PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT

SEND Strategy 2019-22

Public consultation report on proposed Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities Strategy.

**Draft Summary Report of
Methodology, Feedback and Responses**

February 2019

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report brings together Croydon Council's consultation findings on the proposed changes to the SEND Strategy 2019-22 together with recommendations.

With grateful thanks to all involved in supporting the delivery of the consultation.

The consultation process started on the 3rd December 2018 and ran live until the 31 January 2019. The consultation was far reaching with views sought from parents/carers, young people and other agencies/stakeholders all of who offered important views and feedback.

The consultation was extensively promoted through a number of channels. This included direct contact with young people, families and stakeholders through focus groups. There was online availability of consultation documents including surveys available through the Local Offer on Get Involved. All documents were also available in Easy Read. All information about the consultation was circulated widely. This included education settings, Youth Clubs, neighbouring local authorities, and parent support groups. Social media for example Twitter and Facebook was also used to promote the consultation.

The consultation was on the proposed 3 years Strategy spanning Education, Health and Social Care, 2019-22.

The consultation exercise reinforced the main strands of the Strategy which are:
1) *To improve early identification of needs.*
2) *To improve joint working across education, health and social care.*
3) *A graduate response, which is a wider range of support and provision.*
4) *Post 16 opportunities*

During consultation it became necessary to add a 5th objective which is:
5) *Workforce development*

2. BACKGROUND

The original version of the strategy was consulted on with 6 parents at Parents in Partnership on 19.9.18. The feedback was reviewed at the SEND Strategic Board meeting on 25.9.18 and instruction was given to all 3 services (health, social care and education) to re-write the Strategy together.

3. METHODOLOGY

The target cohort for the consultation was parents, carers and young people with special education needs and/or disability. And we have also consulted with associated practitioners and professionals.

Materials were produced in plain english and Easy Read versions. The on-line survey awas also in plain english and in Easy Read.

Printed versions were distributed in all face-to-face sessions and the link was also provided to the online survey.

Distribution and Communications
A series of communication and publicity activities also took place including:
- Publishing details on school bulletins
- Croydon website banners and links to the survey
- Tweets

4. CONSULTATION PROCESS

4.1 Focus Groups
A number of focus groups were run across the borough, targeting parents and carers of Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and / or Disabilities. Please see table below.

We engaged with:
- 45 Children and Young People
- 40 parents
- 32 Practitioners of professionals

The format for consultation was that a senior member of the SEND management team briefed the participants of the key aims of the strategy and the four themes for improvement:

1) **Improved early identification of need**
2) **Improved joint-working**
3) **Better graduated response with better joint working:** a continuum of provision to meet a continuum of need to ensure children and young people who have SEND needs have their needs met whenever possible and they make best progress.
4) **Improved post 16 opportunities and outcomes.**

A standard set of questions were used:

1. Is the vision clear?
2. What do you like about the draft SEND Strategy?
3. Is there anything in the draft SEND Strategy that worries/concerns you?
4. What impact do you think the Strategy will have on you, your child/ren, family, school or wider community?
5. Is there anything missing from the Strategy that you feel should be included?

Date	Organisation	Audience	Number of attendees
5.12.18	CAMHS services SLAM	Professionals	15
7.12.18	Waddon Youth Centre	Parents	6
12.12.18	Bensham Manor	Parents	1
17.12.18	NHS Community Services	Practitioners	13

	Practitioners		
20.12.18	Parents in Partnership	Parents	1
7.1.19	Waddon Youth Centre	Young People 18-25	6
9.1.19	Parents in Partnership	Parents inc. Advisor	4
10.1.19	Parents in Partnership	Parents	2
16.1.19	Autism Partnership Board	Parents, Councillors inc. A Fleming	9
16.1.19	Waddon Youth Club	Young People age 7-16	34
17.1.19	St Giles School	Parents	7
24.1.19	SENDIASS	parents	1
28.1.19	Beckmead School 1 hr YP 1 hr parents	Young People Parents	5 7
29.1.19	St Nicholas School	Parents	6
TOTAL			**117**

