

Consultation on new provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2021

Consultation Responses – Summary Report

Executive Summary

A consultation, providing information about SEN provision was available online from 10 May 2021 – 20 June 2021. It was available on the East Sussex County Council’s citizen space webpage. The local authority (LA) told parents/carers about the consultation in several ways including through social media. The consultation link was also shared with the East Sussex Parent/Carer Forum.

This report summarises the responses to questions and key comments given to some questions. Text in italics is taken from the consultation document to add context to this report.

The consultation results demonstrated support for the development of the new provision being proposed. Respondents commented that there were gaps in provision across the county, by need and geographical area.

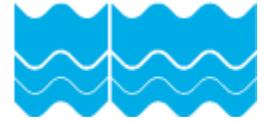
The responses to the consultation are being used to develop the SEND place planning strategy. The local authority thanks everyone who gave their views and completed the survey.

1. Introduction

99 responses were received to the consultation. Respondents identified themselves as set out below:

Responded as	Total	Percent
Parent/Carer	74*	74%
Special school in East Sussex	2	2%
Mainstream school in East Sussex	20	20%
SEN support worker	3	3%
Other (please specify)*	1	1%
Total Responses	100	100%

*The respondent who selected ‘other’ specified they were a school governor.



2. Forecasting of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Council's SEND forecasting model predicts future numbers of children with SEND and Education Health and Care plans (EHCPs) by age, severity band of EHCP and primary need. Our SEND forecasts provide clear evidence that we will continue to see an increase in the number of pupils with EHCPs over the next 10-15 years.

Question 2: Are these forecasts consistent with your experience of the type of pupils with SEND presenting in your school/setting/service?

81 respondents answered this question, 21 respondents provided a comment.

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	69	70%	No	12	12%	Did not answer	18	18%

The majority of respondents said that the forecasts are consistent with their experience of the type of SEND pupils are presenting with. Only 12% disagreed. Respondents gave further support to this in the comments, noting an increase in pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Social Emotional Mental Health needs. 2 respondents said that they had seen a rise in Speech Communication and Language needs. 5 respondents thought that the forecasts were too low and that actual numbers will be higher. 4 respondents commented on the difficulties they have had in getting EHCPs for their children/pupils. 1 respondent said that the numbers of pupils with EHCPs had declined at their school.

3. New Specialist Provision

Over the last few years, the local authority has been implementing our plans to develop more places for SEND pupils, these include new free special schools and the development of more specialist facilities in mainstream schools.

Question 3: Are you aware of these new free schools and specialist facility provision?

98 respondents answered this question, 21 respondents provided a comment.

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	60	61%	No	38	38%	Did not answer	1	1%

61% of respondents were aware of the new free schools and specialist facility provision. 38% were aware of some provision in specific areas of the County. The comments show that some respondents were aware of local provision but were not aware of provision in other areas of the county. A couple of respondents said there is not enough local provision to meet the needs of their individual children.

4. Future Needs

An analysis of the forecasts has informed our strategy for where new provision should be developed. This strategy aims to ensure sufficient specialist provision for pupils with EHCPs within their local area. The following SEND provision needs have been identified as priorities:

Specialist facility provision in the primary phase in Hastings/Rother, Eastbourne and Peacehaven for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder needs.

Question 4: Do you agree that we need more specialist facilities in the primary phase for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder needs?

97 respondents answered this question and there were 29 comments

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	96	97%	No	1	1%	Did not answer	2	2%

Nearly all respondents (97%) agreed that more specialist facilities in the primary phase for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder needs were needed. Of the 29 comments received many felt that there are currently not enough spaces. They felt the current provision is too far from many areas because of the geography of the county. There is a need for quicker diagnosis. 4 respondents thought the need for this type of provision is within the Newhaven/Peacehaven/Lewes area.

Question 5: Do you agree that this provision is required in the geographical areas mentioned - Hastings/Rother, Eastbourne and Peacehaven?

98 respondents answered this question and there were 31 comments

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	86	87%	No	12	12%	Did not answer	1	1%

87% of respondents agreed that Hastings/Rother, Eastbourne and Peacehaven areas need more provision. Some respondents felt that the focus of specialist provision is around the local towns. So, finding suitable provision in more rural areas, for example in the north and Rother, is difficult. 10 respondents identified Peacehaven/Newhaven as having a need for this type of provision.

