

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Consultation Feedback

Southwark Council

September 2024

Background

What did we do?

- Undertook a round of **consultation** throughout May and June 2024.
- Delivered a **survey** to the children and young people with SEND, parents and carers, and our workforce.
- Delivered **workshops** with key groups.

Why did we do this?

- To better understand people's **experience** of services and the support that they receive.
- To understand people's views of the **leadership** of the SEND system and the level of our ambition for children and young people with SEND.

Activity and response

- Over **370 residents responded** to the online survey
 - **43** children and young people
 - **281** parents and carers
 - **43** multi-agency workforce
- A face to face **workshop with parents** at the Neurodiversity Family Hub
- A face to face **workshop with young people** previously in our care who had also had an Education, Health and Care Plan or SEN support
- Overall, we heard from **387 residents** and staff



The Neurodiversity Family Hub

Facilitate - Advocate - Empower Young People & Families

The poster has a light blue background with a silhouette of a young person's head in profile, facing left. The text is arranged as follows:

CALLING FOR VIEWS FROM

YOUNG PEOPLE

WHO NEED SUPPORT WITH...

- * behaviours and emotions
- * communication and social situations
- * specific learning needs
- * physical and health conditions

JOIN US ON THE 31ST OF MAY AT 10:30AM

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND FEEDBACK

ADDRESS: 7 TALFOURD PLACE SE15 £20 PAY

Children and young people

43

Children and young people responded to the survey

72%

Of survey respondents had an **Education, Health and Care Plan**

69%

Of survey respondents were **16 and over**

48%

Of survey respondents identified as **male**

30%

Of survey respondents reported **communication** as their primary need

32%

Of survey respondents were from **white British** backgrounds

45%

Of survey respondents identified as **female**

81%

Of survey respondents were in **education or a post-16 provision**

40%

Of survey respondents were from **black Caribbean or black African** backgrounds

Children and young people

- Children and young people were **broadly positive about the support they receive.**
- Children and young people were **less positive about how valued they felt in the community** and about how well they are **supported to make their own decisions** about the support that they receive.

My school has an amazing SEN department for children like me I have Autism, Dyslexia and Anxiety I can sometimes struggle with learning or understanding people's emotions but I'm very great full for the support I receive.

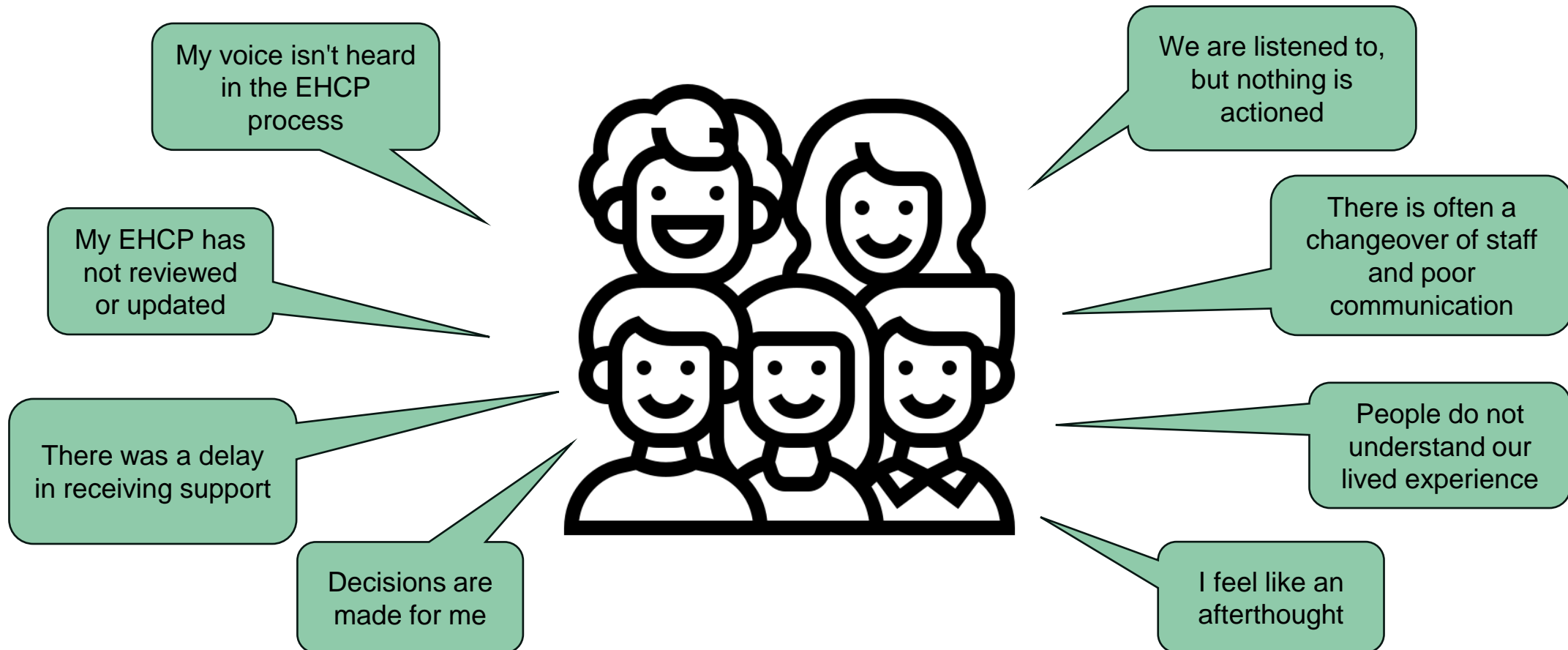
White British, 12-15

Every single employer I have had has punished me for things that are to do with my disability. I have problems with being on time. Multi-tasking processing Information. People assume because I have a large vocabulary and got As in English there can't be anything that wrong with me, so I get treated like a liar. My last employer told me if I don't improve my multi-tasking he will sack me . People take advantage of the fact it takes me longer to process information by talking quickly on purpose or making the flow of conversation so quick I don't get a chance to really answer then I will say the wrong answer out of pressure of trying to keep up socially and face consequences for it.

Preferred not to provide details

Children and young people

In the workshop with young people from Speakerbox, the responses were **slightly less positive** than the survey.



Parents and carers

281

Parents and carers responded to the survey

75%

Of survey respondents had a child with an **Education, Health and Care Plan**

35%

Of survey respondents had a child aged between **5 and 11**

65%

Of survey respondents had a child who identified as **male**

26%

Of survey respondents reported **communication** as their child's primary need

26%

Of survey respondents had a child from **white backgrounds**

31%

Of survey respondents had a child who identified as **female**

46%

Of survey respondents had a child from a **black or mixed black background**

Parents and carers

- Parents and carers were **much less positive** about their **experience of services** than the children and young people who responded.
- Parents and carers still generally felt that their **children's needs are identified accurately** and that they **participate in decision making**.
- They were least positive about how well prepared their children are for the **next steps** and the **timeliness** of assessment, help and support.

I would like to see more funding going into schools and services so my child can be given the support she needs. There is a huge willingness to help by all the individuals I've encountered, but waiting lists are long, resources are limited and support that will actually help are not available.

Parent to - white British, 12-15 year old

The individuals working with my child have been on the whole very very good including those who diagnosed him and his designated contact at school. However because he was not disruptive in school or very behind academically it was a long road and legal battle to get him the EHCP he absolutely needs to support his mental health and happiness. Almost all the effective support he receives is due to the EHCP. Without it his experience at school would be an entirely different matter. Support for children without an EHCP needs to be vastly improved.

Parent to – white British, 12-15 year old

Parents and carers

- In addition to their views on the individual support their child or young person has received, parents and carers were also asked for their **views on services overall**.
- Parents were **broadly negative** about services overall, though least negative about how well services work with them and their child.
- They were particularly negative about the **ambition and aspiration** for young people with SEND.

You need to start addressing the issue of misdiagnosis and working in partnership with parents to support children with SEND in the community and schools.

Parent to – black African, 12-15 year old

More support is required for children who are the waiting list to be assessed as website for charity is not enough support. Parents don't have time to fill out forms and retelling your child's history many times become tedious and also forget parts of it

Parent to – black Caribbean, 12-15 year old

Workforce

43

Members of the workforce responded to the survey

53%

Of survey respondents worked in education settings

32%

Of survey respondents worked in local authority services

- The workforce was **overwhelming positive** about their individual work and that of their services.
- There was some recognition that **timeliness** is an issue.
- The workforce was slightly **less positive about leadership of the system**.
- There would appear to be a **significant disconnect** between the experience and views of parents and carers, and the views of the workforce.

Workforce

Members of the workforce did recognise many of the issues within the system, but had a real sense of **positivity about the opportunities to do better** and were **ambitious** for children and young people with SEND.

There is a **lack of places in special needs schools**, resulting in children with SEND being placed in inadequate educational settings or being out of education for extended periods.

Capacity issues affect some services' ability to 'ensure' timely assessment and support. They certainly work to achieve this.

It highlighted even more the importance of continuing to have the young person's voice present and ensuring that schools/professionals are connecting with their voice and seeking to understand it.

Many families tell us they are exhausted and that their CYP are not receiving the provision in their EHCP's.

By working together we can ensure **open communication** and the ability to evolve and adapt to what they require.

Key Themes

1. Voices of children and young people, parents and carers are **not always heard**.
2. When support is offered it is well received, but there is a perceived **lack of capacity** in the right support.
3. **Pathways** to support take too long and are too hard to navigate.
4. There needs to be more **joined-up working** between health, social care and education and services need to talk to each other more.
5. More needs to be done across the whole **system and society** to be more inclusive and be more aware of the people needs and differences.

Next steps

- Undertake **further consultation** with key groups.
- Build a **routine annual survey** to measure change over time.
- Develop a **Participation and Engagement Strategy** to increase opportunities for feedback from children and young people, parents and carers and the workforce.