



# Money for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion Support



# Why we need to make changes

We try to help children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) have a good life in Durham. We want it to be a place where everyone is healthy, happy, lives their own life, has a chance to learn and has a job.

- We need to change the way we work because we are spending more money than we have.
- We want to spend the money we have better and help as many people as possible.



# What the law says

- The law wants all children and young people with disabilities and extra needs to have all their needs met in local nursery schools and early years settings, schools or colleges, if possible.
- If the child or young person is not making progress then extra or different support might need to be given to make things better.



# We want to work together to make things better

- We have been talking to lots of people and organisations including parents, carers and children to help us develop our ideas.
- We want to hear from you before we change any services.



# Counting our money

We are looking at everything we spend money on to find ways to do things better and spend less, such as:

- Doing things differently to meet the needs of children and young people.
- How we can help people with a lot of support needs, nearer to their homes so they don't have to travel far.
- How we can offer extra support in local schools.
- New ways of supporting children who are not able to go to a local school.
- How to help children and young people who are 16 years or older to have education that might help them get a job and live independently.



# Our ideas!

**Spend less money on services we manage.**

- **We want to keep offering the services we manage, but we need to look more carefully at them to see if we can spend less and still meet the needs of children and young people.**



# Our ideas!

Put extra help in our special schools.

- We want to offer a better choice of special schools services in County Durham, so children and young people don't have to travel far to get the extra help they need.
- This will help to make sure that children and young people who need special school places don't have to go to more expensive schools and colleges outside of County Durham.



# Our ideas!

Work together with health organisations and schools to buy services such as therapies and special equipment, that help people when they are in nursery, school or college.

- We want to put all the money together that different organisations spend on special equipment and therapies. We think this will make things easier and cost less.
- We also want to find new ways of offering these therapies nearer to where you live, maybe in schools.



# Our ideas!

Clear advice for schools and colleges that ask for extra money to support children and young people. This extra money is called Top Up or Targeted funding.

- We want to give clear advice to schools so they know what they can get extra money for, how much and how it can be used.
- This extra money can be used to buy things in schools for children with lots of needs.
- We will work with schools to agree what they can use Targeted support money for and how to apply for it.
- We think this will be a fairer way of giving out money.



# Our ideas!

**Money for education for young people aged 16 years and over.**

- **We have been talking to some colleges that offer education for young people with special needs.**
- **Together we have tested a new way for them to apply for funding which is fair for all of them.**
- **We now want to do this for other colleges who offer education for young people with special needs in County Durham.**



# Our ideas!

Money for partnerships to help children and young people stay in education.

- We give money to groups of schools and colleges and other organisations who work together to find new ways to help children with extra needs.
- Some partnerships also work together to help children stay in education when they find it difficult to go to school. This may be because they are worried, very upset or find it hard to concentrate at school.
- We want partnerships to be clear about how they will spend the money and how it will help children and young people before we give them money.



# Our ideas!

**Pupil Referral Unit and alternative provision.**

- **Some young people find it difficult to be in school and need to go to the Pupil Referral Unit or other educational activities.**
- **We think that if the partnerships of schools work together well, they can offer young people what they need, and get them back into their school more quickly.**
- **We want to find better ways to help more young people stay in or go back to their school.**



# How to have your say

To have your say on our ideas or if you think we should do something else, you can:

- Go to our website and answer some questions

[www.durham.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.durham.gov.uk/consultation)

- Take part in group discussions we are having with parents, carers, children and young people.