

## Torbay Locality Proposal - Consultation Report

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### Executive Summary

The consultation on proposals to improve education services for children and young people ran from 12 September to 8 December 2024. This consultation included a number of specific proposals including a new 'Locality' model to provide Clusters in different areas of Torbay with input from a range of professionals and a proposal to make better use of the Parkfield facility in Paignton, as part of the plans.

The engagement was carried out via a range of methods from face to face and online meetings to online surveys, presentations, and the consultation was promoted via social media, newsletters, press releases and direct communication methods such as emails and letters.

Specific meetings were held with stakeholders such as young people, school leaders, school governors, and the local voluntary and community sector, as well as local parent/carer groups such as Tissues and Issues and SEND Family Voice. There were also a number of online information sessions hosted via Teams which anyone could join.

There were two surveys, the main survey which was primarily aimed at parents/carers and professionals working with children and young people, and a second survey aimed at children and young people.

For the main survey there were 212 responses, of which 118 were from Torbay residents and then the second largest group represented in this survey (39) were education professionals. For the

children and young people’s survey there were 27 responses. On both surveys, not everyone answered every single question.

More detail on each of the survey responses is included later on in this report but a summary of the response to the key proposals outlined in the consultation is below:

Summary tables (main survey)

Proposal	Number and percentage of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing	Number and percentage of respondents neither agreeing nor disagreeing	Number and percentage of respondents either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing
Locality Model including local ‘Clusters’ of professionals	92 47.92% of those who answered this question 43.21% of the 212 survey responses	13 (19.27%) 19.70% of those who answered this question 6.70% of the 212 survey responses	63 32.81% of those who answered this question 29.38% of the 212 survey responses
Parkfield proposal	103 53.92% of those who answered this question 48.31% of the 212 survey responses	42 21.99% of those who answered this question 19.43% of the 212 survey responses	46 24.48% of those who answered this question 21.37% of the 212 survey responses

Summary table (children and young people’s survey)

Proposal	Number and percentage of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing	Number and percentage of respondents neither agreeing nor disagreeing	Number and percentage of respondents either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing
Locality Model including local ‘Clusters’ of professionals	11 42.31% of those who answered this question 40.21% of the 27 survey responses	8 30.77% of those who answered this question 29.17% of the 27 survey responses	7 26.92% of those who answered this question 25.25% of the 27 survey responses
Parkfield proposal	15	8	0

	65.21% of those who answered this question	34.78% of those who answered this question	0% of those who answered this question
	55.5% of the 27 survey responses	29.17% of the 27 survey responses	0% of the 27 survey responses

There were also 137 freetext responses to the main survey and 18 freetext responses to the children and young people’s survey, while six individual emails were also sent to the inbox that was set up for the consultation – [Locality.consultation@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Locality.consultation@torbay.gov.uk)

## Introduction

A consultation was needed to engage with parents, carers, professionals working with children, and children and young people themselves, around plans to improve educational services for children and young people with additional needs.

The proposal is to work with local partners on a new Locality based model, to drive area wide improvements to mainstream inclusion and education, to ensure the needs of children and young people with High Needs who are aged 5 to 18 years are sufficiently planned and provided for.

The new Locality based proposal sees education settings organised into Clusters which will work collaboratively, including:

- Schools
- parents/carers
- Torbay Council
- the NHS
- other local service providers

This Locality proposal would seek to coproduce a model which is more flexible to support more needs without necessarily needing an EHCP.

Within the proposal the MySpace Parkfield building use is under consideration. Through this consultation the Council sought to work with parents, carers, and community groups to consider how we maximise use for young people at weekends, evenings, school holidays, and outside of the hours dedicated to the delivery of existing services.

Our Community and Corporate Plan outlines the Council’s plans for Torbay to be recognised as a child friendly place.

We want all residents, including our children and young people, to feel and be safe and to live well within their communities.

## How the consultation was carried out (methodology)

The consultation on proposed improvements to education services for children with additional needs was launched on 12 September and ran until 8 December 2024.

There was a main online survey hosted on Torbay Council’s Civica Involve survey system, which was promoted via a range of channels including emails to key stakeholders, press release, newsletter articles, and social media posts. The survey was also promoted via A5 flyers with QR codes on, and there was an additional short survey developed for children and young people. The

link to the survey was also included on the Council's Consultations webpage ([www.torbay.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/consultations))

The survey was promoted via social media channels including Facebook, NextDoor, LinkedIn and Instagram. There were a total of nine Facebook posts between 13 September and 8 December and these had a total reach of 18,257 and 834 engagements, were shared 70 times and generated 82 link clicks through to the survey.

