

## SEND Employment Forum

### Career Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) Survey Report

22/01/2025

The Ealing SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Employment Forum was established in April 2023 with the primary aim of fostering inclusive and sustainable employment opportunities for individuals with special educational needs and disabilities within the Ealing community. The Forum meets twice a term and brings together a wide range of stakeholders, from young people with lived experience, parents/carers, local schools and FE college, Ealing services, as well as supported employment providers and employers.

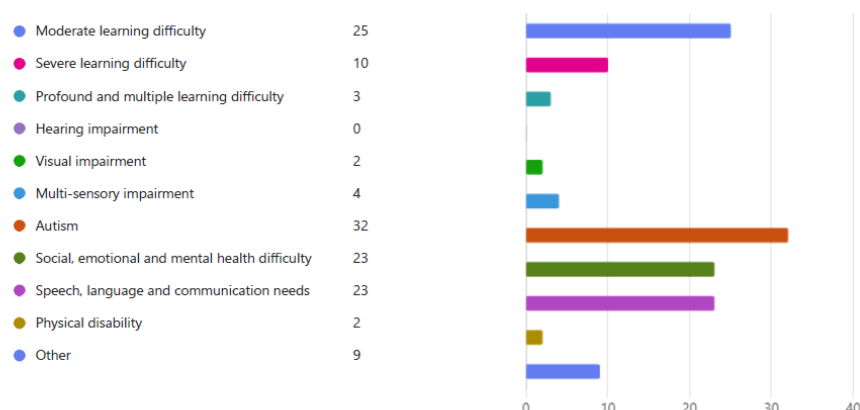
Now in its second year of delivering the 3-year action plan, the Forum agreed to review the Career Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) available for children/young people with SEND and produce a report to consider next steps. The method agreed to review CEIAG was a survey, with 3 questionnaires for young people, parents/carers and local education providers.

The questionnaires went live on 05/12/2024 and was due to close on 10/01/2025 but has been extended for another week (17/01/2025) and has been distributed as follows:

- Questionnaire for young people: via schools (SEND COs), Ealing Parent Carer Forum, Ealing Contact and Youth Social Network
- Questionnaire for young parents/carers: via schools (SEND COs), Ealing Parent Carer Forum and Ealing Contact
- Questionnaire for education providers: via schools' SEND COs and the Secondary Careers Leaders Network.

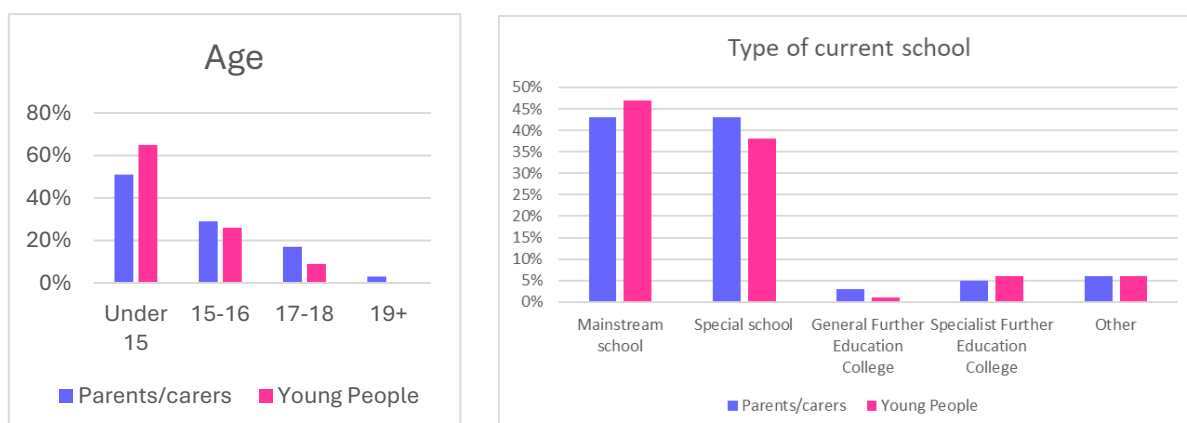
65 responses were received from parents/carers, 34 from young people and only 6 from schools. Although the number of respondents is low, there is a good representation of primary needs.

