

Appendix 3

SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2025-2029 Engagement and consultation summary

Introduction

1. This paper sets out the engagement and consultation that took place for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision Strategy 2025-29 and the impact that it had.
2. A parent carer Reference Group was set up as part of the governance of the strategy development. A series of engagement sessions with parent carers, children and young people with SEND and professionals to inform the development of the draft strategy were followed by a seven-week public consultation on the draft strategy. An 'easy read' version of the strategy was also created and consulted on.
3. As part of a public consultation exercise, a series of questions were asked about various aspects of the strategy, and whether respondents agreed with the identified draft principles and priorities.

Parent carer Reference Group

4. City of London parent carers were invited to join a parent carer Reference Group which formed part of the governance process for the development of the SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy. Five parent carers joined and a terms of reference was agreed.
5. The Group met three times to discuss and inform the development of the strategy, this included helping shape the engagement process and informing the development of and agreeing the key aspects of the strategy to go out for public consultation. The Group's final session reflected on the Strategy following public consultation and a draft action plan to take forward for further development with the relevant professionals.

Strategy development engagement

6. A series of engagement activities were delivered to inform the development of the draft strategy that went out for public consultation. These were used to test the principles from the previous SEND Strategy 2020-2024 and to identify new priorities and key actions. These activities were:
 - two facilitated engagement session with 30 professionals and two parent carers. There was representation from education, health and social care services including:

- City of London Corporation (City Corporation) representatives from Children’s Social Care and Early Help, Education and Early Years, SEND, Adult Social Care, Commissioning and Adult Education, Libraries
 - Health representation from NHS North East London and the Designated Clinical Offer and Head of Speech and Language Therapy, as well as City of London Healthwatch
 - Education representatives, including Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinators (SENDCOs), from the Aldgate School and other education settings in neighbouring boroughs that City of London children attend
 - City Parent Carer Forum Lead
 - individual conversations with four relevant City Corporation officers who were unable to attend the facilitated engagement sessions
 - a City Parent Carer Forum session with three parent carers and the Forum lead
 - a young people’s facilitated creative art session at the Artizan Library with six children and young people
7. A City Corporation officer also attended existing sessions to have conversations with children, young people and parent carers. These were:
- Islington Parent Carer Forum as some City of London resident parent carers attend their groups
 - City Youth Forum meeting
 - Shoe Lane Library rhyme time session

Public consultation

8. Following the development of the draft strategy, a public consultation period was undertaken to gather feedback from children and young people, parent carers, Members, City of London residents and professionals on the identified draft principles and priorities.
9. The consultation was open for seven weeks (15 July to 2 September 2024). Seven weeks was considered to be proportionate for this consultation.
10. The consultation information was sent by email directly to:
- the parent carer Reference Group
 - attendees of the facilitated public consultation events
 - members of the SEND Programme Board
 - members of the SENDCO Network
 - colleagues at the City of London Police
 - the Member Champion for SEND
 - parent carers of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

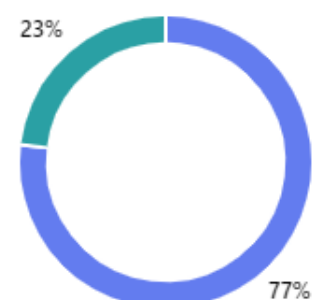
11. The consultation was promoted via the City Parent Carer Forum and online on the City Corporation website and the Family Information Service website. Information about the consultation was also shared with the City Corporation parent carer staff network and Barbican Centre parent carer group.
12. Hard copies of the consultation were placed in the three City of London libraries but no responses were collected.
13. Translations of the consultation were offered but none were requested.

Consultation response data

14. There were 13 responses to the online consultation survey. Within this (respondents could tick multiple boxes if appropriate):
 - 1 respondent has an EHCP
 - 2 were a parent carer or child or young person with SEND who live in the City of London
 - 1 was a parent carer of a child with an EHCP
 - 3 were a parent carer of a child with Special Educational Needs Support in their education setting
 - 1 was a City of London resident who has an interest in this area
 - 2 were professionals working in social care
 - 3 were professionals working in the education sector
 - 2 were none of the options offered
15. Overall, responses were supportive of the strategy with 77% of respondents stating they thought that the principles were right (23% were unsure) and 85% of respondents saying they didn't think anything was missing from the strategy. No major changes were required to the strategy as a result of the consultation.
16. Question: The principles in the strategy set out how the Local Area Partnership will work together to deliver the strategy. Do you think these are the right principles to base the strategy on?

