

Summary of survey results: Specific Learning Difficulties Survey for SEND families in Hertfordshire.

Hosted by HPCI (Herts Parent Carer Involvement) June 2022

This survey was open to parent carers of children and young people aged 3 to 25 with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) covering dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, dyscalculia and dysgraphia, either identified or suspected. This was a follow-up to an initial survey carried out in February 2020, shortly before the advent of lockdown. Both surveys sought to gather evidence to build a picture of the experiences of families with SpLD in Herts. In the June 2022 survey there were 153 responses from across the county covering children from early years to age 16.

Key findings

- ADHD, dyslexia and dyspraxia were the three most common SpLD identified
- 90% of respondents reported other special educational needs (SEN) for their CYP, with anxiety, ASD and emotional and mental health difficulties being the most common.
- The pandemic has increased needs for many of these children but also reduced access to external support. 78% of respondents felt that the pandemic had had a long-term impact on their child's SpLD and access to education.
- 59% of respondents said their CYP had an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in which their SpLD was identified.
- Of those with an EHCP, 68% said the EHCP clearly stated what needed to be in place to support the CYP's SpLD.
- 41% of respondents said their CYP did not have an EHCP.
- Of those without an EHCP, 75% said that their child's educational setting recognised their SpLD as a special educational need.
- Respondents were asked to comment on what would make the most difference to their child's education. The top three themes were: increased support and understanding; the need for teachers to be properly trained in neurodiversity; and access to an appropriate setting.
- Respondents were asked if they had any further comments about support for children with SpLD. The responses were varied but key themes were: the lack of meaningful support; the battle to get any

support and the toll that takes on families; the difficulty of getting any assessment/identification; and the need for early support to prevent significant problems from developing.

- Anxiety is a significant issue for these children. It becomes increasingly prevalent as the children get older. By KS5 over 75% of the respondents are reporting their child has anxiety.
- The findings from this June 2022 survey are consistent with those from the February 2020 survey.

What next?

We will be discussing these results with officers at HCC, and will work with them to ensure this feedback is included in service development and improvement.