#### 3. What is your child's main area of need?



There were more responses received from children/young people and parents/carers with children/young people 16 or below (91% young people and 80% parents/carers) than those

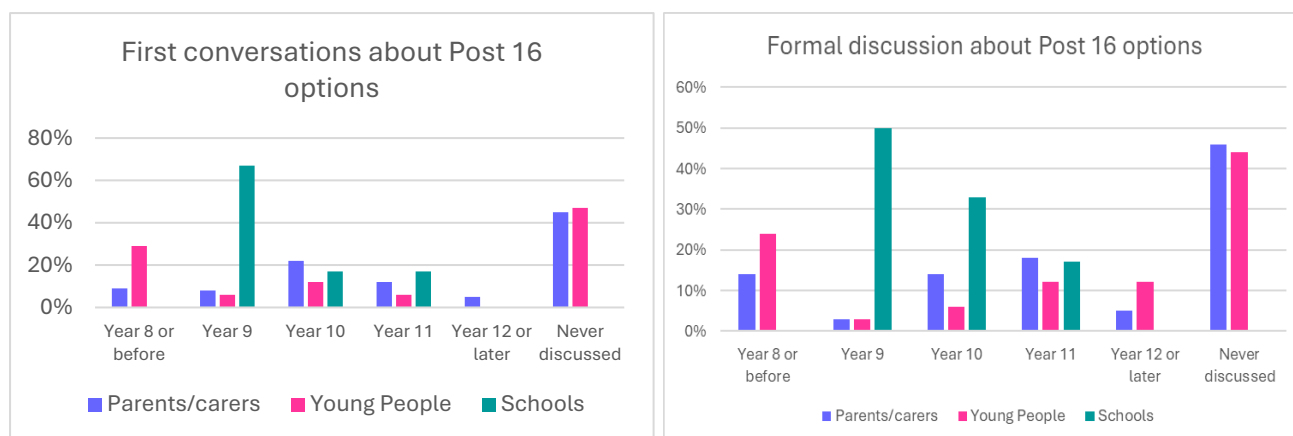
above this age. As a result, we had better participation from mainstream and special secondary schools attenders than general or specialist FE students.



The responses of the questionnaire were organised, and are presented in this report, to respond to **when** CEIAG starts being delivered, **how** and **who** delivers it, as well as the **overall satisfaction** for advice received and **concerns/needs**.

### When IS CEIAG Delivered?

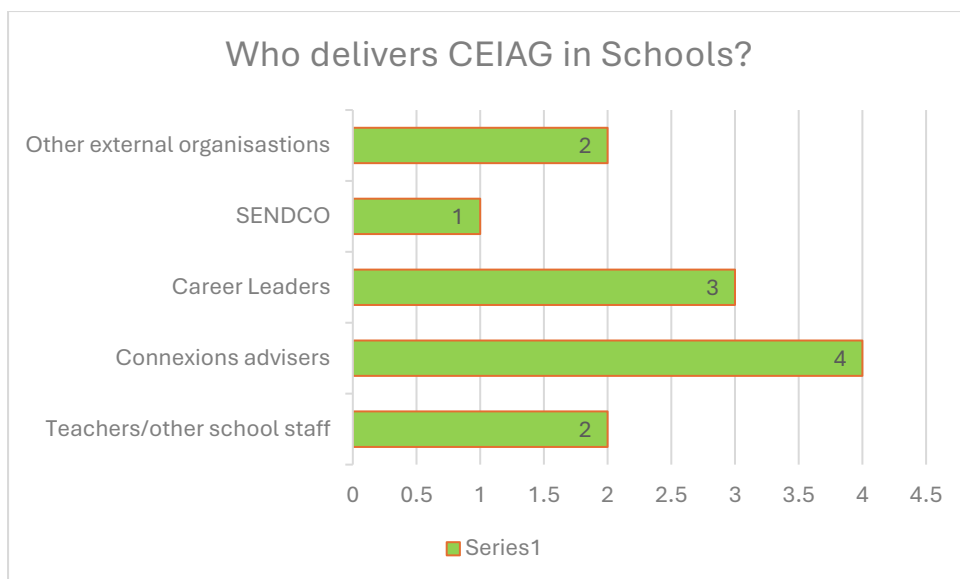
The charts below show when young people and their families are firstly encouraged to consider Post-16 options and when the first formal discussion takes place.



