



Introduction

Darlington's Draft SEND Strategy 2019-2022 for improving outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) giving them the 'best start in life' outlines the vision and the key objectives for supporting Darlington's children and young people with SEND and their families.

- 1. We are committed to giving all our children and young people with SEND the right support that they need at the right time and in the right place. We want to identify needs at a very early stage so that the right support can be identified. This will ensure that children and young people with SEND can have as many opportunities as every child and young person to achieve, make really good progress and to enjoy a fulfilling life.**
- 2. Children and young people with SEND need to have good quality support in their mainstream and local settings so that they can achieve their academic potential and maintain their self-esteem and confidence.**
- 3. We believe that children and young people should be educated in their local community. This will help children and young people to make local friends, socialise, go to local leisure activities and have opportunities to develop their independence. This will support young people to prepare for independent living and to go on to training and work and socialise locally.**
- 4. Not all our children and young people with SEND make the progress that they should particularly in Key Stage 4 (secondary age). It will be important that we improve this by ensuring that there is the right support identified, that the teaching they receive is meeting their needs and that this is kept regularly under review.**
- 5. In order for all this to happen successfully, we all must communicate and talk with each other. We need to ensure that we work closely together with parents/carers, children and young people and education settings in all that we do. It will be important for us to produce documents, policies and ways of working together. This is called co-production.**
- 6. It is important that any monies are used wisely. This means making the best use of staff, buildings and resources. We must ensure that with the increase in the numbers of children and young people with SEND, that all our resources are used effectively.**

These are our six key objectives and this survey asks you whether you agree with these and what other ideas you have. We also want to seek your views on what local specialist provision we need in Darlington and our proposals for funding system change.



Objective number 1

We are committed to giving all our children and young people with SEND the right support that they need at the right time and in the right place. We want to identify needs at a very early stage so that the right support can be identified. This will ensure that children and young people with SEND can have as many opportunities as every child and young person to achieve, make really good progress and to enjoy a fulfilling life.

* 1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the SEND Draft Strategy objective of 'Early identification of need ensuring that the right children and young people are in the right placement with the right support'.

Strongly agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

2. If you have any comments about objective number 1 please do so here.



Objective number 2

Children and young people with SEND need to have good quality support in their mainstream and local settings so that they can achieve their academic potential and maintain their self-esteem and confidence.

* 3. To what extent do you agree or disagree do you agree with the SEND Draft Strategy Objective of "Building capacity in mainstream and specialist settings to reduce reliance on specialist out of area placements 0-25".

- Strongly agree Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree Disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. If you have any comments about objective number 2 please do so here.



Objective number 3

We believe that children and young people should be educated in their local community. This will help children and young people to make local friends, socialise, go to local leisure activities and have opportunities to develop their independence. This will support young people to prepare for independent living and to go on to training and work and socialise locally.

* 5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the SEND draft strategy objective of 'Ensuring that children and young people with SEND are educated in their local community and have effective preparation for adulthood and access to work and leisure opportunities'.

Strongly agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

6. If you have any comments about objective number 3 please do so here.



Objective number 4

Not all our children and young people with SEND make the progress that they should particularly in Key Stage 4 (secondary age). It will be important that we improve this by ensuring that there is the right support identified, that the teaching they receive is meeting their needs and that this is kept regularly under review.

* 7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the SEND draft strategy objective of 'Increasing achievement and improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND'.

Strongly agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

8. If you have any comments about objective number 4 please do so here.



Objective number 5

In order for all this to happen successfully, we all must communicate and talk with each other. We need to ensure that we work closely together with parents/carers, children and young people and education settings in all that we do. It will be important for us to produce documents, policies and ways of working together. This is called co-production.

* 9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the SEND draft strategy objective of 'Focus on effective collaboration, co-production and communication'.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly agree | <input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Agree | <input type="radio"/> Disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree | |

10. If you have any comments about objective number 5 please do so here.



Objective number 6

It is important that any monies are used wisely. This means making the best use of staff, buildings and resources. We must ensure that with the increase in the numbers of children and young people with SEND that all our resources are used effectively.

