

## STATEMENT FROM THE SEND In The Specialists COALITION

November 2024

As the [SEND In The Specialists coalition](#) marks the second anniversary of its formation, we welcome the news in last week's Budget of a £1 billion increase in SEND and alternative provision funding. To ensure that children and young people with SEND, and their families and carers, can access the support they need to thrive, it is essential that some of this increase is used to improve access to the specialist workforce.

In the two years since the coalition was formed, the need for investment in and improved planning for the specialist workforce across education, health, and care, supporting children and young people with SEND has become more important than ever. While [some progress has been made in the past two years](#), much more needs to be done. If the Government is to fulfil its promise of improving the SEND system to ensure that children and young people with SEND get the support they need to thrive as part of its opportunity mission and make good on its commitment to improving inclusivity and expertise in mainstream schools, then it needs to improve access to the specialist workforce and invest in those roles.

It is not just the 130 plus organisations in the coalition saying this. We have been heartened to see the level of interest amongst parliamentarians since the General Election in SEND, including in issues affecting people's access to the specialist workforce. SEND has featured prominently in many maiden speeches. It has been the subject of numerous debates in the House of Commons and some in the House of Lords.

As the SEND In The Specialists coalition enters its third year, we hope that this renewed parliamentary interest, combined with last week's £1 billion funding announcement, will finally start to deliver the increased investment in and improved planning for the specialist workforce the children and young people with SEND and their families and carers, and the professionals working with them, so desperately need.

To make that a reality, we are calling on the Government to work in partnership with the coalition, and with children and young people and their families and carers, on the development and implementation of the solutions to the SEND crisis.