

Policy Briefing

The SEND Review

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What is the SEND Review?

The SEND Review was initially established in September 2019, and was launched with the aim to *'improve the services available to families who need support, equip staff in schools and colleges to respond effectively to their needs as well as ending the 'postcode lottery' they often face.'*

Following repeated delays, on 29 March 2022 the Government published the [SEND Review: Right support, right place, right time](#), a report and consultation on the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision system in England. The SEND Review is a [Green Paper](#) – this means it's a consultation document which aims to give feedback on potential policy or legislative proposals and changes.

What does the SEND Review cover?

The review and consultation set out proposed reforms to the SEND and alternative provision (AP) system which seek to address three key challenges:

1. Outcomes for children and young people with SEN or in alternative provision are poor
2. Navigating the SEND system and alternative provision is not a positive experience for children, young people, and their families
3. Despite unprecedented investment, the system is not delivering value for money for children, young people and families.

The review contains 6 chapters:

- Chapter 1: the case for change
- Chapter 2: a single national SEND and alternative provision system
- Chapter 3: excellent provision from early years to adulthood

- Chapter 4: a reformed and integrated role for alternative provision
- Chapter 5: system roles, accountabilities, and funding reform
- Chapter 6: delivering change for children and families

Of note, there is a commitment in the Review to develop a national template for EHC Plans, the document contains a clear focus on co-production, and there are broad intentions that schools and settings will become more inclusive with each local area having an 'inclusion plan'.

The [consultation](#) will be open from 29 March – 22 July 2022. Due to the delay in providing accessible documents related to the consultation, this timeframe was extended.

The position of the Down Syndrome Association:

We welcome the SEND Review's ambition to make significant and meaningful changes to the SEND system to ensure we are identifying and supporting children and young people with SEND in a better, more consistent, and fairer way.

We acknowledge that there is much to support and explore in the Review, but we also have significant concerns regarding a number of the proposals, and the level of detail contained throughout the paper:

- Despite being a key concern during the consultation stage of the SEND Review, the issue of accountability and redress is not covered with enough detail or rigour.
- A list of named schools has the potential to serve as a restriction of choice for parents in the vital decision of choosing a school for their child.
- Mandatory mediation – this could restrict access to the SEND Tribunal and extend a situation where a child is not receiving the support they need.
- Greater clarity needs to be provided on the process of ensuring schools and settings become more inclusive.
- The proposals need more detail on the value and use of specialist local services such as speech and language therapy and physiotherapy.

The Down Syndrome Association will be running a series of consultation sessions on the SEND Review across June and July – check our website and social media for details. Contact us at Policy@downs-syndrome.org.uk to discuss further or if you have any questions about our work on the SEND Review.

Useful links from the Review itself:

SEND Review report – gov.uk/government/consultations/send-review-right-support-right-place-right-time

SEND Review Consultation – consult.education.gov.uk/send-review-division/send-review-2022/

SEND Review Steering Group - gov.uk/government/groups/send-review-steering-group

The government have set up a single SEND Review website containing all key information and updates - sendreview.campaign.gov.uk/

A number of organisations and networks are providing regular news and updates on the SEND Review:

Special Needs Jungle - specialneedsjungle.com/list/send-review/

Council for Disabled Children - councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources-0/send-and-alternative-provision-green-paper

The Special Educational Consortium - councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/about-us-0/networks/special-educational-consortium/our-work/send-review

Disabled Children's Partnership - disabledchildrenspartnership.org.uk/send-green-paper-our-initial-reaction/

The SEN Policy Research Forum - senpolicyresearchforum.co.uk/our-blog/

IPSEA - ipsea.org.uk/news/government-publishes-send-review-and-invites-peoples-views

The Alliance for Inclusive Education (ALLFIE) - allfie.org.uk/news/briefing/send-review-update-allfies-green-paper-response-consultation/

nasen - nasen.org.uk/resources/send-review-summary

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