Concerningly, almost half of the young people (47%) and parents/carers (45%) said that Post-16 options were never discussed with them. From the ones who said that they had formal discussions about Post 16 options, we note slightly higher percentages in Yr 8 or before and Yr 11.

Bearing in mind that most of the responders were 16 or under (or parents of 16 and under), a higher percentage under 'first conversations' would have been expected.

## Who delivers CEIAG in schools?

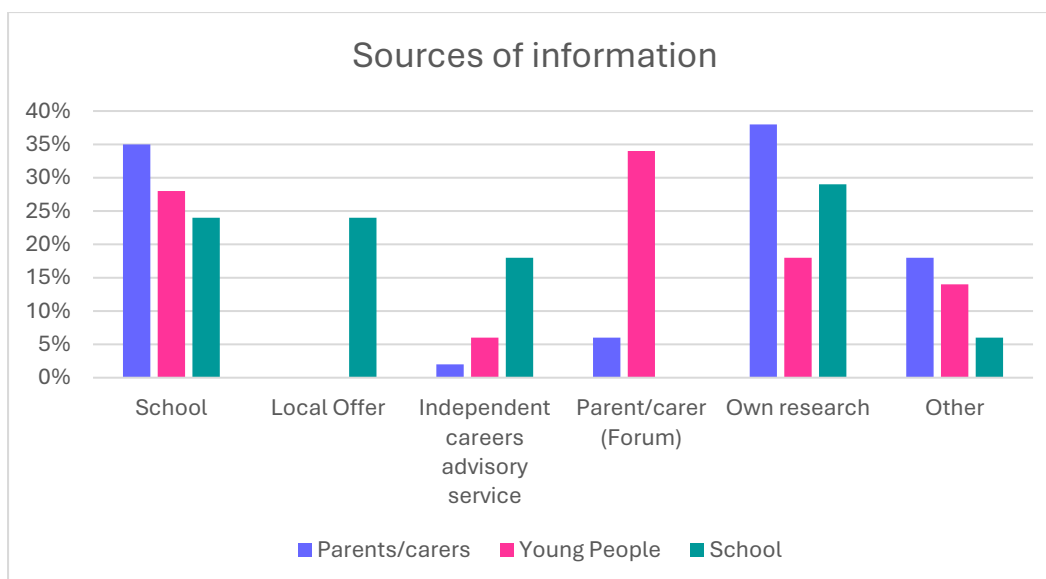


All the 6 schools that responded said that CEIAG is delivered by several staff members and in some cases by an external agency through the following interventions/activities: 1:1 session with Connexions advisers, group sessions with teachers/tutor, CEIAG support meetings, 1:1 or group sessions with external agencies that deliver employability programmes, workshops, talks from external speakers, assemblies, PSHE lessons, careers fairs.