The survey link was also promoted via the Council's Govdelivery newsletters. Throughout the consultation, it was featured in three editions of One Torbay (residents newsletter), which has 11801 subscribers, one edition of Staff News (has 1286 subscribers), two editions of the SEND newsletter (1459 subscribers), and via the Members Briefing for Torbay's Councillors. Between all the newsletters there were 19,763 unique opens and they generated 125 unique visits to the surveys.

Letters were also sent to all schools, Alternative Provision providers, post 16 providers and VCSE partners, SENDCO forum members, health partners, mail to children and young people on the SEN register with a link to the survey.

In addition to the surveys, people were able to email their comments to a special inbox that was set up for the consultation: [Locality.consultation@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Locality.consultation@torbay.gov.uk)

There were also a number of engagement events, both face to face and online.

Face to face events included:

- Engagement meeting with SEND Family Voice at Parkfield House with families
- Engagement meeting with Tissues and Issues support group
- Meeting with health colleagues
- Meeting with SENDCO Forum
- Schools event for headteachers
- Meeting with voluntary and community sector representatives
- Meeting with Family Hubs (x3)
- Online (via Teams) consultation events for families (x 3) - 65 people attended these online events in total
- Online (via Teams) meeting for school governors

## Consultation responses

For the main adult survey on Proposed improvements to education services for children with additional needs in Torbay, there were 212 responses (though the number of people answering each question did vary as not everyone answered every question).

For the children and young people's survey, there were 27 responses.

There were also six emails sent to the [Locality.consultation@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Locality.consultation@torbay.gov.uk) consultation inbox

### Responses to individual survey questions

There were a number of questions at the start of the survey regarding what capacity the people were responding to the survey in. This is important as we need to know whether they are answering as a parent or in a professional capacity.

The breakdown is as follows:

Please select the option from the list below that most closely represents how you will be responding to this consultation.

Option	Total	Percent
As a Torbay resident (living in the Torbay Council authority area)	118	54.38% of those who answered the question.  55.35% of the 212 survey responses.
As a resident from somewhere outside of Torbay	1	0.46% of those who answered the question  0.47% of the 212 survey responses
On behalf of a friend or relative (please make sure you complete this questionnaire using their answers / information)	2	0.92% of those who answered the question  0.94% of the 212 survey responses
On behalf of an early years education provider, such as a nursery	3	1.38% of those who answered the question  1.22% of the 212 survey responses
On behalf of a mainstream primary school	12	5.53% of those who answered the question  5.35% of the 212 survey responses
On behalf of a mainstream secondary school	7	3.23% of those who answered the question  3.16% of the 212 survey responses
On behalf of a special school	6	2.76% of those who answered the question  2.44% of the 212 survey responses
As an education professional	39	17.97% of those who answered the question  18.21% of the 212 survey responses
As a Parish / Town / Borough / District / County Councillor	1	0.46% of those who answered the question

		0.47% of the 212 survey responses
On behalf of a charity or Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise organisation (VCSE)	12	5.53% of those who answered the question 5.35% of the 212 survey responses
As a Torbay Council employee	12	5.53% of those who answered the question 5.35% of the 212 survey responses
As a health professional	4	1.84% of those who answered the question 1.47% of the 212 survey responses

Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please read the information about the Locality Model on the consultation project page before answering this question. Looking at the description on the project page about the relationship between the High Needs Block and the Locality Clusters. To what extent do you agree that the new Locality Model will improve services for children and young people with High Needs in Torbay? (195 responses)	25 13.02% of those who answered the question 11.42% of the 212 survey responses	67 34.9% of those who answered the question 31.32% of the 212 survey responses	13 6.1% of those who answered the question 6.7% of the 212 survey responses	35 18.23% of those who answered the question 16.27% of the 212 survey responses	28 14.58% of those who answered the question 13.11% of the 212 survey responses

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following cluster areas being arranged? There are two main options for Cluster models - one would be organised on geographical grounds (so Torquay would have a cluster, Paignton and Brixham), and the other option would be based around Secondary schools which would be in a cluster with their 'feeder primary schools. There will also be a post-16 Cluster for older pupils. Tell us to which option you prefer - or if you have another suggestion. There were 167 responses to this question

