

## **Transcript - Consultations | SEND support**

### **Martyn Stenton – Head of Early, Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children**

**[Martyn Stenton]** Hi, I am Martyn from Children's Services in Durham County Council. We are doing some work at the moment for children who have special education needs and disabilities and those who need extra support to stay in school. We are finding at the moment in Durham, like lots of other authorities, we have got some real pressures on our budget for these services, this is something called the high needs block of the school's grant. In simple terms we have been spending fifteen percent more than the funding available to us. I want to try to find some different ways to make the services work better so we can give the best support we can to children and their families within the money we got available in Durham.

Some of the pressures on our budgets have come from austerity which is affecting families, and all services in the public sector, changing needs across Durham, and changing complexities for children who need extra support to stay in school.

Funding for these services includes things like support to nursery pupils, supporting people who may have hearing impairment, or visual impairment, and funding for places in our special schools. Top-up and targeted funding which gives support to schools to help young people to stay at the school, and get the extra support that they need, and various other funding that helps young people to be at school if they might not otherwise be in a normal mainstream school.

We are doing some consultation over the next three months between July the seventeenth and October the seventeenth. I really want young people and their families to have their say about how we can look at some of these services differently, and how we can try to ensure that the money is spent the best it can to get the best outcomes as possible for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

We would really love you to take part in the consultation over the next three months. There is a number of events and activities that we are doing over the summer and in September and October to help people have their say, and there is also lots more information on our Council webpages.

[Text: [www.durham.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.durham.gov.uk/consultation) Have your say]