## How is CEIAG delivered?

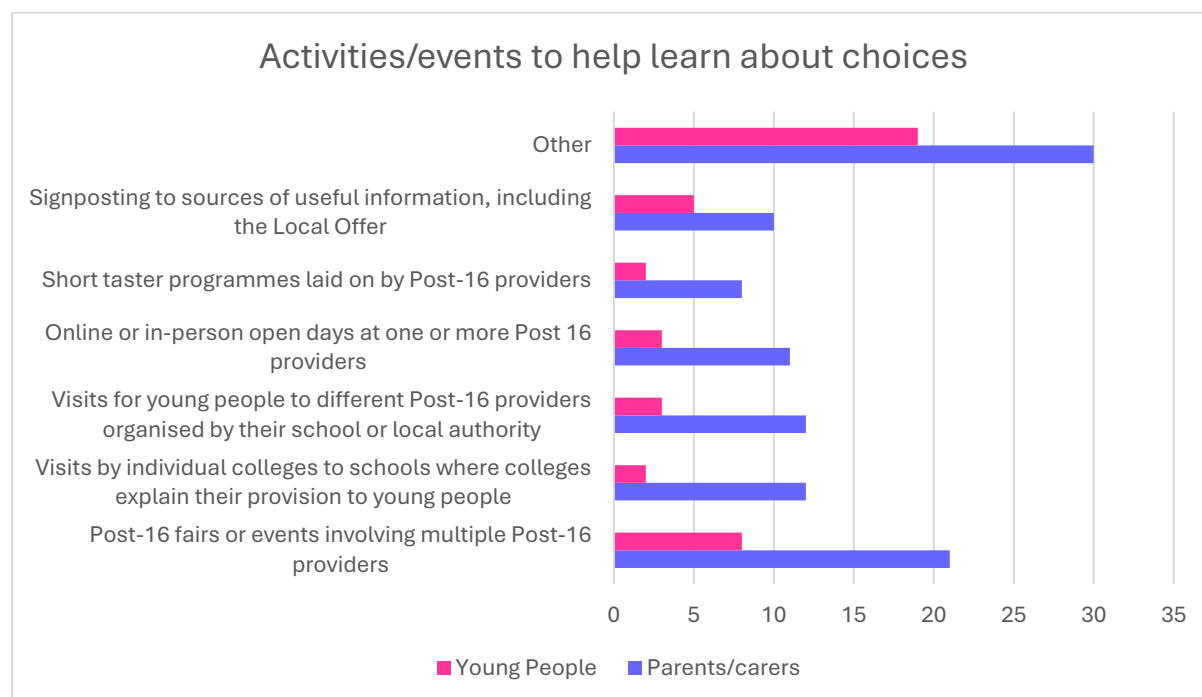
The average time of CEIAG delivery is 4-6hrs per term, either via 1:1 or group sessions.

We asked all participants about their sources of information.



Most respondents get information from schools or do their own research. 34% of young people said that their parents provide them with information. It is worth noting that only schools chose the Local Offer as a source of information.

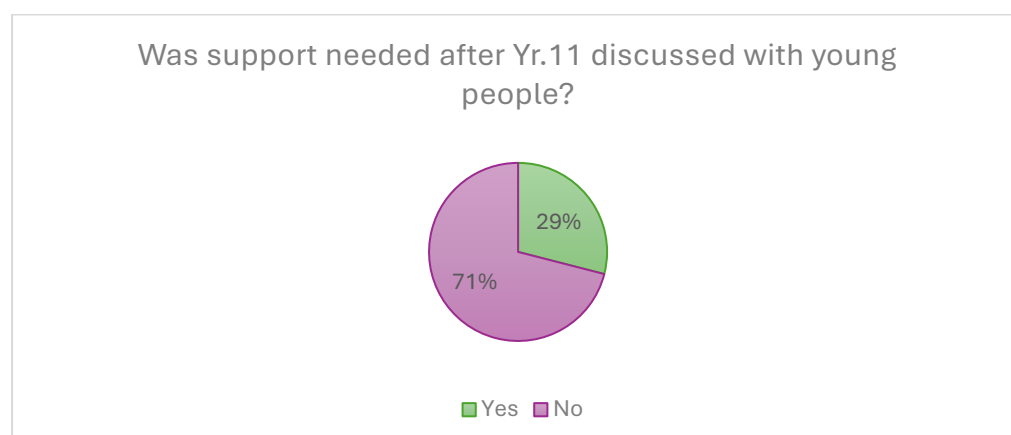
Under the 'Other' category, parents/carers put 'none' or 'not received advice yet', while education provider added 'individual colleges'.



