



Children, Families and
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Luton Borough Council
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13 April 2026

RE: SEND Reforms Consultation

Dear parents and carers,

At the end of February, the government published the long-awaited White Paper **Every Child Achieving and Thriving**.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-achieving-and-thriving/every-child-achieving-and-thriving-html-version>

This publication outlines proposed reforms to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system. We recognise that there is a significant amount of information circulating about these proposals and understand that families, young people, and professionals may feel uncertain about what the potential changes could mean in practice.

As highlighted by EPIC Luton Parent Carer Forum, this marks the beginning of a consultation process rather than the introduction of immediate changes. A White Paper sets out ideas for future legislation; it is not new law, and therefore no immediate changes will take place. Any national reforms will take several years to progress through consultation, Parliament, and implementation.

In Luton, we are currently reviewing the full details of the consultation to understand the implications for our communities, services, and schools. We will provide a comprehensive response to all stakeholders once we have assessed how these proposals align with our Luton 2040 vision and the priorities outlined in our joint SEND Strategy.

A 12-week national consultation **SEND reform: Putting Children and Young People First** is now open and will run until **18 May 2026**. This provides families, charities, professionals, and our wider community with an important opportunity to



share their views and help shape what happens next. We strongly encourage you to take part and make your voice heard.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to work closely with EPIC, Luton SENDIAS, and professionals to support families in understanding the proposals and to help gather meaningful feedback.

You can access summary documents—available in British Sign Language and easy read formats—using the links below:

- Easy read summary:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/699c9166cd3d70e6c2f1278b/Our_plan_to_help_every_child_easy_read_version.pdf
- Summary sheets:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-send-reforms-sheets>

Full details on how to participate in the consultation can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-first>

Whilst a consultation is taking place, local authorities have been asked to co-ordinate a SEND Reform Plan for their local area. This SEND Reform Plan is a Partnership Plan and needs to be co-created with all those who have a role to play in the provision and support for children with SEND. It will be an important document that pulls together how all partners will play their part in delivering the SEND Reforms. The final draft plan will be submitted to the DfE by **17 May 2026**.

We want to hear from our parents and carers. We have organised an event to hear **your voice** and discuss what needs to be incorporated into the plan and what you feel is required to support our children and young people with SEND in Luton. Please find details below.

We invite you to join us and share your insights. Please book your place below.

DATE: Monday 20th April
TIME: 12:30pm – 2:30pm
VENUE: Bushmead Community Hub, Hancock Drive, Luton, LU2 7SF
(free parking)

To book your place, scan the QR code or click on the link below

[Parent/Carer event - Book here](#)



Places are limited to 25 people.
Booking closes 24hrs before the session.

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In the meantime, we want to reassure families, carers, and education professionals that we remain committed to working collaboratively and constructively as these proposals develop. We will continue to uphold our ambition to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND, ensuring that our communication and implementation of any future education reforms remain aligned with our Luton 2040 vision.

Yours sincerely



SEND Local Area Partnership Manager



Director of Education