

## Comments from organisations to the Special Needs Jungle #ProvisionDenied report

*"It couldn't be clearer that special educational provision and support for children and young people dropped off a cliff during the pandemic.*

*"It's completely unacceptable that parents report that nearly two-thirds of children with an EHC plan are still not receiving the support the law says they should have.*

*"Children with SEND and their families have struggled more than ever over the last year. But Covid-19 exposed and intensified problems in the SEND system that already existed and were known about - it didn't create them.*

*"The Government's current SEND Review is an opportunity to get things right for children and to make the system work as it should."*

*Ali Fiddy, CEO, IPSEA*

*"This timely report highlights how crucial it is for children and young people with SEND to be prioritised in the coming weeks and months, particularly as so many have not received their full entitlement of provision over the last year.*

*"It also illustrates the importance of effective communication with families, with many reporting not knowing whether their child was receiving appropriate provision.*

*"Many schools have done an exceptional job of supporting both pupils and families, but there is too much variation from school to school - more research into why this is the case would definitely be welcomed, particularly into the effective leadership of SEND as the report suggests."*

*Alex Grady, Director, Whole School SEND*

*'During the pandemic, the inadequate support for SEND children has only become worse and worse. We deal with many families who have received zero support for their children's*

*education and in fact many have found that the intervention they have had from schools etc. has only made things worse.*

*“The pressure on parents and carers has become unbearable in many cases and this will lead to decreased life chances for SEND children and worsening physical and mental health for them and their parents/carers. Schools and the government must act now to prevent further harm.*

*“We fully support the recommendations in this report. If implemented, they will make a significant difference to a very large number of people who have been forgotten during the pandemic. The Disability Union stands in solidarity with all SEND children and their families.”*

*George Baker, The Disability Union*

*“Many children and young people with SEND have lost significant amounts of support and been seriously impacted by the pandemic, which this report highlights once again.*

*“We want to see an immediate plan in place to ensure children and young people with SEND can catch up on lost learning, transition safely and successfully back to school, and access the vital care and support they need to live safely.*

*“Government must also provide a long-term funding solution, coupled with an effective SEND review, that meets the needs of children and young people with SEND and enables them to realise their potential.”*

*Sarah White, Head of Policy, Public Affairs & Research, Sense*

*“SEND National Crisis are sadly not surprised at the findings of our colleagues at Special Needs Jungle survey, as many of our members echoed similar concerns to us directly, during Autumn 2020. Many more are still having ongoing issues with their children not being having the provision in their children's EHCP, despite the LA's statutory duties being fully restored following the first lockdown ending.*

*“LAs are simply not carrying out any investigations as to who is receiving education and other provisions in the EHCP or not; they have no idea of the issues within their areas and therefore are not facilitating the return to school of many children and young people,*

*by having those much needed conversations about what support schools may need to facilitate the FULL provision to enable the return to school.*

*“Whilst we appreciate the difficulties for all concerned in these unprecedented times, we are fully behind SNJ’s recommendations that have come out of this survey and as part of SEND Community Alliance, urge the Government and all local authorities to carry out a “state of the nation” investigation to identify the gaps for young people.*

*“This will establish contingency plans that focus on what resources and support needs to be put into place within each LA, rather than continually side-lining SEND children and young people by still using Covid as an excuse not to provide even the most basic services and the human rights to an education our children and young people deserve.”*

*SEND National Crisis*

*“The coronavirus outbreak has affected everyone. But it’s left many autistic children and their families completely stranded.*

*“This report’s shocking findings are yet more evidence of the pandemic’s devastating impact because of sudden changes and school closures. Far too many autistic children have struggled without the support they need in and out of school.*

*“The Government must act now, giving autistic and other disabled children the support and services they need when they return to school after the pandemic, and beyond. They must not be left stranded again.”*

*Tim Nicholls, Head of Policy and Public Affairs National Autistic Society*

*“The latest report from Special Needs Jungle comes at a critical time for young people, with SEND their families and the wider sector.*

*“Whilst the education of many young people has been adversely effected by Covid, this report highlights the even greater impact on those with SEND, for the first time.*

*“The Government must act swiftly to ensure that SEND support, in all its forms, is an integral part to its ‘catch-up’ and recovery planning.”*

*Chris Rossiter, CEO, Driver Youth Trust*

*"Prior to the pandemic, variation existed in NHS funded speech and language therapy as highlighted in the report by the Children's Commissioner We need to talk: Access to speech and language therapy (June 2019). With the arrival of Coronavirus, this has been exacerbated. As part of the national effort to respond to the pandemic, many speech and language therapists have been redeployed throughout the NHS and this has, unfortunately, further affected provision elsewhere.*

*"Recent COVID-19 restrictions and school closures have also made it difficult for speech and language therapists to go into schools to provide face-to-face support in educational settings and meet the legal requirements set out in EHC plans.*

*"We're working with our members to share good practice as part of COVID-19 recovery plans and have raised concerns to government about the impact on children and young people."*

*Kamini Gadhok MBE, CEO, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)*

*"This research confirms many parent's worst fears - that children with special educational needs are being left out and left behind as a result of the pandemic.*

*"The set-backs faced by these young people are huge and they must be able to access the support they need to help them overcome them and reach their potential.*

*"It's essential that the experiences of children and young people and their parents and carers are taken into account by educators and Government when planning a return to education and a robust recovery plan for children with SEND, which is properly resourced. Otherwise our society will bear the scar for a generation to come."*

*Jolanta Lasota, Chief Executive of Ambitious about Autism*

*"Contact supports SNJ call to put things right for disabled children in 2021. So often in this pandemic the burden has fallen on families with disabled children.*

*"The experiences of families identified in this report, have continued into the spring. According to government rules, all children with EHC plans are entitled to be in school full time, but in reality this still isn't happening for the majority of children. It is vital that*

*the Government's catch-up plans for children include a meaningful focus on disabled children.*

*"They must address the impact that a lack of therapy and health services is having on disabled children and their families."*

*Amanda Batten CEO of Contact*

*"These stark findings are further evidence of how the needs of disabled children and their families have been neglected during the pandemic.*

*"It is vital that the government has a clear plan, with the right resources, to support children and families during the current lockdown and as we begin to recover from the pandemic"*

*Disabled Children's Partnership*

*"The pandemic has touched everyone's lives, however the needs of children and young persons with SEND remain.*

*"Despite the difficulties we have experienced it must not be forgotten that the education and welfare of these children and young people remain paramount.*

*"This report simply puts into words what many of us have witnessed on a day-to-day basis.*

*"It is not acceptable to shunt those with SEND to the back of the queue as this will result in years of their lives being wasted. The recommendations in this report must be taken seriously and now it is time for action!"*

*Anna Kennedy OBE*