

Updated: 16th February 2023

Public Consultation on the Warwickshire County Council SEND & Inclusion

Q&As

Q: What is SEND?

A - SEND stands for special educational needs and/or disabilities.

A child or young person may have SEND if they:

- have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than most learners of their age
- have a disability which prevents them taking part in similar learning to others
- of the same age
- need extra support that is 'additional to' and 'different from' that which other
- children of the same age get

Q: What is the consultation about?

A - We are asking people to give us their views on proposed changes to the SEND and Inclusion service offer. The feedback from the consultation will be used to help improve the range of services provided by the Council to ensure that education settings have the right resources and skills to meet the needs of their learners and that all children and young people with special educational needs feel fully supported.

Q: How have you designed the proposals for the consultation and have partners been involved?

A- Several engagement sessions have been held with key partners prior to the formal consultation to ascertain their views. This includes school leaders, WCC staff including commissioned services, elected members, Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice, Young people group IMPACT. The feedback has helped us to shape our plans in preparation for the formal consultation process.

Q: Are schools in agreement of the changes you are consulting on?

A - The schools that have been involved in pre-consultation sessions prior to the formal conversations have been supportive of the drive to reform the system to deliver better outcomes for children and young people with SEND. They have responded positively to the proposals for the way in which support is provided to schools paid for by the Council.

Q: What will happen after the consultation?

A - Following the consultation all proposals will be subject to a formal approval process. If the proposals are approved and we have had chance to properly consider comments, alternatives and implications, the intention is that implementation work will begin by September 2023.

Q: Why does it need to be an Ed psych doing the annual review conversation?

A- It doesn't need to be an EP it can be another member of the SEND and Inclusion Team.

Q: Currently the specialist deaf education support service supports the local APD pathway. This includes access to specialist equipment which is achieved via a traded service approach and because of the SEND core offer changes the service will no longer receive traded income. Could this inadvertently affect the level of specialist equipment available to this cohort?

A - If a child or young person requires a piece of equipment to access their education, there are mechanism in place for this to be funded. This shouldn't rely on Traded income as a revenue stream for this purpose.

Q: Is the public consultation information available in a different format e.g. video, pictures, live presentation in which people could interact and comment/vote on each proposal as it is explained?

A - There are videos in place outlining what the Consultation is about, there have also been face-to-face meetings where WCC Officers have attended and have been made available to work through the proposals with children, young people and their families and key stakeholders.