

DfE approves BCP's SEND Reform Plan – what does this mean for families?

You may have seen the news that the Department for Education (DfE) has approved Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole's (BCP) SEND Reform Plan.

We know announcements like this can leave parents and carers wondering:

What does this actually mean for my child?

The most important thing for families to know is that nothing changes immediately for your child or young person because of this announcement.

The approval of the plan means the DfE is satisfied that the plan sets out a clear and credible approach to improving SEND services locally. Approval does not mean that families will see changes overnight, but it does mean that the next stage of the work can move forward.

However, it does not mean that all of the challenges experienced by families have been resolved.

What is the Reform Plan trying to achieve?

The plan is about improving SEND Services across Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole over time. This includes:

- Helping children, young people, and families to get support earlier
- Improving inclusion in schools and communities
- Developing good-quality SEND provision locally
- Improving the way education, health and care services work together
- Improving the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.

These are important ambitions, and we welcome the commitment to continue involving parents, carers, children, and young people as services develop.

We also know there is more to do...

While this announcement is a positive step, we know that many families are still finding it difficult to get the right support at the right time.

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Parents and carers continue to tell us about long waits, difficulties understanding and navigating services, challenges accessing support and concerns about whether their child's needs are being met.

For families, the real test of the Reform Plan will not simply be whether targets are met or plans are approved.

It will be whether children and young people, and the people who care for them, experience a genuine difference in their everyday lives.

That mean being listened to, getting help when it is needed and having confidence that services will work together to support their child.

What will Parent Carers Together do?

Our role remains as important as ever. We will continue to:

- Listen to parents and carers and make sure your experiences are heard
- Bring together the experiences of families to identify what is working and where things still need to improve
- Work with BCP Council, health services, education, and other partners to influence change
- Ask questions and provide constructive challenge when things are not working for families
- Help make sure that the commitments in the Reform Plan lead to meaningful improvements for children, young people, and their families.

The approval of the Reform Plan is an important milestone, but **it is not the end of the SEND improvement journey in BCP.**

And this is where we need your help.

Keep talking to us

For Parent Carers Together to represent families effectively, we need to keep hearing from you.

We want to know what SEND services actually feel like for families across Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole.

Are things getting better?

Are you still facing the same barriers?

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Have you had a good experience that services could learn from?

Is something changing that we need to know about?

Your experiences help us to build a picture of what is happening across BCP. Our families experiences may highlight an individual problem; when we hear similar experiences from many families, it can help us to identify a wider issue that needs to be addressed.

That is why every experience matters – positive, negative, or somewhere in between.

Visit our SEND Reform Hub

We have created a SEND Reform Hub on the Parent Carers Together website where you can follow what is happening, understand what the reforms could mean for families and find opportunities to have your say.

[SEND Reform Hub – Parent Carers Together](#)

We will continue to update the Hub as the Reform Plan develops.

Tell us what you are experiencing!

You do not need to wait for a survey or consultation. If something is working well, tell us. If something is not working, tell us. If you are seeing a change in SEND services – good or bad- we want to hear about it.

The more we hear from families, the stronger the evidence we can take into our conversations with the people responsible for planning and delivering SEND services.

Your experience is evidence. Your voice matters. And together, parent carers can help shape what SEND improvement looks like in BCP.

Thank you to every parent and carer who has already shared their experiences, concerns, and ideas with us.

Please keep sharing. We are listening.

