

INMSS Parent & Carer survey

Key findings

- **Generally parents & carers were happy with their child's placement**
- **Biggest positives were small class sizes, development of their child's independence, a bespoke package of support and consistent, well-trained staff**
- **Negatives were mostly around interactions with the local authority (particularly regarding post-16 placements), transition from mainstream education and behaviour management**
- **Parents and carers placed most importance on a placement that understood their child's needs and that helped with social development and development of independence**
- **Most respondents would have liked more information about placements and support in understanding the information. A directory of all schools and colleges was also popular**

Detail

88% were positive or strongly positive about the impact of the placement on their family and 85% agreed or strongly agreed the placement helped their child become more independent and better prepared for the next stage of their education or adult life. For post-16 respondents, the figures for both were 100% (81% and 76% respectively for pre-16).

Positives with the placements were:

Small class sizes	8
Development of CYP independence	7
Bespoke package/understands CYP needs	7
Quality & consistency of staff	6
Communication with parents	5
Range of education/activities offered	5
Interactions with other children	4
Access to therapy	4
Behaviour management	1
Involvement of other agencies	1

Negatives with the placement were:

Contact/support from LA	5
Transition from mainstream placement	3
Behaviour management	3
Interactions with other children	2
Issues with funding	2
Communication with parents	2
EHCP process	2
Quality & consistency of staff	2
Development of CYP independence	1

Most of the concerns about contact/support from the local authority came from parents and carers with a child in a post-16 placement.

Parents and carers thought the following was most important about a placement:

Understand and meet CYP needs	15
Social development/preparation for independence	12
Engaging and varied education	7
CYP is happy	4
Safety	3
Quality staff	3
Local	2
Interactions with other children	2
Parental support	1
Behaviour management	1
Well-funded	1
Small	1

What else could school do to support your child through education and into adulthood?:

Work experience/more vocational skills	4
Teach life skills	4
Careers/post-16 guidance	2
Teach self-care	2
Allow CYP to stay at placement longer	2
Teach financial skills	1
Support for care givers	1
Teach social skills	1
Monitor staff better	1
More local services available	1

More than half of respondents thought the following would be useful:

- Easier access to information
- Support in understanding the information
- A directory of all schools and colleges

30% of respondents wanted more offered in terms of mainstream provision (none of these were parents & carers with a child in a post-16 placement).

Median distance parents and carers would travel is 21-30 miles. Post-16 parents & carers were willing to travel slightly further on average than pre-16 (most popular – mode - answer for pre-16 parents was 0-10 miles, whilst for post-16 it was 21-30 miles).