Option A - Geographically based schools Cluster (so Torquay, Paignton and Brixham)	92 55.09% of those who answered the question 43.21% of the 212 survey responses
Option B - Clusters based around A Secondary school and its 'feeder' primary schools	75 44.91% of those who answered the question 35.20% of the 212 survey responses

To what extend do you agree or disagree for the ERPs (Enhanced Resource Bases) to be re-purposed into Specialist Hubs to support the children and young people within the Cluster area. Please select one option. (197 responses)	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
	38 19.19% of those who answered this question 17.49% of the 212 survey responses	72 36.36% of those who responded to this question 33.19% of the 212 survey responses	33 16.67% of those who responded to this question 15.30% of the 212 survey responses	22 11.11% of those who responded to this question 10.20% of the 212 survey responses	33 6.67% of those who responded to this question 15.30% of the 212 survey responses

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each Cluster being responsible for: Those with additional needs and SEND (197 responses)	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
	61 30.96% of those who answered	71 36.04% of those who answered	19 9.64% of those who answered	21 10.66% of those who answered the question	25 12.69% of those who answered the question

	the question  28.41% of the 212 survey responses	the question  32.26% of the 212 survey responses	the question  8.51% of the 212 survey responses	9.48% of the 212 survey responses	11.42% of the 212 survey responses
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To what extent do you agree or disagree with each Cluster being responsible for: Medical Needs (197 responses)	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
	35  17.77% of those who answered this question  16.27% of the 212 survey responses	69  35.03% of those who answered this question  32.29% of the 212 survey responses	31  15.74% of those who answered this question  14.33% of the 212 survey responses	30  15.23% of those who answered this question  14.8% of the 212 survey responses	32  16.24% of those who answered this question  15.5% of the 212 survey responses

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each Cluster being responsible for: Young people at risk of exclusion (197 responses)	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
	50  25.51% of those who answered this question  23.31% of the 212 survey responses	68  34.69% of those who answered this question  32.4% of the 212 survey responses	26  13.27% of those who answered this question  12.14% of the 212 survey responses	24  12.24% of those who answered this question  11.17% of the 212 survey responses	28  14.29% of those who answered this question  13.11% of the 212 survey responses



Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
To what extent do you agree or disagree with each Cluster being responsible for: provision when a child is excluded 197 responses	47 23.86% of those who responded to this question  22.9% of the 212 survey responses	57 28.93% of those who responded to this question  26.44% of the 212 survey responses	29 14.72% of those who responded to this question  13.36% of the 212 survey responses	26 13.20% of those who responded to this question  12.14% of the 212 survey responses	38 19.29% of those who responded to this question  17.49% of the 212 survey responses
To what extent do you agree or disagree with a Team around the Cluster being developed, and that this will enable a joined-up provision of specialist services in each local area? 196 responses	78 39.59% of those who responded to this question  36.42% of the 212 survey responses	57 28.93% of those who responded to this question  26.47% of the 212 survey responses	28 14.21% of those who responded to this question  13.11% of the 212 survey responses	16 8.12% of those who responded to this question  7.29% of the 212 survey responses	18 9.4% of those who responded to this question  8.26% of the 212 survey responses
If the proposed Locality Model is implemented in Torbay, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the key benefits Torbay Council has identified will be achieved? More consistent provision for children who are medically unwell to attend their school.	30 15.15% of those who responded to this question  14.8% of the 212 survey responses	70 35.35% of those who responded to this question  33.10% of the 212 survey responses	42 21.21% of those who responded to this question  19.43% of the 212 survey responses	31 15.66% of those who responded to this question  14.33% of the 212 survey responses	25 12.63% of those who responded to this question  11.42% if the 212 survey responses

198 responses					
<p>If the proposed Locality Model is implemented in Torbay, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the key benefits Torbay Council has identified will be achieved?</p> <p>Improvements to parental trust, confidence, and experience of using services for children with additional needs including SEND.</p> <p>198 responses</p>	<p>41</p> <p>20.71% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>19.18% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>51</p> <p>25.76% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>24.3% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>51</p> <p>25.76% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>24.3% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11.62% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>10.45% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>32</p> <p>16.16% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>15.5% of the 212 survey responses</p>
<p>If the proposed Locality Model is implemented in Torbay, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the key benefits Torbay Council has identified will be achieved?</p> <p>Reduction in suspensions and exclusions</p> <p>198 responses</p>	<p>30</p> <p>15.15% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>14.80% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>45</p> <p>22.73% of those who responded to the question</p> <p>21.12% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>56</p> <p>28.28% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>26.22% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>39</p> <p>19.70% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>18.21% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>28</p> <p>14.14% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>13.11% of the 212 survey responses</p>
<p>If the proposed Locality Model is implemented in Torbay, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the key benefits Torbay</p>	<p>41</p> <p>21.13% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>46</p> <p>23.71% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>50</p> <p>25.77% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>28</p> <p>14.43% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>29</p> <p>14.95% of those who responded to this question</p>

