

Invitation to take part in an online focus group to shape Newcastle's SEND Strategy

What are the focus groups for?

Partners in Newcastle are developing a new Local Area SEND Strategy and they want to hear the views from a wide range of stakeholders.

Who is running them?

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) have been asked to run the sessions so they are independent and provide an open space for parent carers to share their views. The sessions will be led by CDC staff.

What will happen in the sessions?

The sessions will be open conversations, which will cover key questions:

- What a good life for children and young people with SEND should look like in Newcastle
- What is currently helping to achieve this goal
- What is currently holding children and young people with SEND back from living that good life
- What would make the biggest improvements in the lives of children and young people with SEND, and their families

How can I join a focus group?

You can register for the focus groups by clicking the link next to your preferred date. Once you have registered, you will receive a Zoom invite for your session.

- Saturday 24 September, 11.00am-1pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/421226699397>
- Tuesday 4 October, 10:30am-12:30pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/421231754517>
- Thursday 6 October, 6pm-8pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/421233128627>

What if I can't attend a focus group?

You can still contribute by completing this survey:

<https://iassn.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/newcastle-parent-carer-send-strategy-contribution>

If you are unable to complete the survey, we will be arranging a limited number on 1 to 1 phone calls between parent carers and a CDC representative. If you would like to give your input that way, please get in touch with Miry via email – mmayer@ncb.org.uk.

What will happen next?

After the sessions, CDC will write up a report to share with NCC that captures the views shared. The findings from the focus groups will be shared with the NCC for publication on the Local Offer within 14 days of completion. Once the focus group summary has been published on the Local Offer, CDC will circulate the link to all focus group attendees. There will also be 2 workshops with professionals (one online and another face-to-face) where the focus group summary will be used to inform discussions, and the summary of these workshops will be shared after completion.