4.2. Questionnaire: online survey questions

To help us get a good idea of who is completing the survey, please indicate in what capacity you are responding
A child or young person
A parent/carer of a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
A professional such as a teacher or social worker
An organisation representing young people, families/carers or those with SEND needs
Other
Grand Total

Other:
Resident
Disabled person, Professional disability practitioner and representative of professional organisation for staff working with disabled students.
Volunteer involvement with a college and Croydon Drop In
Someone who cares

Do you agree with our aim: "Children with SEN and/or disabilities will achieve independence and employment, whenever possible, in or near their local community so that they can live fulfiled lives and be active contributors to Croydon's future. Croydon has high aspirations for children and young people with SEND" (%)
Yes
No
Not sure
Grand Total

Do you support the principles that form the basis of the SEND strategy?
Yes
No
Not sure
Grand Total

Do you agree with our aim: "Children with SEN and/or disabilities will achieve independence and employment, whenever possible, in or near their local community so that they can live fulfiled lives and be active contributors to Croydon's future…."?	
	%
Do you support the principles that form the basis of the SEND strategy?	
	%

Do you support the area of development?
Improve early intervention
Yes
No
Not sure
Grand Total

Better graduated response with better joint working
Yes
No
Not sure
Grand total

Improved post 16 opportuntiies and outcomes
Yes
No
Not sure
Grand Total

Do you think we should adopt the SEND Strategy?
Yes
Yes with changes
No
Not sure
Grand total

Gender
Female
Male
Prefer not to say
Transgender
Grand Total

Please tell us how old you are
Under 15 yrs old
16-19 yrs
20-25 yrs
26-34 yrs
35-44 yrs
45-54 yrs
55-64 yrs
65+ yrs
Grand Total

Do you consider yourself to have a disability
Yes

No
Prefer not to say
Grand Total

If you said yes, please specify
Mobility
Visual impairments
Hearing impairments
Mental health
Learning disability
Prefer not to say
Other
Total

Other, please specify
dyslexia and ASC
None
Grand Total

What describes your ethnic group?
Arab
Bangladeshi
Black Caribbean
Chinese
Indian
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups
White and Asian
White and Black Caribbean
White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
White Irish
Any other ethnic background
Grand total

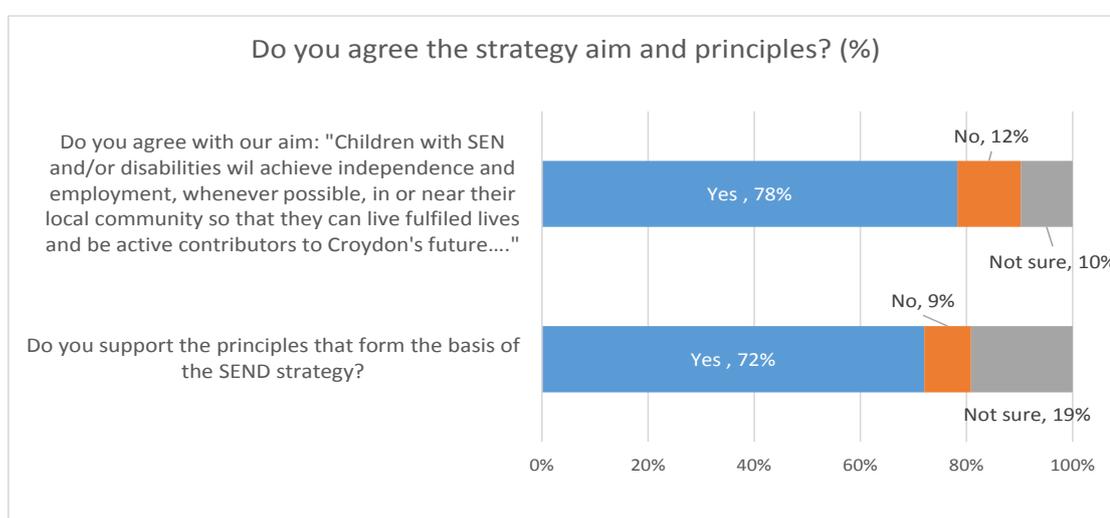| Any other background (specify) |
|---|
| British Asian |
| British Mauritian |
| Bulgariq |
| mixed family with several ethnic groups |
| Prefer not to say |
| Grand Total |

