

## Response ID ANON-8B14-ZBC4-J

Submitted to Children's social care strategy: Stable Homes, Built on Love  
Submitted on 2023-05-11 21:12:31

### About you

1 We want to hear from children in care and care leavers, as well as others in this consultation. Are you:

An organisation

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is the name of your organisation?:  
National Network of Parent Carer Forums

2 To help us analyse responses, please tell us in what capacity are you responding to this consultation? As a...

Other (please state)

If other, please type in here and specify. :  
CIC representing children with SEND

3 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is your role within that organisation?

Please select what is your role within the organisation:  
Management

4 Would you like us to keep your response confidential?

If you would like your response to be kept confidential, please explain why:

5 In sharing findings from this consultation, may we quote from your response?

Yes, attributable to my organisation

6 This question is only for adults over the age of 18, or organisations.

Yes

If you are content to be contacted, please provide your email address. :  
consultation@nnpcf.org.uk

### Chapter 1: Our vision & making reform work for everyone

1 Overall, to what extent do you agree these six pillars are the right ones on which to base our reforms for children's social care?

Agree

If desired, please briefly explain your answer :

The NNPCF represents children with special educational needs and disabilities. Whilst we agree with the above, for those with SEND in the social care system for reasons other than disability, there needs to be a focus on ensuring their SEND needs are met, and that the two strands of their needs work seamlessly together. None of the six pillars mention ensuring any additional needs of a child are met whilst they are in care, which is crucial for children with SEND.

2 What more can be done by government, local authorities and service providers to make sure that disabled children and young people can access the right types of help and support?

Please comment below:

The NNPCF represents 110 000 families across England. For most children, who access social care for reasons of disability the following points are crucial:

"Support not safeguarding" – Much of the social care system is focussed on safeguarding and the approaches and systems are too often based in this model. CYP with SEND and their families need support from the social care system and the bias towards safeguarding means that families slip through the net and further families are reluctant to engage with social care.

Input into EHCPs – PCFs report that social care input into EHCPs remains patchy- often there is no input or that input is very superficial.

Consistency and criteria – there is a postcode lottery for social care services. Some areas recognise children with SEND and children in need, most do not; many areas have different (and high) thresholds for services.

Availability of services – many social care services that families would benefit from are simply not available to too many. Thresholds and cuts mean that respite care, residential care and short breaks are in short supply. Children's social care must be prioritised and funded properly.

Prioritisation with the NHS integrated care systems – we must ensure that children's social care is included in plans being developed by the new integrated care systems.

However, further consideration needs to be given for those children in care who also have SEND. LAC children with SEND can be double disadvantaged due to social care structures, and it may be there SEND is overlooked or overshadowed by the fact they are in care.

The SEND Code of practice seems to not apply to LAC children with SEND and is superseded by social care safeguarding, even when the child is placed, is safe and thriving, the focus is still on the statutory duties of the LA which is not person centred or needs led. Social care needs to look at both the safeguarding and the SEN needs of these children and ensure support structures work towards supporting both.

Parents report a lack of an advocate or champion to fight their corner, as corporate parents will not be doing this. There is then further anxiety for those preparing for adulthood. "X has no voice, no way of expressing his future wishes. He is learning happy and sad and can now recognise that in himself and others...our fear is where will he be and who will advocate for him once he leaves care. Birth children don't hit a number and have a complete life change, this is traumatic and barbaric to still operate this way, when it all appears to relate to funding."

Work needs to be done to improve the experience of those LACs with SEND:

A parent writes: "Our hope is that a duty to focus on SEND needs, to be person centred and to improve access to adult services and all areas of PFA will be introduced, so that our most vulnerable young people are not lost and placed in a never ending traumatic cycle, with hopes potential and aspirations never realised."

## Chapter 2: Family Help

1 To what extent are you supportive of the proposal for a system that brings together targeted early help and child in need, into a single, Family Help Service in local areas?

Not Answered

If desired, please briefly explain your answer :

2 Looking at the features of early help listed below, in your opinion or experience, what are the top 3 features that make it a supportive service for families?

