

Barnsley SEN Parents and Carers Engagement Survey (2017)

Parent / Carer Consultation – comments and responses. Please note that we have attempted to respond to comments where there is a clear point or question which we are able to address. Unfortunately, we are unable to respond to every comment but will bear in mind all constructive points made as we develop our plans.

Please note we are unable to publish any information which could potentially identify an individual, where present this has been removed.

<p><u>Barnsley SEN Parents and Carers Engagement Survey (2017) - 4. If you have answered 'No, I don't support this' to the previous question, please say why in the box below</u></p>	<p>Response</p>
<p>Why do I need to make a reason for this? Would. You prefer me to change my answer We want to be in control not what you try to force upon us</p>	<p>This facility was made available to allow those not in support of this specific proposal to suggest a positive alternative.</p>
<p>I think they should be a mixture of people who attend with the decision makers such as . 1. Expierenced teachers 3. senco 3 head teachers. 4. Social workers people who work closely with the parents and schools (hands on expierenced people)</p>	<p>This point has been noted. The intention through this proposal is to design a system of engagement where stakeholders and decision-makers can work alongside parents and carers, children and young people in a positive way to influence all our plans and strategies in future.</p>
<p>There are no companies with the expertise to drive forward the new legislation, there is already a 5 million pound debt in the high needs funding block. I do not believe money should be used to fund a third party organisation when there is already an independent organisation funded by the DfE.</p>	<p>There is significant pressure on resources across all our services but we recognise that working with parents and carers can help us to build solutions together. However, none of the funding proposed for this development is from High Needs Block. The funding proposed here is a blend of BMBC and NHS monies. Contact is commissioned by DfE to support local engagement through whatever mechanisms exist. Currently, Barnsley parents and carers are not making use of the potential grant for Barnsley that Contact hold.</p>
<p>It depends on how independent it would be as the childrens and young peoples trust referred to in the chronicle article regarding SEN inclusion is by no means independant. I think any independent 3rd party would have an upward battle being accepted as such particularly as it would deviate funding from those parents willing to give their time FOR FREE or very little . Especially when trying to give constructive "professional" (parenting) input amongst a team of paid employs from other agencies</p>	<p>The organisation will be expected to work with parents and carers to allow them to decide on what basis they should be involved. The point is noted regarding parents and carers being expected to give their time for free. This is an issue which is not unique to Barnsley the CYPT recognises parents and carers who want to be involved in co-production can often be expected to give up lots of their own time. This needs to be considered as parents and carers help to develop models of participation in future.</p>

Waste of money	This comment is made a number of times. While there is pressure on resources and we should always invest public money wisely and carefully, the CYPT considers this to be a worthwhile and valuable investment in the parents and carers of Barnsley.
You don't say why this independent organisation has become an option. You have not given a list of other options This survey is very manipulative - obviously parents want to work more closely with decision makers but there are other ways. You clearly want parents to say yes to this option And then you ask us to justify if we say no! Legally, aren't SEND parents suppose to be involved in the putting together of the questions for this kind of survey?	We left the survey open to comments to allow for the space to discuss positive alternatives. This option is not intended to be the only mechanism for involvement in the Borough but, as discussed with some parents in the SEND talkabouts, the CYPT felt that doing nothing with regard to involvement was no longer an option. There needs to be a positive mechanism for involvement and this model appears to work well in other areas.
It's a waste of money. There was a brilliant parent forum before, until you address why they couldn't participate anymore - because of blatant flouting of the law by assessment and review leadership the.	Unfortunately, there is no parent / carer forum in Barnsley which is what has prompted this proposal.
Because its a waste of public money	Please see the response above.
Have a good hard think..parents dont trust you. Totally corrupted all of you.	Please see the response above.
I believe contact are already doing this. Why pay more money out that could be used elsewhere?	Contact is commissioned by DfE to support local engagement through whatever mechanisms exist or are developed. Currently, Barnsley parents and carers are not making use of the potential grant for Barnsley that Contact hold.
I have said yes but there is nowhere else for comments. I think parent participation happens most of the time but on a small scale with the council working as individuals with the parents to get their child sorted.	We often receive feedback that parental engagement at the individual level works very well. Parents and carers respond very positively to the SENDIASS service. This proposal is about how we work together to address issues at the SEND system level and should support and enhance existing participation.
I have very little confidence in the LA for this to be fully independent & to work with parent and carers	This will be addressed through a robust service specification and open-tendering exercise to choose the best provider. Parents and carers will be involved in this process as well as the ongoing performance management of any appointed provider.

