

# DISABILITY ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

**Cookstown & Magherafelt Locality Planning Groups  
January 2015**



**Presented by  
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Participation Development  
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# BACKGROUND

- Cookstown Locality Planning group identified need to support families who have a child with a disability / additional need.
- Linked with Cookstown Disability Forum.
- Source funding
- Evidenced needed of families.
- Engagement to be completed with parents of children who have a disability / additional need.


# Introduction

- Focus on the Cookstown and Magherafelt Locality.
- Engagement was completed in the form of a paper based questionnaire.
- Data collection: October 2014 – December 2014
- Parents of children with a disability / additional need who attend the following schools where asked to complete the questionnaire provided;
  - Cookstown Primary Autism Spectrum Disorder/Learning Disability Class
    - Sperrin Special School Dungannon
    - Kilronan Special School Magherafelt
    - Magherafelt High School Learning Disability Class




# Questionnaire

Questionnaires asked parents what support their child with a disability was receiving and what additional support their child, them as parents and their family would benefit from.



**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS WHO HAVE A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY**



We need **YOU** to tell us about what life is like for you and your family and what other services you need?

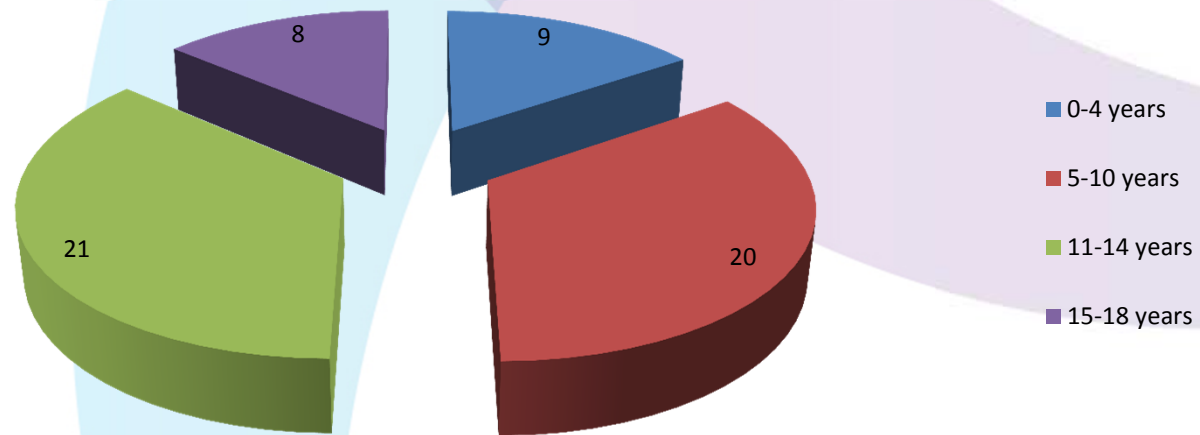
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# Feedback from Engagement

