

Appendix C – SEND Provision Consultation Responses

The consultation ran for 12 weeks from 23rd March to 15th June 2026. Learning from the successful engagement leading up the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) summit, and the subsequent SEND Strategy consultation, various methods were utilised to reach stakeholders in ways to suit them. Dedicated parent carer sessions helped to shape the design of the consultation before it was launched.

The draft Plan was communicated to a wide range of stakeholders, with the consultation hosted on the Local Offer page: [SEND Provision Plan 2026-29](#). It was widely promoted to staff across the Council and NHS via email, staff briefings and posters. Multiple promotions during the 12-week period to increase visibility, including video clips explaining the five pillars which were created in partnership with Herts Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI) representatives.

SEND Provision Consultation Summary:

- SEND Summit informed our approach.
- Dedicated parent carer session to shape the design of the consultation along with being represented on the SEND Partnership and Assurance Board (PAB) and SEND Priority Executive Group.
- We aimed to replicate the successful engagement that took place over summer 2025 including SEND summit, and the SEND Strategy consultation.
- Communication to all parent carers via Hertfordshire County Council and the Local Offer social media channels, SEND News, UpdateMe.
- To all Hertfordshire Headteachers, CEOs, Governors, Early Years Settings, and Colleges via direct email, newsletters and School Bulletin.
- All County Councillors and MPs were asked to promote to their constituents
- All members of SEND Partnership Governance were asked to cascade to their networks.
- It was widely promoted to staff across the Council and NHS via email, staff briefings and posters
- Recorded Q & A sessions with the SEND Leadership team and reps from HPCI, which was cascaded through various social media channels.

Method:	Responses/Attendees:
Survey for Adults	512 people responded (108 partial and 404 fully completed) :- • 303 Parent Carer (61.84%) • 156 education professionals working in school or settings (31.84%) • 24 Other (Charity SEND Support, Councillor, Professional, Special School Outreach, Speech & Language Therapy (SALT); Health and Care Partnership etc) (4.9%) • 23 School Governors (4.69%) • 21 SEND Workforce within Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) (4.29%) • 8 SEND Workforce Health (1.63%) • 7 Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) representatives (1.43%) <i>*10% of people selected two roles e.g. parent and school governor</i>
Survey for young people	16 young people responded
<i>Supplementary events</i> Services for Young People (SfYP) Youth Councils Voices of Hertfordshire Schools / Early Year / Post 16 'Have your Say' Parent carer and VCS Sector 'Have your Say' Expert by Experience focus group	16 events – a mix of in person and online 100+ young people across 7 sessions 15+ primary aged children across 2 sessions 22 Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) & Headteachers across 3 sessions 8 parent/carers, 9 VCS professionals across 3 sessions 7 young people, attending 1 workshop

Breakdown of Adult Survey

Question	Responses received	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly
Given the constraints and opportunities do you agree this provision plan is the best way to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)?	483	16.15%	34.37%	26.29%	11.80%	11.39%
Do you agree with having a greater range of SEND provision in	483	62.53%	28.99%	4.55%	1.86%	2.07%

Hertfordshire in order to support a wider range of needs?						
Strengthening capacity in mainstream schools: Mainstream schools should be supported to meet the needs of the majority of children and young people with SEND. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this element of the provision plan?	404	37.38%	26.24%	10.64%	11.63%	14.11%
Expanding specialist capacity in mainstream schools: More SEND Units and Specialist Resource Provisions (SRPs) in mainstream schools would improve access to the right support for children and young people with (SEND) SEND. SRPs and SEND units are smaller learning environments that are located on the site of a mainstream primary or secondary school. They offer a smaller, structured and supportive environment with specialist staff, while enabling pupils to maintain access to wider mainstream learning and social opportunities To what extent do you agree or disagree with this element of the provision plan?	400	36%	34.75%	11.50%	9.00%	8.75%
Creating more special school places To what extent do you agree with our approach to continue to grow special school places for children and young people with the most complex needs?	404	72.52%	18.07%	5.69%	1.73%	1.98%
Update school designations. Do you agree with the proposed changes to special school places so they can support more children and young people with different needs?	399	36.59%	30.08%	20.55%	7.52%	5.26%

Breakdown of young people survey

Question	Responses received	I agree	I disagree	I don't know
<i>Action 1: More support for children and young people with SEND in mainstream schools so that they can succeed in their local school What do you think?</i>	15	86.67%	6.67%	6.67%

<i>Action 2: Create new SEND Units in mainstream schools so that children and young people with SEND get the help they need in a local school. SEND units are smaller learning environments that are located on the site of a mainstream primary or secondary school. They offer a smaller, structured and supportive environment with specialist staff, while enabling pupils to maintain access to wider mainstream learning and social opportunities. What do you think?</i>	16	75%	25%	0%
<i>Action 3: Create more special school places to support children and young people with the highest level of need. What do you think?</i>	16	87.5%	6.25%	6.25%
<i>Action 4: Special schools will change so they can help more children and young people with different needs. What do you think?</i>	15	53.33%	33.33%	13.33%
<i>Action 5: When adults choose which type of school a child or young person goes to, they will think about what they're good at and what they might need help with. What do you think? Do you agree that this should be an action?</i>	15	73.33%	1.73%	1.98%