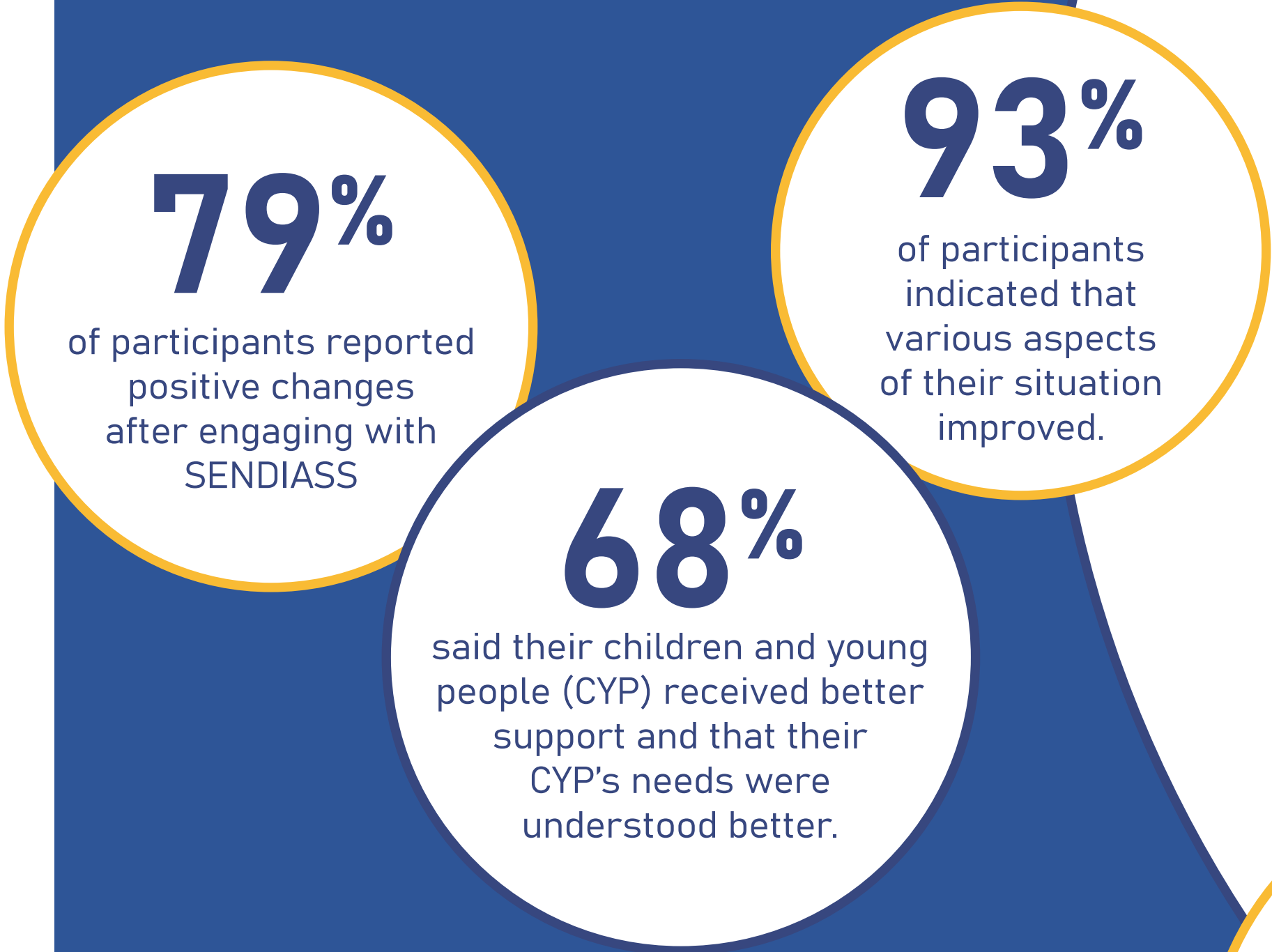
- 1. Outcomes for CYP with SEND and their families and
- 2. Financial sustainability of Local Authorities high needs budgets



The research included analysis of parent carer and professionals' surveys; service user and professional feedback and case studies.

Empowering Families and Improving Outcomes

The research underscores the value of SENDIASS involvement, revealing that:



Comments from parent carers demonstrate that SENDIASS services play a crucial role in enabling families to:

- Navigate the SEND system, feel empowered to advocate for their families.
- Gain knowledge about available support, legal rights, and choices.