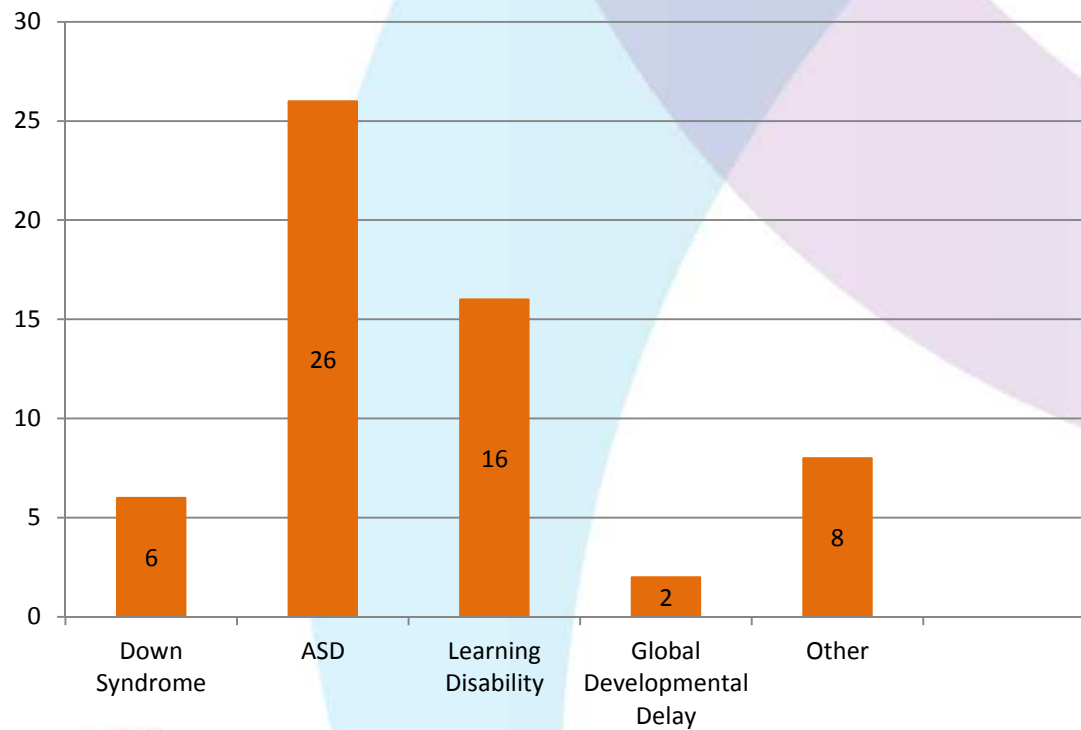
- A response of 58 questionnaires was returned from parents

## Ages of children with disabilities



# Type of Disabilities

Families had a variety of disabilities which included physical, mental and learning disabilities. For some children several disabilities were noted.



# Services that families currently use

- Services through School  
*eg; speech and language therapist at school, learning support at school*
- Health Service Interventions  
*eg; Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy*
- Community groups / services  
*eg; RNIB, CALMS, Autism NI, Superstars, Mencap*
- No services



# Services that parents feel they would benefit from if available?

- **Respite**

*'more respite sometimes 4 hours per week is not enough'*

*'we are currently on the waiting list'*

*'for my child to have a carer to give me a few hours break'*

- **Parent Support Groups**

*'to meet parents with the same problem'*

*'chatting with other parents in the same situation'*

*'we feel supported by our friends who are in the same boat'*

- **Training**

*'made aware of appropriate training to help me best support my child'*

*'training on Autism and how to deal with the issues relating to it'*

*'training on Dyslexia to help us understand how to help them'*





# Support Children would benefit from?

## Social Activities / Outlet's

An increase in social outlets and activities for their child was the main topic that parents felt their child would benefit from.

Comments included;

*'we need youth groups / clubs that cater for disabilities'*

*'something to help my child's social skills and get them out and about'*

*'a place for my daughter to meet other children on the spectrum'*

*'a group that can offer one to one support'*

*'somewhere for them to go to meet with other children'*

*'social outlets that are Autism friendly'*

One parent commented:

*'most groups don't have training for kids like him'*



## Support, Training and Information

Parents felt that their child would benefit from additional support and information in relation to their disability.

Feedback included:

*‘some type of course that would help my child understand how to cope with ADHD’*

*‘something to help the children understand their disability’*

*‘help with confidence in learning to stand up for himself’*

*‘therapy sessions such as much music therapy and sensory services’*

*‘Applied Behaviour Analysis training’*



## Services post 18

Two parents highlighted their worry of the limit support services available post 18 years.

*'my sons choices post 18 are very limited eg; Day Centre. I would like a much broader choice'*



# Support Families would benefit from

## Respite

Parents felt that more respite or for some families any respite would help their family immensely.

*'to allow family to attend some evening services like school functions'*

*'a list of carers who can step in when required and avoid family crisis'*

## Support, Training & Information

*"more information on the condition and how we as a family can help him"*

*'more training for parents ie tacpac, makaton'*

## Sibling

*'something for my daughter's siblings to have fun with other siblings from a family with a disability'*

*'support group for siblings of a child with a disability'*

*'support for siblings'*



# Recommendations

- Child
  - Social Outlets
  - Information about their disability (age and ability appropriate)
- Parents
  - Parents Support Groups
  - Training on how to best support their child
- Family
  - Respite (even for the shortest of time 1-2 hrs per week) to provide family with short breaks.



# Further Information

- **Contact Details:**

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