LEEDS PCF
PARENT CARER FORUM

Annual Survey 2026

Easy Read summary

What parent carers told us about SEND services in Leeds



About the survey



Leeds Parent Carer Forum asked parent carers about SEND services in Leeds.

154 parent carers answered the survey.

The survey tells us about the people who answered. It does not represent every SEND family in Leeds.

Different questions were answered by different numbers of people.

The main message



Families told us that services often did not work together.

Waiting was harder when families had no practical help, clear information or a way to get more help.

Good communication helps families get support, know who is responsible and trust services.

Real improvement means families can see and feel a difference in everyday support and outcomes.

It is not enough for services to say things have improved. Families need to see and feel the difference.

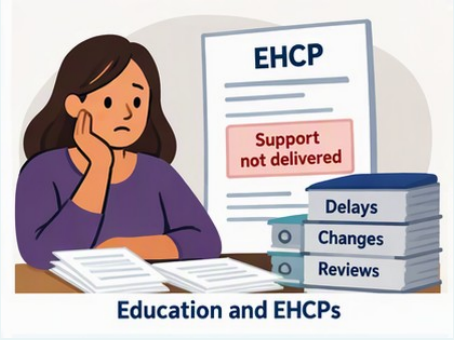
What worked well



Some families told us about support that made a real difference.

- Professionals listened and took concerns seriously.
- Some schools, SENCOs and health staff understood the child.
- Some hospital staff made children comfortable and met their needs.
- Clear updates, named contacts and support made for the child were helpful.

Education and EHCPs



Education and EHCPs

Some families praised supportive schools and SENCOs.

Other families described delays, old plans, missing support and poor communication.

An EHCP only helps when the support written in the plan is provided.

Children on SEN Support also need clear and accountable help.

Health and wellbeing



Families told us about health, mental health, sleep, feeding, therapy and hospital care.

42 of 57 people answering the follow-up question could not get the mental-health support needed.

61 of 80 people answering the follow-up question had not accessed sleep support.

Some families had positive hospital experiences when staff listened and made adjustments.

Families wanted practical help before, during and after autism or ADHD assessment.

Waiting for help



Families often waited for assessments, health services and EHCP decisions.

The problem was not only how long they waited.

Families wanted useful help, regular updates and a clear way to ask for more support while waiting.

Families said support should be available before needs reach crisis point.

Services need to work together



Families said they often had to repeat the same information to different services.

Some families had to coordinate education, health and social care themselves.

Families want services to share information appropriately and work together.

Families want a named contact who explains what will happen next.

Information and support



98 of 154 respondents had heard of the Leeds Local Offer.

Short breaks



Some families valued short breaks. Other families said short breaks were not available or suitable for their child.

Preparing for adulthood



Families wanted preparation for adulthood to start earlier, with clear information and named support.

What families want to happen next



What families want to happen next

Families want services to make clear improvements.

- Provide support while families wait.
- Make EHCP decisions and updates on time.
- Deliver the support written in EHCPs.
- Improve access to mental-health, sleep, feeding and therapy support.
- Give families named contacts and regular updates.
- Make short breaks more accessible.
- Start preparation for adulthood earlier.
- Show families what changed because of their feedback.

What happens next



LPCF will use the 2026 survey as a starting point.

LPCF plans to ask some of the same questions in 2027.

This will help families see whether their experiences are improving.

The full report gives more detail, quotations and recommendations.

Need this information in another format?

Email: info@leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk
Phone: 07423 436813

Thank you to every parent carer who shared their experience.

Sources

This Easy Read draft is based on the approved Leeds Parent Carer Forum Annual Survey 2026 reports. Visuals in this file were generated with Microsoft Copilot.