13 Responses

| | |
|------------|----|
| ● Yes | 10 |
| ● No | 0 |
| ● Not sure | 3 |

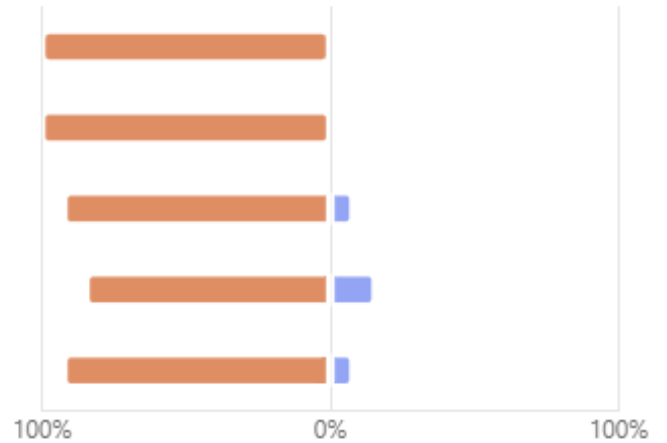


17. Question: The priority areas of the strategy are what we are going to focus on delivering. Which of these priorities feel important to you in your situation, e.g. your family or your organisation?

13 Responses

● Yes, this is important to my situation ● No, this isn't important to my situation

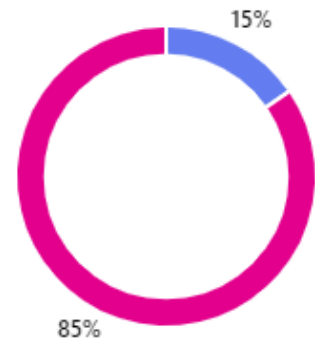
- Getting children and young people with SEND the right help at the right time
- Supporting children and young with SEND and their parents when they go through changes, like becoming an adult
- Making sure people who work with children and young people with SEND have the right skills and training to do their jobs
- Helping children and young people with SEND and their families feel welcomed in their local area
- Giving children and young people with SEND the education that they need



18. Question: Do you think there is anything missing from the priorities?

13 Responses

● Yes 2
 ● No 11

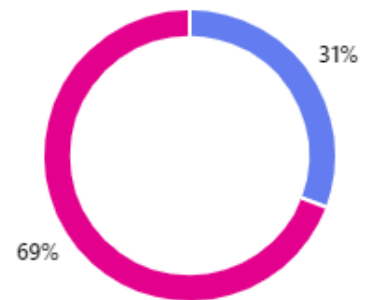
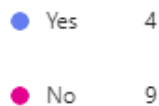


19. The two respondents that answered yes, they think something is missing from the priorities were asked to share what that was. The issues raised covered:

- equity for all children with SEND, including those from global majority communities
- supporting children and young people with SEND to achieve their full potential

20. Question: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your thoughts on the SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy?

13 Responses



21. The four respondents that said they would like to share further thoughts raised the following points:

- ensuring all City of London children, whether educated in or outside of the City of London, get the right support
- effectively measuring success for the priorities and actions within the strategy
- clarifying who makes the decision around what alternative provision is put in place for children without an EHCP
- ensuring that all children, including those with SEND, receive the right support to meet their individual needs and are able to achieve their full potential

22. Question: Thinking about the future, please finish this sentence, By 2028, I hope children and young people with SEND in the City of London.....

11 Responses



23. Where permission was given to share, responses were:

'By 2028, I hope children and young people with SEND in the City of London....'

- are well supported with access to the services they need to thrive
- have greater support and opportunities to thrive. Every child deserves the equity to go beyond perceived barriers
- are not referred into the service after the age of 5 where their needs have not been identified and their parents have been ignored by professionals regarding their concerns
- can fulfil their potential and live happy lives
- are given support promptly and the parents who advocate for them feel supported and find it easier to navigate the system
- will have many opportunities to take part in different workshops where they can be trained for the right skills and achieve success
- will be achieving well and have a clear pathway to a successful adult life
- still continue to get the help they deserve from the City of London
- will receive the appropriate assistance to achieve their full potential and set ambitious goals
- have access to appropriate support and opportunity

24. Respondents were asked which consultation document or documents they read:

- 6 read the draft SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy
- 3 read the easy read SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy
- 4 read both the draft and the easy read versions

Individual input

25. Two professionals, one working in the education sector and one for the City of London Police, responded directly via email to a City Corporation officer.

How were the consultation findings used?

26. The consultation findings were reviewed and taken into consideration in the development of the final version of the strategy.

27. Where consent was given, some of the responses to hopes for children and young people with SEND were quoted in the final version of the strategy.