<p>Council has identified will be achieved?</p> <p>Achievement gaps narrow for children and young people with High Needs, and for those who are disadvantaged.</p> <p>198 responses</p>	<p>19.18% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>21.37% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>23.31% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>13.11% of the 212 responses</p>	<p>13.36% of the 212 responses</p>
<p>If the proposed Locality Model is implemented in Torbay, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the key benefits Torbay Council has identified will be achieved?</p> <p>The needs of children and young people are met early with less waiting.</p> <p>198 responses</p>	<p>49</p> <p>24.75% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>23.60% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>63</p> <p>31.82% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>29.38% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>35</p> <p>17.68% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>16.27% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>31</p> <p>15.66% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>14.33% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10.10% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>9.23% of the 212 survey responses</p>
<p>If the proposed Locality Model is implemented in Torbay, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the key benefits Torbay Council has identified will be achieved?</p> <p>Opportunities to take advantage of the economies of scale that shared resources can bring.</p> <p>198 responses</p>	<p>49</p> <p>24.75% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>23.60% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>59</p> <p>29.80% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>27.44% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>45</p> <p>22.73% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>21.12% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11.11% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>10.20% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11.62% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>10.45% of the 212 survey responses</p>

<p>To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed process within each Cluster will enable children and young people to be able access the right support. Please select one option. 196 responses</p>	<p>35 17.86% of those who responded to this question 16.27% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>61 31.12% of those who responded to this question 28.41% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>43 21.94% of those who responded to this question 20.15% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>30 15.31% of those who responded to this question 14.8% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>27 13.78% of those who responded to this question 12.39% of the 212 survey responses</p>
<p>The covenant for the Parkfield building states that it must be used primarily for youth activities. The locality model provides the opportunity to ensure that the MySpace Building at Parkfield is utilised to provide maximum benefit for children and young people in Torbay, through a vibrant and active use of the site at all times. The future of Parkfield MySpace site will be considered following the outcome of the consultation on the Locality Model. Torbay Section 19 duties are currently discharged through an education service based at MySpace at Parkfield, Paignton. We want to ensure that this</p>	<p>57 29.84% of those who responded to this question 26.47% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>46 24.08% of those who responded to this question 21.3% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>42 21.99% of those who responded to this question 19.43% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>11 5.76% of those who responded to this question 5.10% of the 212 survey responses</p>	<p>35 18.72% of those who responded to this question 16.27% of the 212 survey responses</p>

<p>facility has a vibrant community feel and as part of the consultation we will seek views on how we can enable this to occur outside of school hours, including evenings, weekends and holiday periods.</p> <p>Torbay Council will remain in line with the Big Lottery Fund Deed of Dedication that the Council, 'consents not to assign, transfer or charge the land'. The Council will also be following the National Trust consent of 24th July 2019 that places conditions on use including that, Students will have access between 8.45am and 2.45pm, staff between 7.45am and 4.30pm and that the Youth service will operate 4-9pm on weekdays &amp; 9am to 9pm Saturdays &amp; Sunday.</p> <p>Please let us know to what extent you agree or disagree with this proposal. Do you:</p> <p>191 responses</p>					
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Children and young people’s survey

there was also a simplified version of the survey for children and young people. Below are the responses to the survey questions.

Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<p>Locality model – This is a plan to group schools into local ‘Clusters’ to help young people who need extra support do better. A <b>Cluster</b> is a group of schools in the same area that work together to help children and young people. Think of it like a team where each school is a player. They share ideas and resources to make sure every child and young person gets the support they need. Each Cluster will include your school, local doctors and nurses, parents, and other community helpers. This plan is for children and young people aged 5-18 and will start in September 2025. Changes will happen slowly, not all at once. Special schools are not part of this plan. What do you think about this idea? Do you:</p>	<p>6 23.08% of those who responded to this question  22.2% of the 27 responses</p>	<p>5 19.23% of those who responded to this question  18.14% of the 27 responses</p>	<p>8 30.77% of those who responded to this question  29.17% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>3 11.54% of those who responded to this question  11.10% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>4 15.38% of those who responded to this question  14.22% of the 27 survey responses</p>
<p>Getting help more quickly This plan means young people</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>4</p>

<p>won't need a diagnosis or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to get help. The clusters (like we Talked about before) will improve the support they Already have for all young people, so you can get help quickly without having to wait.</p> <p>What do you think about this idea? Do you:</p>	<p>42.31% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>40.20% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>30.77% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>29.17% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>7.69% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>7.11% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>3.85% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>3.19% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>15.38% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>14.22% of the 27 survey responses</p>
<p>Getting the right people round the table - Each cluster will have a group of people from schools and other local helpers who decide what kind of help is needed and how to give it. This help could be special activities for young people, a place (hub) where you can go to get help, or experts from other schools coming to help young people in the Cluster. What do you think about this idea? Do you:</p>	<p>11</p> <p>39.29% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>40.20% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>9</p> <p>32.14% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>33.19% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10.71% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>11.1% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>1</p> <p>3.57% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>3.19% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>4</p> <p>14.29% of those who responded to this question</p> <p>14.22% of the 27 survey responses</p>
<p>More support, more flexibility - One of the ideas is to create new Enhanced Resource Bases (ERPs or Hubs) for each Cluster. An ERP is a special place in</p>	<p>10</p> <p>40% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>9</p> <p>36% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>1</p> <p>4% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8% of those who responded to this question</p>

<p>regular schools to help young people who find it hard to stay in a regular classroom all day and might need to learn in smaller groups. This plan will keep the idea of these ERPs but make them more flexible to help more young people, even if they don't have an EHCP.</p> <p>In our plan, these ERPs or Hubs will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer more Outreach Services to other schools in the Cluster,</li> <li>• Provide short-term and flexible support to young people (instead of a long-term spot in the hub), and</li> <li>• Be open to young people with and without an EHCP or diagnoses.</li> </ul> <p>What do you think about this idea? Do you:</p>	<p>37% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>33.1% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>11.1% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>3.19% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>7.11% of the 27 survey responses</p>
<p>Making Better use of Parkfield – As part of the plans we are Looking at making better use of</p>	<p>7 30.43% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>8 34.78% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>8 34.78% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>0 (0%) 0% of those who responded to this question</p>	<p>0 (0%) 0% of those who responded to this question</p>



<p>Parkfield as a 'multi-use' hub. The plan is for it to be used by Mayfield sixth form students between 9am and 3pm in term time, but used by community groups to provide support for Torbay's young people in the afternoons, evenings and weekends. What do you think about this idea? Do you:</p>	<p>25.25% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>29.17% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>23.3% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>0% of the 27 survey responses</p>	<p>0% of the 27 survey responses</p>
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## Response to free text questions and boxes

In addition to all the quantitative survey responses there was also a freetext box asking for any additional comments.

### Main survey

Although there were 212 responses to the main survey for parents, carers and professionals, not everyone used the freetext box for comments. However there were 137 freetext comments in total, with a real mix of supportive comments about the proposals, concerns or questions about how the proposed changes would be implemented, and outright opposition to the plans.

For many of the proposals, more than half of respondents were supportive, with 55% either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the proposal for Enhanced Resource Bases, 67% either agreeing or strongly agreeing that Clusters should be responsible for SEND, and 52% either agreeing or strongly agreeing that Clusters should be responsible for Medical Needs.

Of the 67 respondents who replied that they tended to agree with the proposal around the Locality Model, there were 41 comments in the freetext box. Of the 40 respondents who said they strongly agreed with the Locality Model, there were 18 comments.

Supportive comments included:

- I believe that the cluster model has the potential to work very well, but only if the bases for these students are supported by trained professionals with a wealth of specialist experience.
- The locality model in principle is sound and has proven successful in other areas.
- The principle of this proposed model is sound however it is how it will be implemented that will determine its success.
- Children with additional needs have a right to be educated alongside their peers who don't. They should get help for their needs and not their diagnosis

A key theme that has come out of the comments is that, even where respondents are supportive of the proposals in principle, they would like more information on how they would work in practice, so this is something that we will need to address going forward. Examples of these comments include:

- It would be helpful to see this model in practice or at least see it on paper.
- The principle of the Locality model is a positive one; however there needs to be clarity around how this will happen

Also, even though more than half of respondents supported many of the proposals in the survey, a number expressed concern about proposed timescales and were unsure how it could be implemented by September 2025. In particular there were a number of responses from parts of the education sector either opposing the proposals or expressing concerns about them, particularly around their own capacity.

