LONDONASSEMBLY

Health Committee

Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

Call for evidence: SEND reforms in London

November 2026 – January 2027

The London Assembly Health Committee has launched an investigation into SEND provision and the Government's proposed SEND reforms in London. The objectives of the investigation are:

- To understand the current state of SEND provision in London's schools
- To understand the experiences of children, parents and teachers navigating SEND provision in London
- To examine the challenges and opportunities presented by the new reforms to SEND provision in London, and the capacity of schools and boroughs in London to implement the reforms
- To explore what actions the Mayor could take to support effective implementation of the reforms

The Committee would like to invite those who have knowledge and experience of the SEND system in London to provide written evidence to the Committee. The information you provide will help to inform the work of the Committee and influence its recommendations.

The Committee is keen to hear from parents, teachers, public health bodies, health professionals, schools, education bodies, charities, advocacy groups and local authorities.

Background

- The number of children requiring support for SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) in London has risen significantly over the last decade[1], with almost one in five pupils in London now identified as having SEND.[2]

- In February 2026, the Government proposed significant reforms to the current SEND system in its white paper, 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving'.[3] The reforms are intended to create a more inclusive education system where most SEND children can attend their local mainstream school.[4]

- Under the new reforms, specialist SEND professionals will be embedded within mainstream schools and all children with SEND will automatically receive an Individual Support Plan (ISP). [5] Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) will only available to children with the most complex needs.[6]

- The proposals have received a mixed reception. Although councils generally support the reforms,[7] some organisations have argued they could weaken parents' and children's rights.[8]

[1] BBC, Record number of London pupils need Send support, 7 January 2026
[2] London Councils, Inclusion in London's Schools, November 2024
[3] Department for Education, SEND reform: putting children and young people first, Updated 27 April 2026
[4] Department for Education, SEND reform: putting children and young people first, Updated 27 April 2026
[5] Department for Education, Schools white paper: What parents need to know about changes to the SEND system, 13 May 2026
[6] Department for Education, SEND reform: putting children and young people first, 23 February 2026
[7] Local Government Association, LGA response to the Department for Education's SEND reform: putting children and young people first consultation, 20 May 2026
[8] IPSEA, SEND complaints are rising — weakening children's rights is not the answer, 2 September 2026

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How to respond

The Committee welcomes any evidence relevant to the following questions:

1. What is your experience of the current SEND system in London? What works well, and what are the main challenges?

2. From your understanding of the proposed SEND reforms, what do you think the biggest opportunities and challenges are in London?

3. How effectively do education and health services and local authorities currently work together to identify needs and provide support for children and young people with SEND in London?

4. What resources or changes are needed to better support the SEND system in London before, during and after implementation of these reforms?

5. How can trust in the SEND system be improved for parents, children and teachers?

Written submissions should be sent to scrutiny@london.gov.uk with 'Health Committee call for evidence' as the subject line. The deadline is **Friday 15 January 2027.** You do not need to answer all questions - please answer only those that are most relevant to you or your organisation.

What we will do with the responses

The submissions will be used to inform the London Assembly Health Committee's investigation. Responses may be used and quoted in a report or output from the Committee.

In the large majority of circumstances, we will publish written submissions and the names of the individuals or organisations that submitted them online. This is to ensure transparency about what evidence the Committee has received. Exceptions to this are usually applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If there is a reason that you would like your evidence not to be published with your name (submitted anonymously) or not to be published at all (submitted confidentially), please let us know and the Committee will consider the request. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required to release non-personally identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

About the Health Committee

The London Assembly consists of 25 elected members, who publicly examine the policies and programmes of the Mayor of London and relevant agencies through committee meetings, plenary sessions, site visits and investigations.

The Health Committee carries out investigations into health and wellbeing issues in London. It scrutinises the work of the Mayor on health issues, and health issues and policy in London more broadly. It routinely publishes findings and recommendations from its investigations.

The members of the committee are:

- Krupesh Hirani AM (Chair)
- Emma Best AM (Deputy Chair)
- Marina Ahmad AM
- Andrew Boff AM
- Alex Wilson AM
- Caroline Russell AM

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Contact us

Email submissions	Scrutiny@london.gov.uk Please use 'Health Committee call for evidence' as the subject title
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