The impact on CYP is equally significant, as they receive **timely support** that **enhances their emotional health**, academic performance, behaviour, relationships, and independence. Importantly, their views are acknowledged, leading to a better understanding of their needs.

Participants reported that there were positive changes following SENDIASS involvement, on things relating to outcomes for their child including:



Financial Sustainability for Local Authorities, Integrated Care Boards and partners

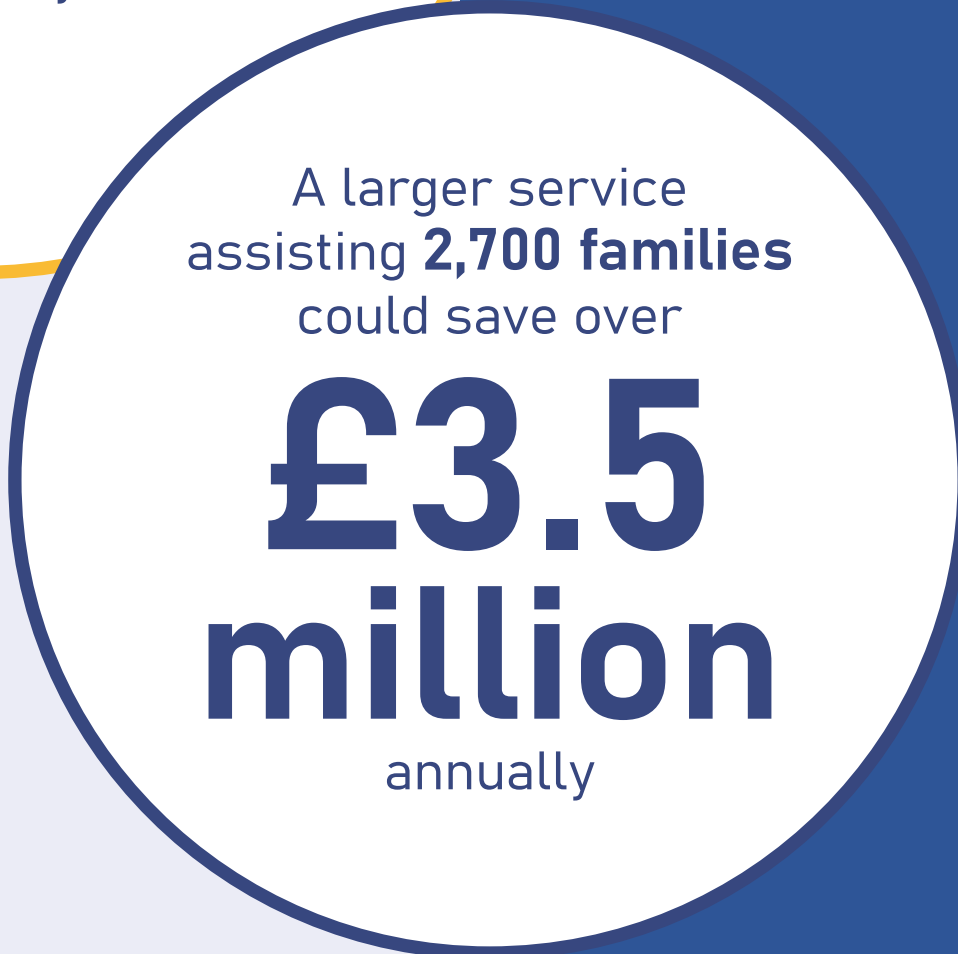
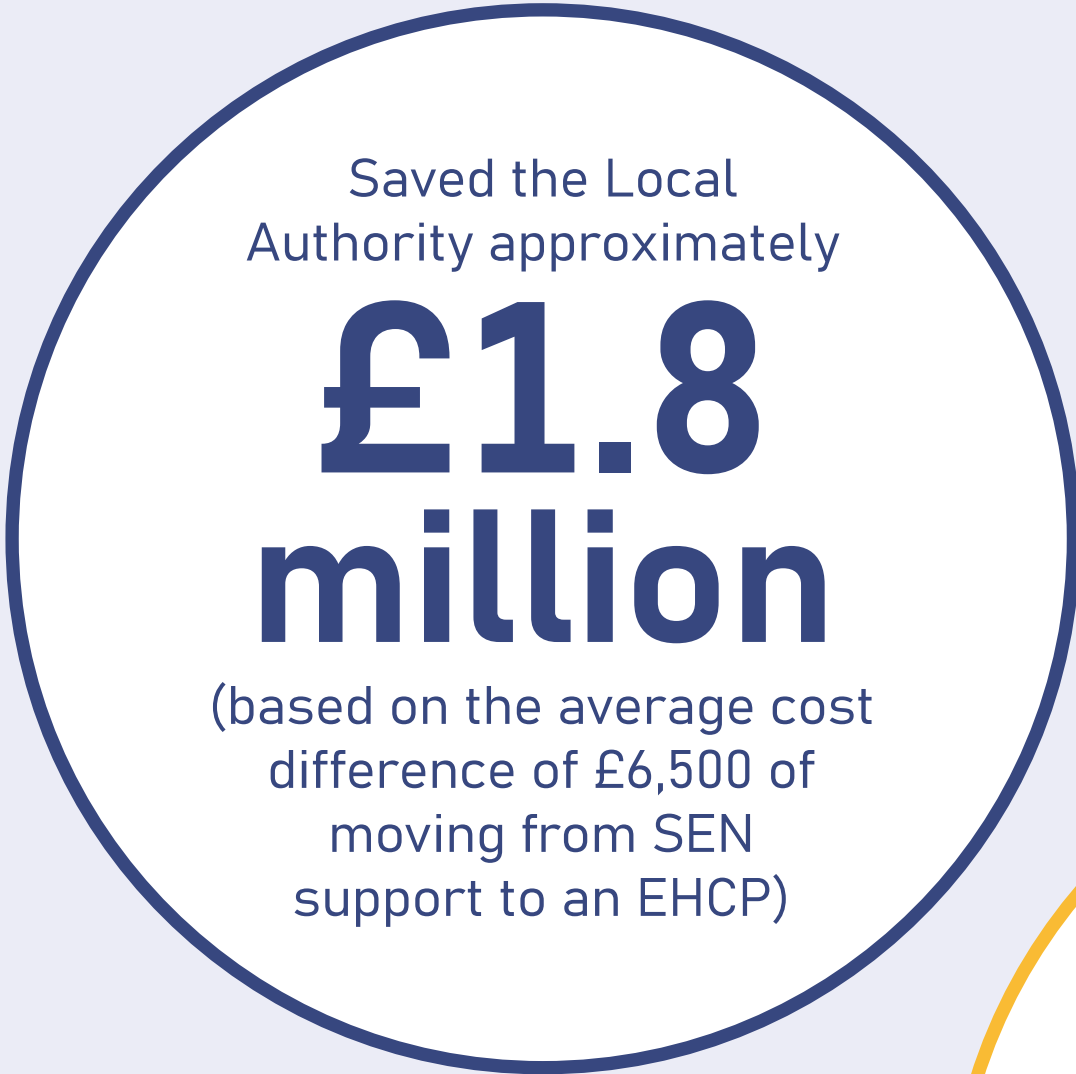
The report reveals an important insight regarding the financial benefits to Local Authorities. The involvement of SENDIAS services can prevent costly escalations in cases that might otherwise lead to requests for Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessments, tribunal hearings, or permanent school exclusions.

Targeted support from SENDIAS services at an early stage can be very effective in preventing escalation, with commensurate savings to the high needs budget.

In the first case study, despite only working with small numbers of families, a **saving of £52k** was made to the high needs budget based on the average cost difference between SEND support and EHCPs.

Data from the larger scale case study indicates that targeted intervention focused on SEN support may have **saved the local authority approximately £1.8 million** (based on the average cost difference of £6.5k of moving from SEN support to an EHCP).

Professional feedback indicates an **average cost saving of £13,300 per case** in avoided escalation scenarios. For instance, a small SENDIASS service supporting 600 families could save a Local Authority's high needs budget **approximately £798,000 annually**, while a larger service assisting 2,700 families could **save over £3.5 million**.



Challenges and enablers

Unaddressed capacity pressures in SENDIAS services which result in changes to delivery are likely to result in increased costs to the high needs budget, far exceeding the salary costs of maintaining or growing services to meet demand.

Recommendations

Commissioners of SENDIAS services in the Southwest work with SENDIASS managers to agree an approach to reporting on cost avoidance resulting from support provided and take this into account when planning service budgets and expectations of delivery.