### Feedback from local schools and colleges

Of those who are opposed to the main proposal of the Locality model, out of the 33 respondents who said they strongly disagreed with the proposal and entered freetext comments, 20 were education professionals. This demonstrates that if the proposal was to be taken forward there would need to be more work and explanation to bring some sections of the education sector on board. Responses came from a number of schools and colleges, including White Rock Primary School, South Devon College and Paignton Academy.

Another theme from the education sector was that they would have preferred there to be more engagement with schools and colleges before the main consultation was launched with parents/carers and children, so this is something else that will be taken on board in the future, and the Council will work very closely with schools whatever the outcome, when designing and implementing a future model.

Examples of comments and concerns received from education professionals in the free text boxes include:

- We are disappointed that our views and those of other providers, were not consulted before this proposal was shared with cabinet and parents. We all want a better solution and we feel that providers could have helped shaped a more realistic and achievable plan (South Devon College).
- Staff work extremely hard to support children with additional needs in school and work in close partnership with parents/carers. I feel that there is no time for additional cluster meetings and cluster group commitments on top of current workloads (White Rock Primary School)
- The whole of the Torbay education community have grave concerns about the suitability of the proposed locality model. The model is reliant on heads and SENDCos who do not have capacity to do this work. (Riviera EducationTrust).

However, despite there being some opposition within the education sector, and the comment about the “whole Torbay education community”, when looking through the comments it is clear there is by no means a consensus among the education community. Support for the proposals comes from a range of education providers including Mayfield Special School, Brunel School, and St Margaret’s Academy in Torquay, to name a few. Supportive comments from education professionals include:

- Experience would suggest that this is an effective proposal to improve provision for young people with SEND. (An Educational Professional)
- Something needs to be done to support children with SEND in our schools so hopefully this is the answer. (St Margaret’s Academy)

### Special schools and alternative provision

There was feedback in the consultation from a range of special schools and non mainstream education providers. This included Acorn Alternative Provision Torbay, Mayfield Special School, ACE, The Spires and Lodestar Academy.

Comments include:

- I believe that the cluster model has the potential to work very well, but only if the bases for these students are supported by trained professionals with a wealth of specialist experience.
- Although I believe that the broad aims of this model are well-intentioned and fit-for-purpose, I am unable to agree that services for children, young people and families will be enhanced by the current proposal.

There was also feedback from Medical Tuition Services based at Parkfield and they emailed a separate response to the consultation, which we include within the Appendices of this document.

### Voluntary and community sector feedback

There were also a small number of comments in the freetext boxes from, and on behalf of, local and national voluntary and community sector partners.

In favour of the Locality Cluster proposals were organisations including Sound Communities CIC, Break The Cycle CIC, Moor to Sea CIC, A Kind of Magic Equine Centre CIC:

Organisations opposed to the Locality proposals included The Children's Society and Torbay Mencap Society.

Some organisations such as Play Torbay said they neither agreed nor disagreed with the Locality proposal.

#### Feedback from local health services

A range of health services also provided feedback for the proposals, again, with a mixture of those in favour, those against and those who neither agree nor disagree.

There was feedback from representatives from Torbay and South Devon NHS Trust, RMC Psychological Services, Children and Family Health Devon.

A clinical psychologist who works with children and young people with conditions such as chronic fatigue syndrome, long Covid and Functional Neurological Disorder, said in their feedback: "I welcome this consultation as I feel the situation is currently rather bleak for our CYP who are unable to engage with full time education due to the above health reasons. There are pockets of good practise across the bay within schools but this is inconsistent and seems to be dependant on individual staff rather than as a standard process that is in place. The proposed plan to ensure more consistency would be very welcomed by CYP and their families."

#### Parkfield

Although the proposal around making better use of Parkfield had support from more than half of respondents (with 53% either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the proposal), and only 24% either agreeing or strongly disagreeing with the plans, there was far from a consensus in the comments about Parkfield. There is clearly more work to be done with stakeholders around making the best use of Parkfield, regardless of which model is eventually agreed.