<p>Parents/carers should not just be invited to 'influence' decision making. They should be a huge part of any decisions, planning etc. I do not feel that a third party is the right way to move forward in working 'together: I am unhappy that the decision to look at using a third party is not one that has been made along with parent/carers. I think that monies can be used more effectively. There needs to be more active engagement with parents/carers and communication such as via a database. There are ways of doing this to be explored. As stated, there are a large amount of parents/carers in our borough. It will not be a very large percentage of them that has seen this. Not everyone is aware of did or sendiass or the support groups that may have shared this survey. I do not find this survey appropriate as there has not been sufficient consultation with parents about whether or not they even want a third party</p>	<p>The CYPT is determined to ensure that parents and carers are fully involved in al our planning and decision-making in future and this proposal should allow us to achieve this. Unfortunately, the absence of a formal parent carer engagement mechanism means that this isn't happening as it should. We have attempted to notify all parents and carers of children with SEND through direct mail, email contacts where we have them, targeted social media campaigns and through our schools and other settings. In future however, this proposal should ensure that we can communicate more effectively with a broader range of parents and carers and the suggestion of using better developed databases is one that we, along with parents and carers, will actively consider.</p>
<p>Salary for an independent organisation could be better spent,</p>	<p>Please see responses above.</p>
<p>I think that the organisation should be within Barnsley not out of area professionals as they don't understand the needs of our parents and that the BMBC should hire someone to work within this department who are local and understand parents and have experience within this field. BMBC said they was going to hire a parent participation officer which would help in this matter in giving parent the voice and to work with LA but this post never happened.</p>	<p>There was previously resource allocated for a part-time worker in the Council. Although there have been officers in post in the past, the post has been vacant for some time and recruitment has been unsuccessful. This proposal will increase the resource available to support parents to be involved. The service specification and tendering exercise alongside parent / carer involvement will ensure only a provider with the requisite experience and expertise will be appointed.</p>
<p>There is already an independent organisation funded by the DfE that is called Contact. We are really short on money and have a 5 million pond debt in the high needs funding block - why on earth would you want to waste money on a 4th organisation. Also, sorry to inform you but there are no companies out there that have the level of expertise to drive forward the new legislation. I have provided my name and address below and I would like you to contact me and explain why you are wasting public money when this work already falls within peoples job remit.</p>	<p>See the answers given above concerning Contact and use of funding. The CYPT does not consider investment in parent / carer engagement as a waste of money.</p>
<p>I would like more info about different types of organisations and who they are before I can make this decision</p>	<p>This point has been noted.</p>

<p>The current staff are already paid to work with parents and carers.. why waste money having third-party involved.</p>	<p>We think this will enhance and improve the support to parents and carers to get involved and to hold decision-makers to account.</p>
<p>Waste of Money and people already have this work build into their salaries</p>	<p>Please see the response above.</p>
<p>Waste of money Who decided that this was necessary? Have parents/carers been given a reason why they think this is needed? Where will the money come from to pay for this? Why have the local authority lied about picking certain parents to be involved in a consultation role? Does the local authority believe that some people within the SEND community have become a scapegoat? Why don't the people who answer yes to this question have to explain? Do the local authority believe they are trustworthy? Is all of this a box ticking exercise, so Barnsley Council can say that they have engaged with parents and consulted with them, when they next get inspected?</p>	<p>Please see above responses regarding funding and why the proposal has been put forward. This approach is broader than just the Council and the consultation has been promoted widely across all our schools and services including directly to parents and carers of children and young people with SEND.</p>
<p>You have SEND parents in Barnsley with a lot of knowledge - use them instead of wasting money on a 3rd party.</p>	<p>This proposal is intended to ensure that all parents and carers of SEND children and young people in Barnsley can be properly supported to share their experience and expertise.</p>
<p><u>Barnsley SEN Parents and Carers Engagement Survey (2017) - 6. If you have ticked boxes a, b and c in response to the previous question, please provide your name and contact details below so we can talk to you about being involved or keep you updated in the development of this proposal</u></p>	
<p>Actually, I am wondering whether this scheme is a ploy to move some of the remaining professional services into cheap cost-cutting schemes run by volunteers? I have seen ACCESS CUT to genuine schemes like the disability sports groups run at Barnsley (Oakwell) and Team Active (Shaw Lane). My son (now 17 years old) was one of the last children that was able to get on the scheme by just ringing up an activity co-ordinator (Hannah Phillips) and enquiring whether there was a suitable activity. I am told that children need to be officially referred to get onto these types of disability clubs. I have since filled in forms for things like cricket (several or more years ago) and not heard back. I know of primary school children still in a mainstream setting who would benefit from being offered a place - they are not necessarily able to cope with out-of-school activities their mainstream peers attend. There is nowhere for some of these kids that could do with attending 'football' but in an appropriate setting to build their self-esteem and ability to mix.</p>	<p>This proposal represents additional investment, as explained above. The points regarding access to short breaks activity are noted but if there are ongoing concerns please address these with the joint commissioning team.</p>

you are failing our children please start to listen	Please see responses above.
Dont agree with specific organisation as stated in question 4	
I would be happy to do this.	
I want to be fully involved in shaping services with full co-production and co-responsibility. I do not want any of that to involve a third party organisation. Please stop wasting the public's money on third party organisations/consultants. Parents / carers being able to co-produce and have co-responsibility is what is needed to enable everyone to be able to carry out the tasks that need completing.	Please see responses above.
If u answered in the negative to q4 then q5 is leading and unanswerable.... if there is a drive to go down the mediation/3rd party model id be up for being involved yes.	This point is noted.
no thanks	
Option b and c make it look like decision has already been made to bring in an independent organisation	No decision had been made , pending the outcome of this consultation.
Parents with children with SEND are very busy What are the incentives? Will you be including the parents feedback who have been brave enough to say NO and make comments in this survey, or will you be selecting what you want from it as in the past. ?	We have published every comment left through the survey. None of these have been edited or selected in any way other than to remove personal details.
Really, so this is the consultation? No wonder the participation agenda has turned toxic. Leading questions with no where to say actually parents require people to do their jobs and fulfil their responsibilities in regard to service provision and participation.	There is full acknowledgement from the CYPT that staff and senior leaders should always strive to improve practice and to ensure that parents and carers, along with children and young people are central to our planning. This proposal is to enhance capacity for the partnership in Barnsley to facilitate greater involvement of parents and carers and to strengthen their voice.
I feel it is beneficial for parents to be involved as it helps to talk to others who understand.	
Please note Barnsley have assumed for many years that parents supporting SEND are unable to work. Over many years SEND parents have had to challenge the timings of meetings that exclude working parents. Over recent years we managed to change the timing of the June conference at the football ground and the transport meeting to recognise that working parents with SEN children should have a voice.	This point is noted. We will try to make sure that timings of meetings take this into consideration and that as many parents and carers as possible can be supported to become involved.