

Northumberland SEND capacity consultation, 2017-2018

Planning for the Future. Preparing for Adulthood.



Joint commissioning for the future of children and young people
who have special educational needs & disabilities.
Presentation for families and carers.

NORTHUMBERLAND
Northumberland County Council

Northumbria Healthcare 
NHS Foundation Trust



The vision for Northumberland

It will be possible for more children and young people to find what they need close to where they live.

Post-16 and adult learners find more opportunities they need in or near the communities where they will live as adults.

The three main pathways to adulthood are possible in each area of the county: the academic route; the vocational / employment route; the independent living route.

The updated local offer of SEND services and SEND specialist schools matches the changing local needs.

The updated local offer of services and specialist education / training can be sustained within the available funding.

We will carry out our consultation throughout 2017 and publish the strategy in 2018.

The Department for Education (DfE) requirement

Earlier this year the government instructed all local authorities to carry out a large-scale consultation to plan for the future of our specialist services and specialist education / training.

Nationally the number of children and young people who need extra support is rapidly growing. Also, the pattern and complexity of needs is changing.

The Department for Education wants to see new published plans for how we will grow or change our offer to meet growing and changing needs. The plans should be affordable within the current levels of funding local authorities receive each year.

The main areas DfE want us to plan for are:

- **Specialist SEND services.** These could be from the local authority or NHS or others.
- **Specialist education places.** Special centres at mainstream schools, special schools and could include colleges or training for post-16s.
- **Regional specialist places.** For learners with very rare and exceptional needs.

The Northumberland challenge (1)

The changing patterns in Northumberland are very similar to the national picture:

Local special schools are often full or oversubscribed, despite expanding their size a number of times. Some schools have doubled in size within 5 years. Some cannot grow any bigger at their current sites.

The number of children who have high levels of need is rapidly growing, mainly:

Autistic (ASD) learners who have high needs and complex needs. This is by far the biggest group locally and nationally. Almost every special school now has mainly ASD learners.

Children born with complex needs. This includes those with severe or profound learning difficulties and children with medical support needs.

Children who have mental health needs, sometimes linked to their ASD.

The Northumberland challenge (2)

Northumberland is a big place. Often learners have to travel far for what they need or for their family's preferred school / college. Our SEND services travel far to reach children countywide.

Northumberland needs different solutions for different places. Solutions for learners in a town may need to be different to the solutions for learners in the rural west and north.

The average cost of special needs transport to school / college is more than £4,000 per year. Those with the longest journeys may cost £8,000 or £12,000 per year. This leaves less funding for other things.

The amount of funding local authorities receive isn't expected to grow with the changes in population. The government held a national consultation about education funding and we are waiting to hear the outcome.

Any learners with EHC Plans have to be funded by the local authority, but the national DfE funding consultation suggested there will be no new funding for learners aged 19 to 25 years or for our overall growth patterns.

Northumberland challenge (3)

Younger children who have speech and language and communication needs in mainstream schools continues to be a large group. Sometimes those needs are linked to ASD.

Some groups of learners have not changed to the same degree. Their populations and patterns of need are similar each year. This includes learner with:

- Hearing Impairments
- Visual Impairments
- Multi Sensory Impairments (usually deaf-blind)
- Physical difficulties
- Specific learning difficulties, including dyslexia
- Moderate learning difficulties.

The big questions.

1. How should we develop our specialist services for learners with SEND?

We are asking you as someone who has experience of SEND support for someone in your family:

Q1. Which services have helped you and made a difference?

Q2. From the services you know, what would help more?

Q3. Are there other services you would want to see in your part of Northumberland? What would they be?

Examples of services		Autism	Sensory (HI, VI MSI)
Literacy / dyslexia	Behaviour support	Educational Psychology	Portage
Speech & Language Teachers / Therapy	Occupational Therapy	Mental health	Physiotherapy

The big questions.

2. Should we develop SEND specialist centres at mainstream schools?

We are asking you to think about your experience of mainstream education and support.

Please consider three common models:

MODEL 1. A centre at a local school that all the local schools share. Children go there to take part in the mainstream school curriculum but would also have a special place with specialist teachers at the school. This is common in towns, where most children don't live too far away.

MODEL 2. A centre at a local school that all the local schools share. The centre has specialist teachers and support staff who can visit any local school to help children there. The children stay at their usual school. This is common in rural areas to prevent long journeys for young children,

MODEL 3. A combination of 1 and 2.

The big questions.

2. Should we develop SEND specialist centres at mainstream schools?

The questions are:

Q4. Should we ask schools to help us create model 1 or 2 or 3 in your area?

Q5. If you say 'yes,' which model would have helped your family most?

Q6. If you said 'no' what are the reasons?

Q7. The centres can't be for every type of need. To work well they need to specialise for a specific type of need e.g. autism and communication. What types of centre would make the most difference in your area of Northumberland?

Q8. Where would the shared centre be based, to be accessible to schools and families in your area of Northumberland?

The big questions.

3. How should we develop our SEND specialist schools?

We are asking you as someone who has experience of SEND support for someone in your family, especially families with an EHC Plan or SEN Statement.

At the moment too many children and young people travel long journeys to the special school place they need. We would like more learners to attend provision that is closer to them. This should also reduce transport costs, leaving more funding for the schools.

Here are some ideas that schools and others have suggested in the past:

- MODEL 4. New schools. Ask the government for new SEND Free Schools in Northumberland.
- MODEL 5. Make current schools bigger, if they have enough land at their current sites.
- MODEL 6. Extend our schools at new sites around the county, so they operate from more than one place.
- MODEL 7. Develop new local sites for post-16 learners or 14 to 18 year olds, led by the special schools.

The big questions.

3. How should we develop our SEND specialist schools?

What do you think would work best in your area of Northumberland? These are the questions:

Q9. Do you feel any of the models 4, 5, 6 or 7 would be best for children and young people in your area?
Which models do you prefer?

Q10. If you said 'yes,' where would they be located to help us be more local and reduce travel?

Q11. Are there other ideas that would help us create the right offer?

Funding

We explained earlier that local authorities are not likely to receive higher levels of funding in the future.

That means whatever new ideas we put in our strategy will have to be balanced against things we already do.

For example, 20 more special school places can cost around £250,000 to £350,000 per year. To do that means we will need to either:

- **Cut down other costs** e.g. less SEND travel because learners don't travel so far.
- **Change the use of our current funding** e.g. bring learners together who have high needs funding to create a new opportunity.

Most of the funding in education is in the hands of schools and colleges. The local authority hold a smaller amount for learners with high needs. Once we have everyone's ideas we will cost them with schools and other providers and publish the results.

How do families give their feedback?

We are asking for your feedback in three ways:

By attending our consultation events across the county (July to October 2017)

and our SEND Roadshows (September 2017)

Or by emailing the parent carer forum at info@in-it-together.org.uk

Northumberland County Council and In It Together have co-produced this consultation with families.

We will be contacting all families by letter, or through the parent carer networks or by asking your school or college to give you our invitation.

We will not be able to answer questions about individual learners or schools at the consultation events. Instead, we will give you contact details for someone who can help.

What happens next?

July to December 2017

Consultation events with families, young people, schools, colleges, pre-school providers and services.

Spring 2018

A proposed costed strategy based upon the all of the combined feedback.

An opportunity for all consultees to feedback again.

New local offer SEND strategy agreed, 2018

New arrangements and projects begin from September 2018.

Some ideas will be possible straight away and other may take longer to create (e.g. new buildings or new Free Schools).