Examples of comments about Parkfield include:

- Parkfield should be used as a volunteer hub for all children and young people as it was designed to begin with not as a school where entering in the school day would be prohibited!
- Parkfield should be used for SEND young people.
- Parkfield is a Youth Centre, NOT A SCHOOL!!!
- Parkfield is a fantastic but underused resource. With the addition of a play cafe or similar space for families to gather, children will more easily be able to access facilities that will help inclusion in communities and close gaps in education.
- The model for Parkfield feels like an opportunity missed in terms of supporting a vibrant community space for young people managed by the local community.
- The way forward with Parkfield is a hybrid of the current situation. School (SEND provider school would be great), enable sections to be used during school day. Enable community use of whole building outside of school hours. EVERYONE wins and my experience tells me sharing facilities does work if the voluntary sector are open to finding ways to make it work.

#### Children and young people's survey

In the Children and young people's survey there were 18 freetext comments in total. There wasn't an overarching theme as many of the subjects there was only one or two comments – though

there was a smaller number of children’s surveys responded to (27) compared to the main survey (212 responses). Comments ranged from worries about schools struggling with resources to questions about where doctors and therapists will come from, to requests for clarification about whether the proposed new Locality model will also support children and young people including those who are home schooled and Early Years children. There was also one comment saying Parkfield should not be used as set out in the consultation.

Although the children and young people’s version of the survey was a simplified version and included images, there were five comments about respondents not understanding the proposals so this shows although we set out to explain the proposals in as simple terms possible, there is still work to do to help people understand them fully. Similarly there were some comments that although the proposals sound good in principle, people were not sure how they would work in practice, so this again is something that we will need to take on board when developing future plans.

Examples of comments received include:

- How are you helping home-educated kids?
- They sound great, but only if schools are given the financial back up and resources to have staff available to create these smaller hubs and give advice within their own school or others.
- Talking about the clusters and groups and stuff doesn't explain exactly what you want to do.
- I hope this'll work out and help other kids, I really don't want anyone else to go through what I have.
- Please support children with additional needs in smaller groups within mainstream school. Including more SEND teachers.
- I do not agree parkfield should be used
- I am worried that schools do not have enough facilities in place to support children.

## Demographics of who took part

Which of the following options best describes how you think of your gender identity? Tick one only

Female	Male	In another way	Prefer not to say
132	40	0	26
66.67% of those who responded to this question	20.20% of those who responded to this question	0% of those who responded to this question	13.13% of those who responded to this question
62.1% of the 212 survey responses	18.46% of the 212 survey responses	0% of the 212 survey responses	12.14% of the 212 survey responses

Which of the following age groups applies to you? Tick one only

0-11	12-15	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	60-64	65-74
1	2	1	1	22	47	16	10

0.53% of those who responded to this question	1.06% of those who responded to this question	0.53% of those who responded to this question	0.53% of those who responded to this question	11.64% of those who responded to this question	24.87% of those who responded to this question	8.47% of those who responded to this question	5.29% of those who responded to this question
0.47% of the 212 survey responses	0.94% of the 212 survey responses	0.47% of the 212 survey responses	0.47% of the 212 survey responses	10.20% of the 212 survey responses	22.9% of the 212 survey responses	7.29% of the 212 survey responses	4.38% of the 212 survey responses

75-84	85+
4	1
2.12% of those who responded to this question	0.53% of those who responded to this question
1.89% of the 212 survey responses	0.47% of the 212 survey responses

Are you a parent or carer of a child/children in education?

Yes	No
122	73
62.56% of those who responded to this question	37.44% of those who responded to this question
57.29% of the 212 survey responses	34.23% of the 212 survey responses

Age of child (150 responses)	0-4 years (Early Years)	4-5 years (Reception)	5-11 years (Primary years 1-6)	11-16 (Secondary years 7 -11)	16-18 (Post 16 years 12/13)	19 years and over
Number in that age group	14	17	55	84	34	30
	7.75% of those who	11.10% of those who	36.20% of those who	56% of those who	22.20% of those who	20% of those

	responded to this question  6.32% of the 212 survey responses	responded to this question  8.1% of the 212 survey responses	responded to this question  25.59% of the 212 survey responses	responded to this question  39.33% of the 212 survey responses	responded to this question  16.2% of the 212 survey responses	who responded to this question  14.8% of the 212 survey responses
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Do you have a child / children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities who is educated in Torbay? If you have more than one child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, please tick all that apply.

