

FAQs about the National Children's Bureau Consultation for Children and Young people with SEND about the impact of the pandemic

Purpose of the consultation

- The pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to all children and young people (CYP), and even more so for children and young people with SEND and so it is important to understand from them what additional support they will need to help them to recover from the impact of lockdown.
- The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) wants to ensure that as many young voices as possible are given the opportunity to share their experiences of how lockdown has impacted them, in particular in relation to their support network, academic goals, and social and emotional wellbeing.
- There have also been unexpected benefits from the lockdown and understanding what new ways of working have worked well and could be continued can help drive improvement in the sector and better provision for CYP.

Who will be taking part in the consultation?

- We will be hearing from children and young people with SEND, aged between 5-25 from across England
- The CYP will be from a wide geographical and socio-economic range and will reflect the pan-disability focus of CDC
- CYP with SEND are involved in the research design
- Youth professionals with CYP with SEND are also involved in the co-design and in giving their input on the impact of the lockdown on the CYP they work with
- Parents will also be able to give their feedback in an online survey

What happens to the findings from the consultation?

Everything the CYP say is anonymous and the findings from the consultation will be given to the Department of Education (DfE) and all the organisations that take part in the consultation to contribute to the national pandemic recovery discussion about children and young people with SEND.

There will also be a shorter and accessible report that will go to all organisations and CYP, that have taken part in the consultation.

What's the timescale?

The consultation is taking place between February 15th - March 8th.

How will the children and young people take part?

There are a range of ways that CYP, parents and practitioners can share their views:

- Focus Group workshops (virtual) with CYP, facilitated by Kaizen
- Focus Group and individual discussions facilitated by practitioners in their organisation
- Online survey for CYP to complete themselves with support as needed from practitioners/parents
- Online survey for practitioners and parents

Is there a set of questions that the CYP will be answering?

Yes. The overarching question that is being explored is how has the pandemic impacted CYP with SEND, and what are the key learnings from this experience that can help shape future policy and improve practice.

A focus group question set is attached and below is the online link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCB_CYP

They explore the following 3 broad questions:

- What types of impacts (positive and negative) have CYP experienced on their academic studies, and has it had them alter their aspirations?
 - What types of impact has it had on their emotional wellbeing – what things have been particularly challenging to mental well-being and what things have been supportive or beneficial
 - How has it impacted on the support they receive from family/friends/statutory providers and what types of support are most helpful
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- Some organisations are speaking with their children and young people individually, some in groups.
 - There are 8 questions that can be asked and answered in whatever way is best given the needs of the children and young people.
 - As well as the questions, we've included 2 possible sets of slides for you to choose which version is most appropriate for your group and to use as a visual aid resource if you want whilst you have the conversations (feel free to adapt these if you want).
 - Can you record the information onto the Focus Group question set template and then email to ncbconsultation@kaizen.org.uk within 3 days of your session?

How can all CYP be included?

- We realise that every child and young person is an individual and that these questions will be more of a direct fit for some than others. They are here as a guide and those supporting the CYP in answering them can adapt them in whatever way is best for the CYP which can include answering all or some of the questions and through words or any other means, such as through Makaton signing, talking mats, art etc
- It would be great to have drawings or any other visuals the cyp might want to include as part of the consultation.

How do the CYP give their consent?

- As part of the process at the beginning of the conversation when the practitioner is explaining about the consultation, they'll ask permission to feedback what the CYP say and will remind the CYP that everything is anonymous and there will be no recordings or photos.
- The cyp would raise their hands to give this permission, either actually or the online raising hand or whatever way is appropriate for the individual cyp and the practitioner will record that they asked for and got consent.

Who do we contact if we have questions?

Anju Virdee is coordinating this project, please contact her at anju@kaizen.org.uk or 07306 365425 with any questions you may have.

How and when do we get you the feedback from the cyp?

We need all consultation feedback in by **March 8th** at the latest and you would either complete it online or email it to ncbconsultation@kaizen.org.uk.

Where possible, please can you get us the feedback sooner than March 8th, ideally within 3 days of your session, as that will support us in being able to process all the information.

Can I also give my thoughts about the impact of the pandemic on the CYP?

Yes, definitely – there's been a lot of interest from youth professionals to give their feedback about the impact of the pandemic on the children and young people that they work with. We'd love to hear your thoughts – below is the link so you can complete the questionnaire:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCB_PP

Thank you so much for making it possible for the children and young people that you work with to have their voice heard as part of this consultation.