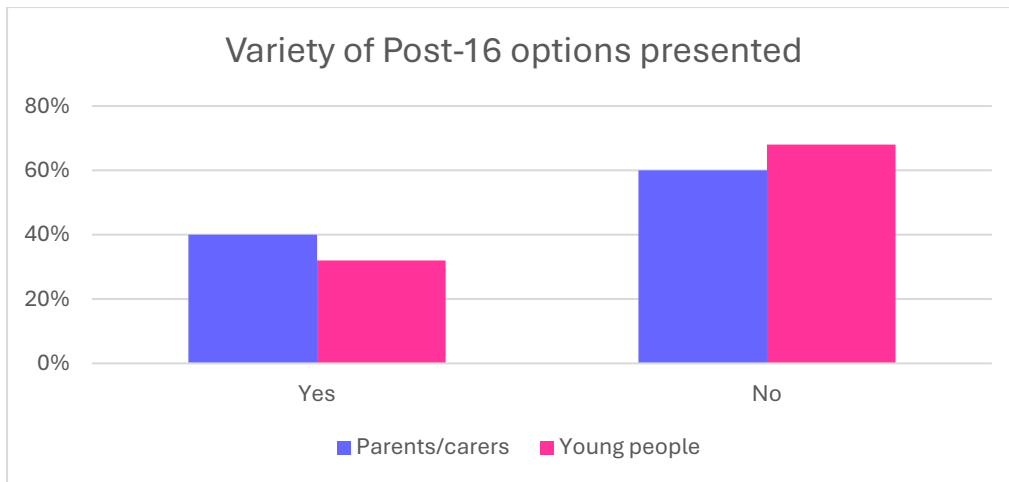
Although none of the young people or parents/carers chose the Local Offer as a source of information, 5 young people and 10 parents/carers said they were signposted to sources of useful information, including the Local Offer. Post-16 fairs or events involving multiple Post-16 providers was the most popular option (8 young people and 21 parents/carers).

Under the 'Other' category, most parents/carers said that they have not attended yet any of the activities/events listed or that they were not aware of these options. Most young people who chose the option 'other' said that they haven't done any of the items listed or 'not yet'

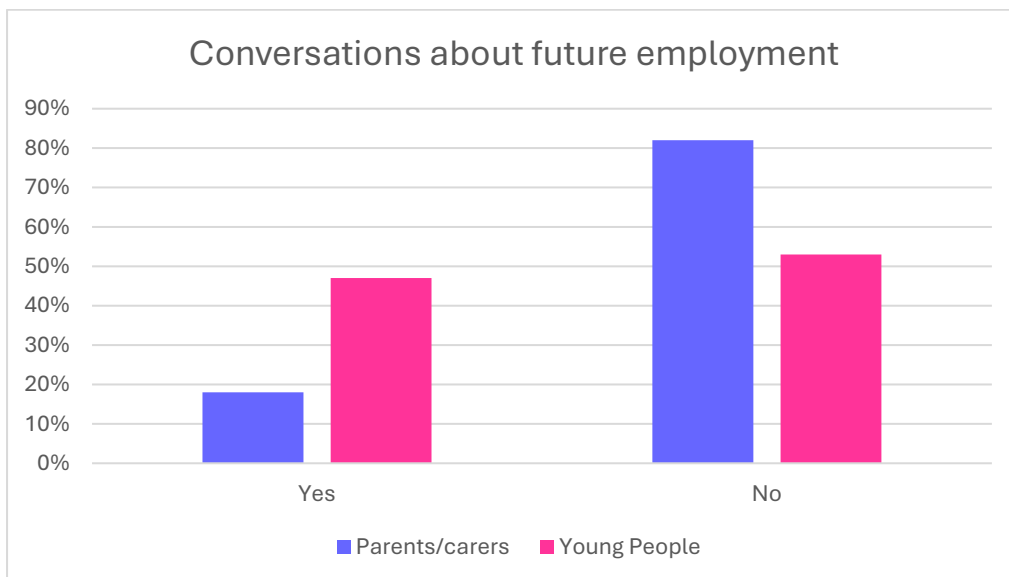
We asked young people and parents/carers about the type of advice received:



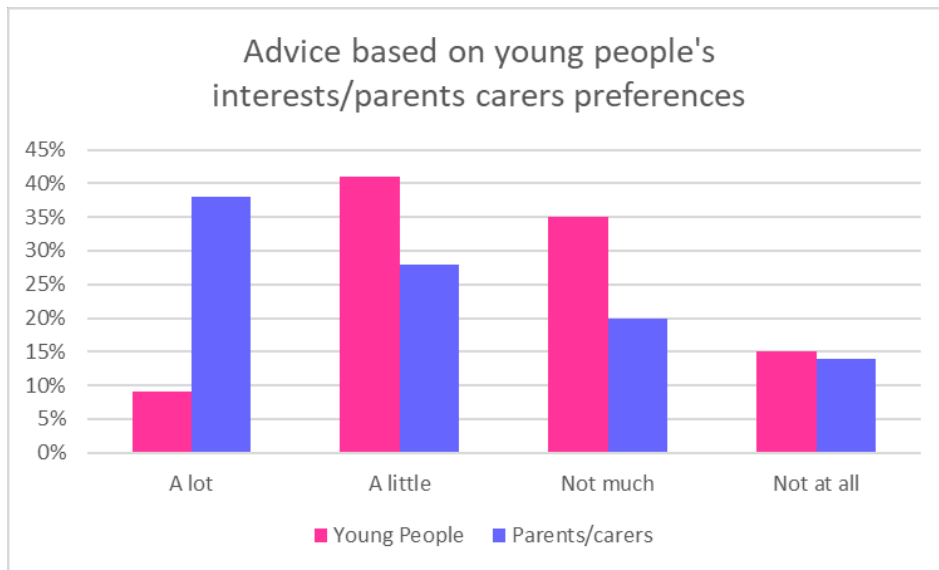
71% of young people said that the support they would need moving into Post 16 was never discussed.



60% of parents/carers and 68% of young people said that they were not presented with a lot of Post-16 options. 'Limited options' is an item that came up as a concern for parents/carers in the last questions of the survey.



We note the difference between young people (47%) and parents/carers (18%) who said that someone talked to them about future employment. This could signify that although schools address 'employment' with students, this may not be discussed in formal meetings with parents. Including parents/carers into these conversations is essential to raise expectations, as well as establish the network of support needed for future employment. We also note that the percentages of respondents who have not received advice or discussed future employment is very high, especially for parents/carers.

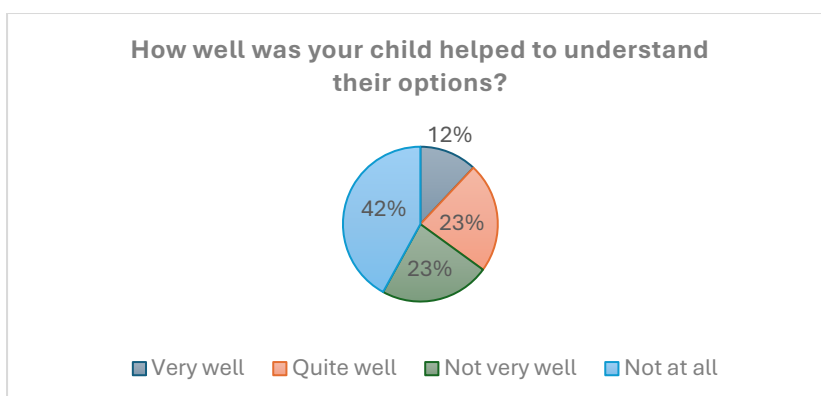


76% of young people and 48% of parents/carers feel that advice was only partially ('a little'; 'not much') based on their interests and opinions, while 15% of young people and 14% of parents feel that advice was not at all based on their interests.

