



SILC Cluster - Life Outside of School Parent / Carer Consultation July to September 2021

What we did

The SILC Cluster is a service in Leeds that brings together a variety of services to ensure that young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families have access to a wide range of support services outside of the school setting such as Behaviour Support, Family Intervention, Counselling, workshops and information and advice.

The SILC Cluster is for all children and young people who attend a SILC school or partnership.

The SILC Cluster wanted to find out from parents / carers if they had heard of the SILC Cluster, used any of the services and also how we support can be tailored to the needs of families.

In July to September 2021 parents / carers who have a child in a SILC setting were encouraged to take part in an online survey or phone consultation to give their views on the SILC Cluster.

Who completed the survey?

32 parents / carers responded to the survey in total, all of who had one or more children who attend a SILC (specialist inclusion learning centre).

21 of the parents / carers who completed the survey said they receive support from services in Leeds, these services included:

- Social Care
- Shared Lives
- Early Help Plans
- Scope
- CAMHS
- Mencap
- Residential Settings
- Social Groups
- Fostering

The SILC Cluster

16 parents / carers (50%) had heard about the SILC Cluster, and the majority had heard via their child's school.

6 parents / carers (18%) had accessed services via the SILC Cluster, the services accessed include

- Sports activity
- Parenting Course
- One off visit

On average parents rated their experience of the SILC Cluster as an extremely positive experience.

"Lots of tailored 1 to 1 support was given"

"People listened and didn't judge"



Support we would like to see from the SILC Cluster

Parents and carers who completed the survey / took part in the phone consultation made several suggestions for services the SILC Cluster could provide for families. These included:

- Promote the services you offer (flyers, social media etc.)
- Speech and Language Workshops
- Parent / Carers Support Groups (peer groups)
- Don't just offer the service to parents of children who attend a SILC but to all children with SEND
- Child and parent therapy
- Makaton / PECs courses
- Holiday clubs for children who attend a SILC
- Fun activities (including for siblings)
- Information about what services are available to families (online and booklet)
- Family Days / Trips
- Out of school provision for children
- Preparing for adulthood classes
- Support with paperwork

SILC Parent Forum

The SILC Cluster are looking to set up a forum for parents / carers to enable them to have a voice and influence in future service review and developments. Being a member of the SILC Parent Forum will provide parents / carers with opportunities to take part in meetings, planning groups, surveys etc.

27 of the parents / carers who completed the survey said they were interested in being part of the SILC Parent Forum. Parents / carers were then asked their preference for meetings:

- 6 parents: virtual or in person
- 12: in person
- 8: virtually

What Next...

The SILC Cluster with support from the Voice and Influence Team will

- Set up a central email address so families can contact the SILC Cluster directly
- Develop a SILC Cluster section on the Leeds Local Offer so families are able to find out about services available
- Develop a flyer to promote the SILC Cluster, this will be shared widely and sent to families with a child who attend a SILC
- Set up a SILC Cluster Parent Forum
 - Quarterly newsletter to members about the SILC Cluster
 - Invites for parents / carers to have a voice and influence