

HPCI Parent Survey May 2018 - Support for children in mainstream schools – the results

Overview of findings



Who responded?

Total of 340 responses from parents of a child with SEND and there was a good spread across Hertfordshire except for a low response rate from Potters Bar and Borehamwood area.

Education stage

- 5% Pre-school/Nursery
- 64% Primary age
- 28% Secondary age
- 3% Post 16 (years 12 & 13)

Types of need

- 52% of children with primary need of ASD
- 14% with ADHD

There was a range of other primary needs (eg Down Syndrome, Speech and Language, Specific Learning Difficulty) all less than 10% each. Multiple additional needs across the range.



Is the child receiving support?

When asked if the mainstream school is supporting the child with their SEND the answer varied significantly depending on whether an EHCP is in place.

Children are much more likely to receive support if they have an EHCP.

- With an EHCP the answers are 51% Yes, 8% No, 38% Partly, 3% Don't know.
- Without an EHCP the answers are 26% Yes, 19% No, 53% Partly, 2% Don't know.

79% of children are in school full time, 21% are not.

65% of those children without an EHCP do not have a written plan of support which has been shared with their parents.

87 parents had been told by the school that their child is taking support or resources away from other children.

62 parents have had their child on reduced education hours as there is no one to support them in the setting.

90 parents have been told their child's need could be better met in another school.

13 parents have been told that there is no need to apply for an EHC needs assessment as the school gets ENF for them.

Many responses indicated that an EHC application was in progress



Who gets ENF – Exceptional Needs Funding?

9% of the children without an EHCP do get ENF.

147 children have an EHCP. 58% of these children do not get ENF.

43% of parents whose child has an EHCP reported that the school had applied for ENF multiple times (up to 6 times in one case and some reporting annual reapplications).

Of the 35% of EHCPs with hours of individual support specified, the vast majority receive ENF for a lower number of hours.

When asked if the school had advised them about making an application for ENF, for those children with an EHCP 71% of parents were told about the application compared to only 22% for those children without an EHCP. 59% of parents whose child has an EHCP were told of the outcome of the application. Only 20% of parents whose child does not have an EHCP were told of the outcome of the application.



How effective are EHCPs at delivering support for SEND?

65% of EHCPs do not have hours of 1:1 individual support specified. 11% of respondents did not know if it does specify hours of support. Specification and quantification of support is a legal requirement for EHCPs.

Only 30% of children with an EHCP are receiving all of the provision specified in their EHCPs. 33% of children are receiving it in part.

Of those children not receiving the full provision in their EHCP 56% of respondents have been told by the setting that this is due to lack of funding.

Of the 98 parents whose child does not get the provision specified many have complained to the school or local authority, have sought advice and/or appealed to the SEND Tribunal. Many parents have taken several actions. A significant minority have accepted it, as they don't know what to do or feel their child is happy.



Exclusions and part-time timetables

33 out of 42 children whose school receives ENF have experienced a part time timetable.

A further 24 have received one or more fixed term exclusions.

2 had been permanently excluded.