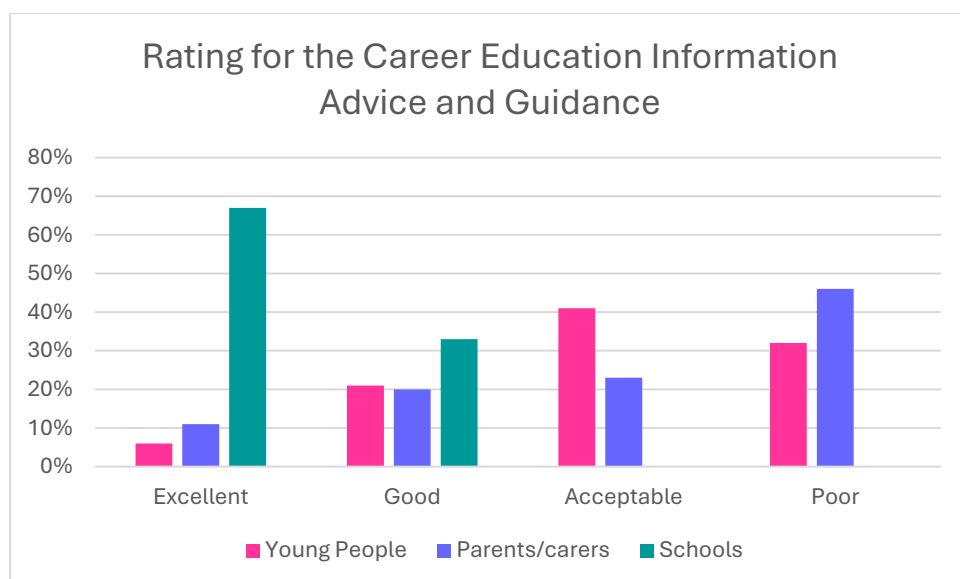
Education providers gave examples of how young people with SEND and their families are helped to understand the different Post-16 options:

- Talking to teachers
- Parental review meetings; 1:1 with SENDCo, 1:1 with Connexions (parents are invited to attend where appropriate), Year 11 IAG meeting
- Connexions meetings before Yr 11
- 1:1 meeting with SENDCo, DHT and Head of IAG
- Discuss pathways from Yr 9, annual reviews, Connexions meetings, Yr 11 transition day (parents invited), events with local employers and Post-16 providers. School identifies students at KS4 who need to follow a L2 pathway and take them to career events. EHCP learners – options discussed in Yrs 10 and 11
- Annual reviews and meetings with parents

However, only 35% of parents/carers felt that their child was helped ('very well' or 'quite well') to understand their options, as per chart below.



## Overall satisfaction



The 6 schools that responded to our survey rated their CEIAG as 'excellent' or 'good', while 73% of young people and 69% of parents/carers rate it as 'acceptable' or 'poor'.

### Concerns expressed by parents/carers:

- Insufficient suitable provision in Ealing, especially for PMLD. Young people have to travel out of borough to attend suitable/preferred provision and there are current and future cost implications regarding travel
- Parents/carers have to fight to get approval for what they consider suitable provision
- Young people not supported sufficiently in schools to identify interests
- Young people who are high functioning have their needs overlooked because they appear to be coping.
- Not sufficient support offered in schools to build soft skills.
- Late identification of needs; support not being received at the right time
- Needs not being met at current school and no guidance being provided for the future
- Annual reviews are poorly carried out; PfA is not discussed from Yr 9.
- Information about Post 16 options (other than traditional routes) is insufficient and often presented too late. Parents would like this information to be provided in advance (latest by summer term of Yr 10) to allow time to discuss with their children and do the necessary research. They would also like support to navigate options available.
- Concerns around school staff knowledge about various types of provision available.
- Employment opportunities and support available
- Suitability and support available in higher education. What other options are available in case young person cannot progress to higher education.
- Transition events not available in borough; parents/carers attend neighbouring boroughs' events
- Insufficient information on the Local Offer; no LA produced information, resources and guidance.
- Questions presented are not relevant to a child with PMLD

#### Education settings:

- Whole borough transition information events
- Information on supported work experience for students with SEND.
- Information on how to engage parents with little English or understanding of the British educational system (school deals with many in year arrivals). Suitable pathways for these children/young people.
- 1:1 meetings with students from external agency
- A member of staff from the SENAS team to speak to parents/carers about the post 16 process.

#### Proposed actions:

- Discuss organising potential transition advice events online for young people and parents/carers
- Check status of current Preparing for Adulthood guide to be circulated with schools/parents/carers
- Discuss potential design of Post 16 Route Planner to explain Post 16 pathways available
- EHCP annual review template to be reviewed and guidance to be issued.