Question 6: Do you think there are any other gaps in the county for specialist facility provision, either by type of need or geographical area?

89 respondents answered this question and there were 69 responses

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	80	81%	No	9	9%	Did not answer	10	10%

Most respondents (81%) felt that there were gaps of specialist facility provision in the county. In the comments a range of other types of need and geographical areas were listed. The ones that were mentioned by more than one respondent were:

- Speech, language and communication in Hastings/Rother
- Moderate learning difficulties
- Autistic spectrum condition, and social emotional and mental health difficulties in the Lewes area
- Autistic spectrum disorder special school in the west
- Profound multiple learning difficulties in Wealden
- North of the county/Wealden
- The need for more specialist facilities
- Children that fall between not requiring a special school for autistic spectrum disorder but cannot manage in mainstream
- Post 16 provision.

We have identified a need for more special school provision in the north of the county for pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties and other complex needs, including at nursery age.

Question 7: Do you agree that we need more provision for pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties and other complex needs in the north of the county?

There were 80 responses to this part of the question and 22 comments.

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	71	72%	No	9	9%	Did not answer	19	19%

71% of respondents agreed that more provision of this type is required. 9% did not agree. A couple of respondents said that the provision is also required in the south.

Question 8: Do you agree that we need more nursery provision for children with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties and other complex needs in the north of the county?

There were 84 responses to this part of the question and 21 comments.

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	76	77%	No	8	8%	Did not answer	15	15

Comments supported the need for this provision. A couple of respondents asked if there was also a need for nursery provision in the south.

Question 9: Do you think there are any other gaps in the county for special school provision, either by type of need or geographical area?

There were 81 responses to this part of the question, and 42 comments.

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	68	69%	No	13	13%	Did not answer	18	18%

69% of respondents felt that there were gaps of special school provision in the county. The comments listed a range of other types of need and geographical areas. The ones that were mentioned by more than one respondent were:

- Provision for post-16 and post-19 pupils
- Speech communication and language needs in Hastings
- Peacehaven/Newhaven/Lewes area, including for social emotional and mental health needs
- Provision for pupils within the autistic spectrum disorder that meets their specific needs.

5. Future Needs

We have identified a need for more post-16 provision for SEND pupils, including more opportunities for pupils with SEND to access further education college provision in Lewes and more supported employment opportunities across the county

Question 10: Do you agree that we need more opportunities for pupils with SEND to access further education college provision in Lewes?

There were 83 responses to this part of the question and 19 comments.

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	76	77%	No	7	7%	Did not answer	16	16%

There was broad agreement in the comments about the need for this provision. An area also identified as also needing this provision was The Havens. Two respondents commented that there is a need for more provision of this type in all areas of East Sussex.

Question 11: Do you agree that we need more supported employment opportunities for SEND learners?

There were 91 responses to this part of the question and 10 responses.

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	89	90%	No	2	2%	Did not answer	8	8%

There was strong agreement in the comments about the need for this provision. There were no comments from those who answered “No”.

Question 12: Do you think there are any other gaps in the county for post-16 SEND provision, either by type of need or geographical area?

There were 85 responses to this part of the question and 35 comments.

Option	Total	Percent		Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	73	74%		No	12	12%	Did not answer	14	14%

The comments referred to all areas of the county needing more post-16 provision. A couple of comments suggested that existing special schools should develop sixth forms. The need for more supported employment opportunities was also repeated.

Question 13: Is there any other provision that you think we should be developing for SEND pupils? If so, what provision and why?

There were 79 responses to this part of the question and 69 responses.

Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent	Option	Total	Percent
Yes	71	72%	No	8	8%	Did not answer	20	20%

Most respondents (72%) felt that we should be developing more provision for SEND pupils, with only 8% replying that we should not. The comments listed a range of other types of need and geographical areas. The ones that were mentioned by more than one respondent were:

- Vocational education and support for progression to employment, and post-19 provision
- More mental health support
- Autism and anxiety needs
- Social emotional and mental health needs
- More specialist facilities
- After school activities and holiday clubs.

A number of respondents said that mainstream schools need more support and training. This is to meet the needs of pupils with EHCPs who do not meet the criteria for special schools and so that SEND pupils feel fully included. 4 respondents commented on the process of applying for an EHCP and how challenging this process is.