5. FINDINGS

5.1 Presenting Qualitative findings

As the main topics of the consultation were the four themes we grouped the feedback accordingly. All the topics generated discussion. However, Post 16 Opportunities and Joint Working created most comments. Discussions also informed us that a fifth area of development was needed, which is Workforce Development across the services.
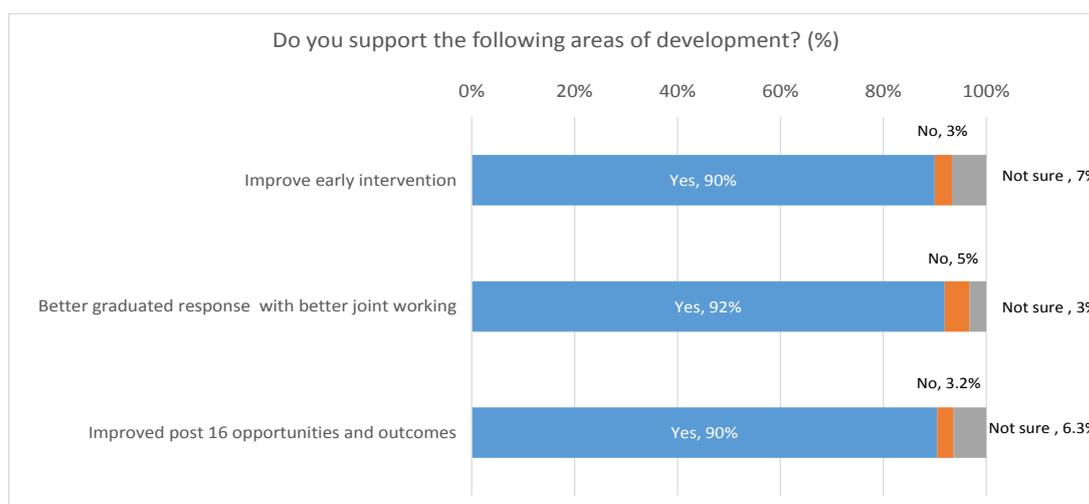
There is a theme of questioning if the intentions will actually be delivered, a sense of having heard it all before.
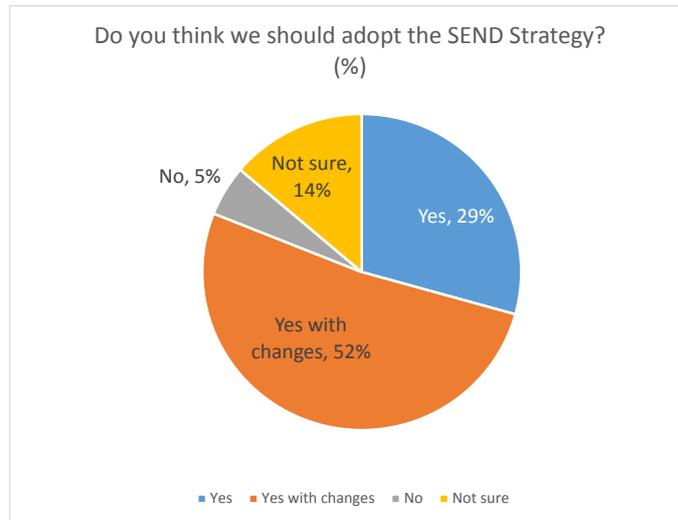
5.2 Presenting Questionaire findings

The key questions and findings are as follows:

Above: actual count 92 and 68

Above: actual count 63,62 and 60

Do you think we should adopt the SEND Strategy? (%)

Above: actual count 58

6. Conclusions

The overall response enabled Croydon to prioritise the four themes in the Strategy. It informed the Council of parents and families of the frustrations of services not being joined up and of the anxiety for parents and young people about Post 16 provision and employment within the borough.

7. Recommendations

Recommendations about how to proceed will be discussed amongst the three services: education, health and social care.