

Joint Working Group Update for Parent Carers – December 2025

Here are the main updates from this month's Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting, where parent carer representatives and leaders from education, health, and social care come together to look at improvements across Derbyshire's SEND system.



1. Partnership Values Work

DPCV ran a series of “values sessions” with families and professionals to agree on the shared values we all wanted to see across Derbyshire's SEND services.

These discussions were really positive, and the final session took place in December.

The next step was to combine everything we heard into a small set of clear partnership values, which would guide how services work with families in the future.

2. Parent Carer Surveys

Annual Parent Carer Survey

- 225 parent carers have completed the survey so far.

ND MH Survey

- Over 100 parents have already shared their experiences.
- The results will help shape improvements to the pathway.

We also discussed how to avoid overwhelming families with too many surveys, and how to gather feedback in more meaningful, targeted ways.

3. Home to School Transport Consultation

We raised concerns about not being involved early enough in drafting the upcoming transport consultation.

The local authority acknowledged this and confirmed:

- **A 10-week consultation** will start soon.
- **3-4 engagement sessions** will be held, including one specifically for SEND families.
- Parent carer voice will be involved in shaping the policy after the consultation too.

4. SEND Funding Update

The group received clarification about recent SEND funding:

- The funding came from a **service review**, not from external pressure or campaigning.

- Additional national SEND capital funding has also been announced, which will help expand provision in Derbyshire.

5. Inclusion Framework

The Inclusion Framework is still being developed.

- It will be strengthened with trauma-informed practice.
- Further co-production with parent carers is planned.
- A dedicated session will be arranged for families to review and influence the final draft.

7. Data & Transparency

There was strong agreement that families need clearer, more accessible information about SEND services.

Plans include:

- Regular sharing of key SEND data (e.g., EHC plans, reviews).
- Exploring a **public-facing Data Dashboard** on the Local Offer website so families can see more information about services in one place.
- Looking at options for live data access for the partnership.

8. Alternative Provision (AP) Framework

The new AP Framework is scheduled to be in place for the next academic year

Key points:

- Only providers on the framework will be commissioned.
- A multi-agency panel is being developed.
- Communication with families will be a priority to ensure smooth changes.

9. SEND Team Staffing

Updates included:

- Recruitment is underway for key roles.
- A new vulnerable children's team is being set up to support children not attending school (including EBSA, EHE, and exclusions).
- Comprehensive induction and training are planned, including IPSEA training for all SEND staff.

10. Health Updates

Health colleagues shared:

- Annual SEND quality assurance visits are taking place across health trusts.
- Guidance for schools on asthma, diabetes, and epilepsy is being finalised.
- A new programme of Level 3 SEND training for NHS staff is being rolled out.
- The partnership will support promoting annual health checks for young people aged 14+ with learning disabilities.

11. DIASS Update

DIASS reported:

- A rise in enquiries around suspensions and children out of school.
- Ongoing tribunal work and backlogs, although capacity has improved.
- The DIASS Advisory Group has now been reinstated.