* 11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the SEND draft strategy objective of 'Achieving Best Value' (human, physical and financial resources) from all our services'.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly agree | <input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Agree | <input type="radio"/> Disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree | |

12. If you have any comments about objective number 6 please do so here.



Objectives feedback

13. If you have any other comments, suggestions or feedback on our proposals on the six objectives please tell us below.



Local specialist provision

To help develop educational provision for children and young people with SEND, Darlington Borough Council will receive funding from the Government each year from 2019 to 2021. This funding has to be used to increase the number of places and improve facilities for children and young people who have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). We have to publish a plan for how we will use this funding by March 2019 and update and republish the plan each year. The information on this funding can be found on the website:

[Please click here to read guidance.](#) (this will open in a new tab)

We have identified in our Strategy that provision may be required to support children with Social Emotional and Mental Health difficulties and Moderate Learning Difficulties. In the Primary phase for pupils with Social Emotional and Mental Health difficulties and in the Secondary phase for pupils with Social Emotional and Mental Health difficulties and for those with Moderate Learning Difficulties.

We have also identified that we have gaps in our provision for those young people who find the demands of the curriculum difficult and for whom a more practical and vocational route is more appropriate.

* 14. Do you agree that we need to develop provision in these areas of need?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

* 15. Do you agree this is an appropriate use of the money?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

16. If you have any comments about local specialist provision please do so here.



Funding - system change

Darlington Borough Council are proposing to provide funding to schools that is directly related to the assessed and identified needs of the child/young person. The funding is used for the provision of resources for that individual child [a needs based approach of money following the child/young person]. This will allow for a clear, transparent and consistent approach by primary and secondary educational settings across the Borough. Darlington Borough Council funding model is currently a combination of a delegated lump sum payment and top up to the notional fund.

* 17. To what extent do you agree with the proposals to move from the current system, which is varied across the Borough, to a consistent and applied approach for all primary and secondary educational settings?

- Strongly agree Disagree
- Agree Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

18. If you have any comments about the system change please do so here.



Funding - ranges and bandings

Darlington Borough Council has put in place the SEND ranges which cover the four areas of the Code of Practice. There are ranges of need between 1 and 7. The funding bands for these ranges are:

Range	Band
1	Nil
2	Nil
3	Nil
4a	£3,000
4b	£6,500
5a	£8,500
5b	£10,000
6a	£12,500
6b	£15,000
7	Determined by need

19. To what extent do you agree with these bandings?

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

20. If you have any comments about the bandings please do so here.



Funding - simpler model

The funding proposals are designed to create a clearer and simpler model that is more easily understood by parents, carers, young people (where appropriate) and professionals.

21. To what extent do you agree that the proposals will create a clearer and simpler system?

Strongly agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

22. If you have any comments about the simpler model please do so here.



23. If you have any other comments, suggestions or feedback on the funding please add them here.



Your interest

* 24. In what capacity are you responding to this survey?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> A parent / carer | <input type="radio"/> An education professional |
| <input type="radio"/> A young person | <input type="radio"/> A health professional |
| <input type="radio"/> A social care professional | <input type="radio"/> A charity |
| <input type="radio"/> A governor | <input type="radio"/> A voluntary organisation |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) | |



About you - Sex

25. What is your sex?

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say



About you - Age

26. What age were you on your last birthday?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 18 years | <input type="radio"/> 45 - 59 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 18 - 24 years | <input type="radio"/> 60 - 75 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 25 - 34 years | <input type="radio"/> Over 75 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 35 - 44 years | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |



About you - Ethnicity

27. What ethnic group do you belong to?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British | <input type="radio"/> Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Black African |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Irish | <input type="radio"/> Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Asian |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller | <input type="radio"/> Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - Other |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Other | <input type="radio"/> Asian / Asian British - Indian |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Black Caribbean | <input type="radio"/> Asian / Asian British - Pakistani |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian / Asian British - Bangladeshi | <input type="radio"/> Black / Black British - Other |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian / Asian British - Chinese | <input type="radio"/> Arab |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian / Asian British - Other | <input type="radio"/> Other |
| <input type="radio"/> Black / Black British - African | <input type="radio"/> Not sure / don't know |
| <input type="radio"/> Black / Black British - Caribbean | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |



About you - Disability

28. Do you consider yourself to have a disability

- Yes
- No
- Not sure / don't know
- Prefer not to say