

**Getting it right for communication - right support, right place, right time:
our response to the Department for Education's SEND Review Green Paper
July 2022**

Action area 5: Accountability

What we've heard from parents and carers

"Improve accountability."

"No meaningful attempt to address accountability issues."

"accountability for making sure kids are achieving their potential"

What we've heard from charity partners – CICS Group

"All too often, frontline SaLTs are put in positions where their professional judgements and practice are compromised by the needs of the system: children discharged from service before needs are met, therapy blocks cut short...A robust mechanism for defending professional SaLT judgements is needed."

What we've heard from speech and language therapists

"A robust joint commissioning and outcomes framework needs to be in place, with clear expectations on responsibility and accountability of partner agencies."

"This Green Paper does not place enough emphasis on accountability."

"Making local areas accountable will drive up quality far more than local area SEND inspections have."

"To help improve accountability, health commissioners must themselves be trained in children and young people's speech, language and communication needs – they are so often a hidden disability that unless commissioners themselves recognise and understand them it is not clear they will actually commission the appropriate services."

There needs to be increased accountability across all parts of the system. Local authorities must be held accountable if they fail to uphold the law. Health commissioners must be held accountable if they fail to commission services. Historically, children and young people with SEND have not been a priority for health commissioners. That must change.

The passage of the Health and Care Act, with its requirement to address the needs of children and young people, provides an opportunity bring about that change.

Action required: the Government must ensure that accountability for health goes beyond the promised statutory guidance for Integrated Care Boards on SEND. The Government must strengthen the requirement to jointly commission services for all children and young people with SEND in their population.

[Read the full RCSLT and ASLTIP joint policy statement](#)