There are 187 responses to this question. Multiple selections were allowed, and there are 216 selections.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes, my child has an Education, Health, and Care Plan (formerly known as a "statement")	41	18.98% of those who responded to this question  19.18% of the 212 survey responses
Yes, my child receives SEND support at their education setting	43	19.91% of those who responded to this question  20.5% of the 212 survey responses
Yes, my child receives no additional support	17	7.87% of those who responded to this question  8.1% of the 212 survey responses
My child receives additional support, but they do not have SEND	8	3.70% of those who responded to this question  3.41% of the 212 survey responses
No	107	49.54% of those who responded to this question  50.25% of the 212 survey responses

If your child/children has SEND and/or receives additional support, please tell us which type of school or further education establishment in Torbay your child / children attend. Please select all that apply.

There are 97 responses to this question. Multiple selections were allowed, and there are 124 selections.

Option	Total	Percent
Nursery / pre-school	4	3.23% of those who responded to this question 1.47% of the 212 survey responses
Mainstream primary school (including infant and junior)	34	27.42% of those who responded to this question 16.2% of the 212 survey responses
Non-selective secondary mainstream	19	15.32% of those who responded to this question 8.51% of the 212 survey responses
Selective secondary mainstream (grammar)	14	11.29% of those who responded to this question 6.32% of the 212 survey responses
Special school	14	11.29% of those who responded to this question 6.32% of the 212 survey responses
Further education college	16	12.90% of those who responded to this question 7.29% of the 212 survey responses
Other	23	18.55% of those who responded to this question 10.45% of the 212 survey responses

Do you regard yourself as belonging to a particular religion or holding a belief? Please select one option. If you answered 'No' or 'I prefer not to say', please go to Question 24.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	36	18.95% of those who responded to this question 16.5% of the 212 survey responses
No	123	64.74% of those who responded to this question 58.1% of the 212 survey responses
Prefer not to say	31	16.32% of those who responded to this question 14.33% of the 212 survey responses



What is your religion?

Option	Total	Percent
Christian	61	40.67% of those who responded to this question 28.41% of the 212 survey responses
Buddhist	1	0.67% of those who responded to this question 0.47% of the 212 survey responses
Hindu	0	0.00% of those who responded to this question 0% of the 212 survey responses
Jewish	1	0.67% of those who responded to this question 0.47% of the 212 survey responses
Muslim	0	0.00% of those who responded to this question 0% of the 212 survey responses
Sikh	0	0.00% of those who responded to this question 0% of the 212 survey responses
Prefer not to say	61	40.67% of those who responded to this question 28.41% of the 212 survey responses
Other	26	17.33% of those who responded to this question 12.14% of the 212 survey responses

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a long standing physical or mental condition that has lasted, or is likely to last, at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis, and HIV/AIDS, for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010? Please select one option

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	27	13.92% of those who responded to this question 12.39% of the 212 survey responses
No	140	72.16% of those who responded to this question 66.20% of the 212 survey responses
Prefer not to say	27	13.92% of those who responded to this question 12.39% of the 212 survey responses

Please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you. You may have more than one type of challenge, so please select all that apply. If none of these applies to you, please select 'Other' and give brief details of the impairment you have.

Option	Total	Percent
Physical impairment	8	8.42% of those who responded to this question 3.41% of the 212 survey responses
Sensory impairment (hearing, sight, or both)	5	5.26% of those who responded to this question 2.19% of the 212 survey responses
Longstanding illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes, or epilepsy	8	8.42% of those who responded to this question 3.41% of the 212 survey responses
Mental health condition	7	7.37% of those who responded to this question 3.16% of the 212 survey responses
Learning disability	4	4.21% of those who responded to this question 1.47% of the 212 survey responses
I prefer not to say	50	52.63% of those who responded to this question 23.31% of the 212 survey responses
Other, please specify	13	13.68% of those who responded to this question 6.7% of the 212 survey responses

A Carer is anyone who provides unpaid care for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. Both children and adults can be carers. Are you a Carer? Please select one option.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	60	32.43% of those who responded to this question 28.16% of the 212 survey responses
No	118	63.78% of those who responded to this question 55.35% of the 212 survey responses
Don't know	7	3.78% of those who responded to this question

		3.16% of the 212 survey responses
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Do you identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	10	5.29% of those who responded to this question 4.38% of the 212 survey responses
No	157	83.07% of those who responded to this question 74.30% of the 212 survey responses
Don't know	22	11.64% of those who responded to this question 10.20% of the 212 survey responses