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#SENDInTheSpecialists: update and next steps

23rd February 2023





Thank you!



2 November 2022

- 114 organisations wrote to Gillian Keegan and Steve Barclay in November
- The organisations cover education, health and care
- They include charities, royal colleges, professional bodies, professional associations, trade unions, parent and carer groups and others
- Social media moment on 3 November

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The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP Department for Education 20 Great Smith Street London SW1P 3BT The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP Department for Health and Social Care 39 Victoria Street London SW1H 0EU

02 November 2022

Dear Secretaries of State,

Investing in the specialist workforce for children and young people

We're writing to you as a broad coalition of over 110 charities, royal colleges, professional bodies, professional associations, trade unions, parents and carers and others who want the very best for children and young people - including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Firstly, we'd like to congratulate you both on your new positions. We look forward to working with you and your ministers to ensure that all children and young people can achieve their potential, both at school and in life, including through ensuring that those with SEND can access the support they and their families depend on.

From November on...

- Coalition has increased in size
- Now has 125 members
- More always welcome!

Email us if you want to join: elissa.cregan@rcslt.org peter.just@rcslt.org

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14 November 2022

 Robin Walker mentioned the letter in a debate on early years childcare

See NDCS 2 @NDCS_UK · 15 Nov 2022

A big thank you to @WalkerWorcester for raising our open letter to @SteveBarclay and @GillianKeegan yesterday in Parliament. The letter was signed by 110 charities, unions, professional colleges, and others. We are calling for more investment in the specialist SEND workforce. 1/4 Show this thread



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8 December 2022

- 16 APPGs wrote to Gillian Keegan and Steve Barclay
- Echoed our calls about the need to invest in the specialist workforce
- APPGS cover: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Childcare and Early Education, Children who Need Palliative Care, Disability, Dyslexia and Other Specific Learning Difficulties, Eye health and visual impairment, Muscular Dystrophy, Oracy, Penal Affairs, Prevention of Childhood Trauma, Psychology, Social Mobility, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Speech and Language Difficulties, and Stroke.

🟟 Geraint Davies 🤣 @GeraintDaviesMP · 8 Dec 2022

Grateful to parliamentarians from 16 APPGs who've signed a letter to @GillianKeegan @SteveBarclay @ClaireCoutinho on investment in specialist workforce. Children & young people need support from specialist workers to get the best possible chances in life. #SENDInTheSpecialists

The Rt Hon Gillan Keegan MP The Rt Hon Steve Barcley MP Department for Education Department for Health and Social Care 20 Great Smith Street London SW1P 30T SW1P 40EU

Sent via email - please respond to: <u>peraint davies mol@parliament uk</u>

Dear Secretarias of State

8 December 2022

Dear Secretaries of State, Investing in the specialist workforce for children and young people

 backgrounds who are at tisk of experiencing a range of inequalities. We are keen to work with you and your ministers on these issues go

We are keen to work with you and your ministers on these issues going forward. We are particularly keen to work with you so that the torticoming SENG and AP improvement Plan to ensure it adoress gaps in the specialitit workform, including through securing the longterm future of the specialitie workform prough proper excidence planning so that children and young people now, and in the future, can access the support they need to thrive.

We would be grateful for an early opportunity to discuss with you how modest investment in early intervention results in overwhetming returns in higher tax revenues and lower social δ heath costs downstream.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Geraint Davies MP Chain, APPG on Speech and Language Difficulties

Sir Robert Buckland KBE, KC, MP Member, APPC on Autism

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From December on...

- Geraint Davies has tabled written questions on the specialist workforce
- So has Munira Wilson
- The questions are collated in our three-month news story accessible below
- If you have parliamentary contacts, please ask them to table similar questions to Munira's

Geraint has also tabled a series of written parliamentary questions on:

- Whether the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has undertaken an assessment of gaps in the specialist workforce
- What <u>plans DHSC has to undertake</u> such an assessment as a follow-up to his previous question
- Whether the Department for Education (DfE) has undertaken an <u>assessment of</u> <u>gaps in the specialist workforce</u>
- What gaps the DfE has <u>identified in the specialist workforce</u>
- What <u>discussions DHSC and DfE have had</u> with each other about gaps in the specialist workforce
- When DHSC plans to respond to the coalition's letter
- When DfE plans to respond to the coalition's letter
- When DHSC plans to respond to the APPGs' letter
- When DfE plans to respond to the APPGs' letter

Munira Wilson MP has also tabled some relevant written questions on:

- The additional SEND workforce needed
- Specialist workforce in her constituency

https://www.rcslt.org/news/send-in-the-specialists-coalition-three-month-update/



January 2023 – DfE responds to the APPGs

- Claire Coutinho responded to the APPGs in January
- A meeting is being scheduled
- DHSC is yet to respond



Geraint Davies 🤣 @GeraintDaviesMP

Delighted to receive this response from @ClaireCoutinho @educationgovuk to the 16 APPGs' #SENDInTheSpecialists letter. We look forward to meeting with her next month to discuss how we can ensure children & young people get the support they need from the specialist workforce



#SENDInTheSpecialists

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February 2023 – DfE responds to the coalition

- Claire Coutinho responded to the coalition earlier this month
- A meeting is being scheduled

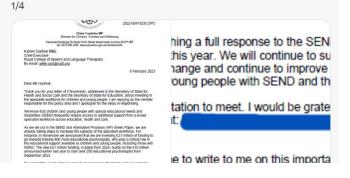


RCSLTpolicy @RCSLTpolicy · 48m # #SENDInTheSpecialists coalition update!

We were pleased to receive a reply from @ClaireCoutinho @educationgovuk earlier this month.

We look forward to meeting her soon to discuss the importance of the specialist workforce for children and young people.

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Next steps

- Preparing for Govt's publication of the SEND and AP Improvement Plan – statements drafted
- E-action for contacting MPs to follow
- Labour Policy Forum submission
- Possible Westminster Hall debate
- Possible debate in the House of Lords

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How you can help

- Join the coalition if you haven't already
- Encourage others to join

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- Reference the coalition in meetings
- Share the letter with MPs/Peers you are meeting
- Encourage parliamentary contacts to table written questions about the specific specialist workforce you are interested in
- Highlight on social media your support for #SENDInTheSpecialists











Thank you!



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@RCSLTpolicy @PeterDJust @elissacregan

