



## Question 21: What support do local systems and delivery partners need to successfully transition and deliver the new national system?

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### SNJ's response to Question 21

- 1. This is a moot question because we do not believe the system needs wholesale change - and neither does any other expert in the SEND sector we have spoken to. This should send a very clear message that persisting with the changes proposed in the Green Paper would be a serious error of judgement.**
2. Nevertheless, all you have to do is read SNJ's posts on SEND reform since before 2014 to see what went wrong and what will, surely, happen again because the same people are in the same posts with the same mindset.
3. In this response, we have detailed what needs to be done from training to proper funding, to tweaks with SEND Support.
4. There is much that has been omitted that we have detailed in Q22 including the issues with intersectionality, SEN Support and extending EHCPs to Higher Education for 18-25-year-olds, removing the anomalies that exist.
5. Stop talking about "perverse incentives" "golden tickets" and other pernicious narratives that are untrue and serve to demonise parents.

6. Work harder on culture change - underline why it is important that disabled children's rights are as important as everyone else's and yes, they cost more but we are supposed to be an advanced civilisation that cares for its most vulnerable. This government has shown time and time again - especially during the pandemic - that it does not hold this to be true. It's time to change the culture in government - across departments.
7. Re-implement the role of the Independent Supporters - one of the most effective ways you can ensure that the children of families who are seldom heard or who are less able to speak up have their needs met and their rights upheld the same as others who can speak for themselves.
8. Carry out, or publish, the Equalities Impact Assessment you claim to have done. Where is it?
9. Ensure that LAs and new ICSs have computer systems that talk to each other.
10. Ensure that culture change means that parents' views are valued as highly as those of public bodies - who after all are public servants, which includes parents. The best professionals within LAs we have worked with are those who have direct experience of SEND in their own families. This shows us that empathy is clearly one of the most important factors for culture change.
11. Work closely with experienced SEND Tribunal judges to create the single template. Carry out their recommendations. Be assured that no one knows the law or what is required better than they do. Don't put it out to some overpaid ex-LA consultants as is the usual rigmarole. Task and fund the SEND tribunal itself to do the work.
12. Ensure that LAs properly work with parental partners in coproduction. Tell them not to restrict this to government-funded PCFs - there is masses of expertise in local charities and support groups who often work much more closely with families to give support.
13. Properly involve young people - and not just the same ones you usually work with. LAs have SEND participation groups for young people. You don't always need to default to Flare (nice though they are). Look to charities that have their own youth groups.
14. The DfE and LAs working with volunteer parents should recompense their time. For example, we at SNJ don't want to be government-funded as an organisation. However, our volunteers are involved in a number of DfE & Ofsted groups, but none offer any compensation for our time. This

is hugely disrespectful when it means we are the only unpaid people in the room, yet our expertise is vital. Our work with other groups is compensated; the government should do the same.

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## Responses from parents/SNJ readers

***NB: These views are those of parents for whom we have acted as a conduit for their response to the Green Paper. The views expressed from here are not necessarily those held by Special Needs Jungle.***



1. I strongly disagree with the premise of this question. The new national system should not be implemented at all.
2. The expense and effort of implementing the 2014 reforms were enormous. Implementation of this anti-parent, anti-child, pro-LA new system will be an equally big task. That time and expense would be far better put into enforcing the current system so that needs are met, not changing the system again to dilute rights and entitlements.



1. Success with transition to any new national system will depend on:
  - a. those changes having the confidence of parents and carers and
  - b. changing the current culture of adversarial resource denial that exists at LAs.
2. I could spend time pontificating on training, staffing, computer systems, monitoring panels, metrics of success etc, but ultimately these two areas seem most important to me as a parent of a child with SEND. The confidence of parents will not happen without an effective means of holding LAs accountable for unlawful decisions. And culture change cannot happen while LA staff are being encouraged to flout the law by senior managers focused on cost savings, who act with confidence that

there is a low risk of them being held accountable. Accountability is everything.



1. Adequate funding, training and time are essential to get this right as is the effective implementation and enforcement and monitoring of true co-production, especially with children and families themselves. When taking funding into account it is best to consider the wider societal impact of struggling SEN families and the impact on communities. Investment at early stages will bring many financial benefits that outweigh the superficial cost of providing a well-run comprehensive support system for families that would benefit the whole economy.