



October 2025

## Parent Carer Forum Response to the Island SEND Review Publication

Dear Parents

Many families across Jersey continue to face challenges in securing the right support for their children and young people with additional needs. We continue to hear from parents describing frustration, exhaustion, and a loss of trust in a system that often struggles to provide consistent, timely, and effective help. Too many children remain anxious, disengaged, and not thriving in education — despite the dedication of many school staff who work tirelessly to help them.

We welcome the publication of the Island SEND Review 2025, which recognises the commitment of schools, the Inclusion Team, and professionals who are striving to make inclusion a reality. The report confirms what many families have long known: that while there are pockets of strong practice, the overall system remains fragmented, under strain, and inconsistent.

We know that meaningful change will take time and persistence, but this review provides a foundation for renewed focus and shared accountability.

The review highlights three areas where urgent action is needed:

**Stability and accountability** – ensuring that schools and the Department are clear about their responsibilities, that funding is used transparently and effectively, and that children receive consistent support wherever they are educated.

**Clear strategy and planning** – developing a shared understanding of what inclusion really means, improving planning for specialist support, and creating fair and transparent systems so every child's needs are properly recognised.

**Consistent quality and monitoring** – making sure inclusive practices are applied across all schools, with families and professionals working together to check that support is making a real difference.

The Department has shown a willingness to work with parents and carers to help make these improvements. Ahead of the review's publication, the Parent Carer Forum met with the Head of CYPES and the Leadership Team to begin early discussions about how parents' experiences can help shape solutions. These were initial conversations, but they underline an important truth — that real progress for children will only happen when parents and carers are genuine partners in the process.

As your Parent Carer Forum, we will continue to:

- Listen to families and ensure your voices are represented at every level of decision-making.
- Work constructively with CYPES to support the implementation of the review's recommendations and advocate for real and lasting improvements for children and young people.
- Promote collaboration between parents, schools, and services, helping families navigate SEND processes and understand their rights.
- Champion transparency and shared accountability, encouraging open communication and a culture where progress is measured together, in partnership.

We encourage all parents and carers to share your experiences, ideas, and concerns with us. Please get in touch via our contact form.

In the coming months, we plan to host workshops and information events to help ensure families remain central to shaping a system that moves closer to one where every child feels safe, valued, and able to belong.

Best wishes

**Kerry Petulla**

Chair

Parent Carer Forum Jersey

[info@parentcarerforum.je](mailto:info@parentcarerforum.je) | [katewyatt@parentcarerforum.je](mailto:katewyatt@parentcarerforum.je)