FH2 - The service is designed together with the input of children and families:

FH2 - It is based in local communities, and sits alongside other services such as education, libraries, citizen's advice services and housing services:

FH2 - Information and support are available and can be accessed online:

FH2 - Information and support are available and can be accessed in person:

FH2 - Early help is delivered by voluntary and community sector as well as the local authority and their partners (police and health):

FH2 - Strong relationship with one key worker/lead individual for every family:

FH2 - Having people with the right knowledge and skills available to help when needed:

FH2 - Having people with the right experience available to help when needed:

FH2 - Being able to access the right type of support:

FH2 - Other (please specify):

1

If you selected "other", please describe the feature which you think makes early help supportive for families:

That these systems are also able to support families with SEND, and its not an add on or someone else's role. The level of knowledge must extend outside of families who need support with safeguarding, but also into families who need support because of their child's SEND.

## Chapter 3: Parental Representation in Child Protection

1 Have you ever provided or received parental representation during the child protection process?

Not applicable to me.

If you selected "other", please briefly describe how you have received or provided a form of parental representation during the child protection process.:

2 If you have had experience with a form of parental representation in the child protection process, please tell us about it.

Please describe your experience of a form of parental representation. In answering, please do not provide any personal details about the child protection case you were involved with. :

3 If you are happy to or would prefer to talk to us further about your experience with a form of parental representation in child protection processes, please indicate your consent to be contacted in relation to this set of questions only.

Not Answered

Please enter email address here:

## Chapter 4: Unlocking the potential of Family Networks

1 In your view, how can we make a success of embedding a "family first" culture in children's social care?

Please comment below:

This may not always be appropriate for children with SEND. Extended family might already be supporting a child, and social care may be needed from outside the family.

2 In your view, what would be the most helpful forms of support that could be provided to a family network, to enable them to step in to provide care for a child?

Please comment below:

For children with SEND this would vary depending on the needs of the family.

For LACs with SEND - foster carers have reported to us a lack of respite foster carers, so the foster carer has had no respite, no night away, for 5 years from the LAC with SEND they care for. Foster carers of children with SEND need support, especially if they are fostering long term. This would more than likely have to come from outside the family network.

3 What support does your local authority provide to Special Guardians or to a non-parental party with a Child Arrangements Order?

FN1 - A means tested financial allowance:

FN1 - A non-means tested financial allowance:

FN1 - Access to training:

FN1 - Access to free legal advice:

FN1 - Access to information about becoming a kinship carer:

FN1 - Don't know:

FN1 - Other (please specify below):

If you selected "other", please describe the type of support here:

4 To what extent are you supportive of the working definition of kinship care?

Not Answered

If desired, please briefly explain your answer :

## Chapter 5: The Care Experience

1 Overall, to what extent do you agree that the 6 key missions the right ones to address the challenges in the system?

Not Answered

If desired, please briefly explain your answer :

2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that a care experienced person would want to be able to form a lifelong legal bond with another person?

Don't know

3 What would you see as the advantages or disadvantages of formally recognising a lifelong bond in law?

Please comment below :

For LACs in care this would be a way of ensuring they still have someone to have a voice for them. Young people with SEND leaving care have additional challenges which having a lifelong bond in law may help with.

The concern with this would be would the young person lose their voice if they had a lifelong bond and the advocate was speaking for them.

4 What support is needed to set up and make a success of Regional Care Cooperatives?

Please comment below:

5 Do you have any additional suggestions on improving planning, commissioning and boosting the available number of places to live for children in care?

Please comment below:

6 Are there changes you think would be helpful to make to the existing corporate parenting principles?

Please comment below:

Considering the needs of foster carers of LACs with SEND. Ensuring there are other foster carers to offer support and respite to meet the needs of the child and the foster carer. Recognising the lack of family support for the foster carer when caring for the child due to the complexities.

Recognising the complexities of a LAC with SEND, and putting duties on the corporate parent to ensure their needs are met and championed.

7 Which bodies, organisations or sectors do you think should be in scope for the extension of the corporate parenting principles – and why?

Please comment below:

For children with SEND, ensuring ICSs are also considering the needs of LACs and have a duty to ensure their good outcomes. And ensuring LACs with SEND are monitored as a group, separately to just LACs in general.

8 Do you have any further feedback on the proposals made in the 6 missions of this chapter?

Please comment below:

## Chapter 7: System Enablers

1 Beyond the proposals set out in this chapter, what would help ensure we have a children's social care system that continues to share and apply best practice, so that it learns from and improves itself?

Please comment below:

### Impact Assessments (Equalities and Child Rights)

1 Do you have any overall comments about the potential impact, whether positive or negative, of our proposed changes on those who share protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 that we have not identified?

Please comment below:

2 Do you have any overall comments about the potential impact, whether positive or negative, of our proposed changes on children's rights?

Please comment below: