



Pride in Fleetwood Board Minutes

The minutes of the Pride in Fleetwood Board meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Thursday, 16 July 2026 in the Community Hall - Emmanuel on the Mount Church, Fleetwood.

Pride in Fleetwood Board members present:

Mark Spencer (Chair)
Lorraine Beavers MP
Councillor Ruth Duffy
Yvonne Johnstone
Karen Pratt
Holly Martinez
Jesika Pook (VC)
Simon Hughes
Kirsty Soper
Courtney Isherwood (VC)
Fiona Bradford
John McLellan
Amelia Sherry

Apologies for absence:

Francesca Spore
Yvonne Johnstone
Michael Gray
Fiona Bradford
Lorraine Moffat
Liam Buswell

Wyre Council Officers present:

Joanne Billington, Assistant Director of Governance and Legal (Monitoring Officer)
Sara Ordonez, UKSPF Programme Manager
Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Others present:

John O'Neill, Morecambe BID and leading the Morecambe to Fleetwood Hovercraft Project
Councillor Martin Bottoms, Cabinet Member for Morecambe Regeneration and Local Economy at Lancaster City Council
Liz Loftus, Lead for the Fleetwood Thrive Network
Joanne Barnes, Chief Executive Officer of the Play Inclusion Project
Tom Hutton, Chief Executive Officer of Fleetwood Town Community Trust.

Four members of the public or press attended the meeting.

44 Welcome, apologies and introductions

The Chair introduced John O'Neill, representing Morecambe BID and leading the Morecambe to Fleetwood Hovercraft Project; Councillor Martin Bottoms, Cabinet Member for Morecambe Regeneration and Local Economy at Lancaster City Council; Liz Loftus, Lead for the Fleetwood Thrive Network; Joanne Barnes, Chief Executive Officer of the Play Inclusion Project; and Tom Hutton, Chief Executive Officer of Fleetwood Town Community Trust.

45 Declarations of interest

The Chair disclosed his role as Chair of Fleetwood Trust, and Simon Hughes highlighted his role as the Executive Principle at Blackpool and The Fylde College. Both noted their connections with the HUB Fleetwood (Former Fleetwood Hospital). It was **agreed** that there was no requirement for either member to withdraw from the meeting, as no financial decisions were being made in relation to these organisations.

46 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of Pride in Fleetwood Board meeting held on 18 June 2026 were **approved** as a correct record by those who had been in attendance.

47 Action log and matters arising not on the agenda

The Chair reviewed the action log and provided updates on outstanding actions and matters arising from previous meetings.

The Chair also provided an update on the recruitment process for the Board's Governance and Development Officer post and announced that Andrea Wallace had been successfully appointed to the position. He further advised that interviews for the Administration Officer post were scheduled to take place on the Monday following the meeting.

In response to questions from Board members regarding the recruitment process, it was confirmed that the Governance and Development Officer vacancy had been advertised for three weeks and had attracted nine applications. Following the shortlisting process, three candidates had been invited to interview. The interview process included a formal presentation to the interview panel followed by a question and answer session.

It was further reported that the Administration Officer vacancy had also been advertised for a period of three weeks and had received a total of 50 applications.

The Chair confirmed that the job descriptions and person specifications for both roles had been circulated to Board members and that the recruitment

process had been undertaken in accordance with the host organisation, Regenda's, established recruitment and selection procedures.

The action log was noted.

48 Decision register

The Board considered their decision register.

The decision register was noted.

49 Expenditure log

Sara Ordonez, UKSPF Programme Manager at Wyre Council, provided an update on the Board's expenditure log. She explained that the format of the log had been revised to simplify reporting and improve readability. Rather than presenting expenditure on a month by month basis, the information was now displayed in a consolidated format. The report had been aligned to the Government's reporting categories to support the Board's reporting requirements to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Sara advised that the expenditure log distinguished between actual expenditure, where invoices had been paid or in the process of, and committed expenditure, where the Board had formally approved funding for specific projects or activities. The report also included a summary of anticipated revenue and capital expenditure across the ten year programme to provide a clearer understanding of the balance between revenue and capital investment.

During consideration of the report, a minor typographical error was identified within the capital expenditure figures.

Sara also provided an update on the remaining capacity funding allocations. Proposed allocations included £4,000 for Board establishment and development activities, such as training, workshops, laptops, devices and other resources to support the Board's work; £30,000 for engagement activities; and £15,000 towards a community grants fund.

The Chair reminded the Board of the requirement to demonstrate to MHCLG how the funding would be utilised and the rationale behind the proposed allocations.

Following discussion, the Board unanimously **approved** the expenditure log, subject to a minor amendment to the capital expenditure figures, for submission to MHCLG.

50 Eden North

John O'Neill, representing Morecambe BID and leading the Morecambe to Fleetwood Hovercraft Project, and Councillor Martin Bottoms, Cabinet

Member for Morecambe Regeneration and Local Economy at Lancaster City Council, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Eden North project and to explore potential transport links between Morecambe and Fleetwood, including the proposed hovercraft service.

The Chair welcomed John O'Neill and Councillor Bottoms to the meeting and Board members introduced themselves.

Councillor Bottoms provided a verbal update on the progress of the Eden North project. He explained that, although the project had been many years in development, it had been just over a year since government funding had been formally transferred. He advised that the design phase had now been completed and the project was moving to the construction stage. Councillor Bottoms also referred to a recent display at the Chelsea Flower Show which had subsequently been relocated to Morecambe, where it would be planted and made freely accessible for the public to enjoy.

John O'Neill introduced the proposed Morecambe to Fleetwood Hovercraft Project. He explained that the project aimed to improve connectivity across Morecambe Bay by providing a sustainable transport link between communities on either side of the bay. The proposal had been developed to support greater movement of workers, tourists, students and patients travelling between key locations around the bay.

John outlined the engagement that had taken place with stakeholders including Team Barrow, BAE Systems and Griffin Marine, and highlighted the potential economic and social benefits for areas of deprivation across the Morecambe Bay and West Cumbria areas. He advised that the project was estimated to require investment of approximately £25 million.

The Board was informed that the hovercraft service would provide a sustainable and reliable mode of transport, with crossing times significantly reduced compared to current travel routes. The proposal envisaged a service operating with waiting times of approximately 20 minutes and carrying a minimum of 500,000 passengers per year. John noted that further funding would be required to bring the project forward and that financial projections indicated the service could reach a break even position by year nine. He emphasised that the arrival of Eden North presented a significant opportunity to strengthen connections across Morecambe Bay, Barrow and Fleetwood and stated that improved transport links would help unite communities, support economic growth and maximise the benefits of the Eden North development.

Several comments and questions were raised in relation to the presentation, including:

- The potential for the proposals to increase regeneration and footfall in Fleetwood.
- Confirmation that the cost of the feasibility study would be £9,600, with discussion around the opportunity for the Board to contribute £3,000 towards the study.
- Clarification that the feasibility study would focus primarily on the

infrastructure requirements across the three proposed locations of Morecambe, Barrow and Fleetwood, with the principal aim of determining whether the project is viable.

- The importance of the Board continuing to support regeneration initiatives within Fleetwood to help maximise the project's potential success.
- The accessibility of the hovercraft service.

Discussion also took place regarding funding timescales and the possibility of seeking financial contributions from other public sector organisations.

The Chair advised that the Board would give further consideration to the request for funding towards the feasibility study and would respond to John once a decision had been reached.

The Chair thanked John and Councillor Bottoms for their attendance.

51 SEND: engagement outcomes and priority setting

Liz Loftus, Lead for the Fleetwood Thrive Network, Joanne Barnes, Chief Executive Officer of Play Inclusion Project, and Tom Hutton, Chief Executive Officer of Fleetwood Town Community Trust, attended the meeting to provide the Board with an overview of recent consultation work, with a particular focus on provision and support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Fleetwood.

Joanne Barnes provided an overview of the consultation process and the responses received. She explained that an online survey had been developed and distributed to gather feedback from children, young people, families, carers and stakeholders. Details were provided on how the survey had been promoted and circulated throughout the community to maximise participation.

The consultation sought views on existing SEND provision, including what was working well and where improvements could be made. Joanne reported that respondents had identified a number of positive aspects regarding SEND support. However, the consultation had also highlighted a number of gaps in provision and areas where additional support was required.

The Board was advised that the findings would help inform future planning and priorities for SEND services and activities in Fleetwood. A copy of the final consultation report was attached to the minutes for information.

Liz provided further detail on the priorities identified through the consultation process, which included SEND activities, the development of a SEND hub, and education and training needs.

Tom explained that he had been working alongside Liz and Joanne to develop a proposal aimed at addressing gaps in current provision and exploring opportunities to work in partnership with the Board.

In relation to family support, it was noted that there was a clear need for a

Family Thrive Support Worker. The role would provide holistic, non-medical support to both children and their parents, helping families to access services, build resilience and improve outcomes. The post would take an integrated approach, supporting the needs of the whole family and helping to connect individuals with opportunities and services within the local community.

It was explained that the programme would support approximately 20 families each year, with a particular focus on promoting community integration and providing early intervention support.

A further proposal was presented relating to the development of SEND provision within the existing Community Hub. It was explained that the proposal would create a dedicated sensory space and expand youth hub provision, providing a more inclusive environment for children and young people with SEND. Funding would be sought to equip the space with appropriate sensory and soft-play equipment and to support an enhanced programme of activities, including evening and weekend sessions.

The proposal also included the establishment of a SEND Hub within the Community Centre and the appointment of a full-time SEND Co-ordinator to oversee its delivery and development. In addition, a SEND training package would be developed to upskill to improve awareness, confidence and inclusive practice across the community. The provision would offer regular, safe and accessible activities for children and young people, while also providing valuable respite and support for parents and carers.

The Chair commented that, through the engagement and listening exercise, a number of issues had been identified which fell outside the direct remit of the Board. However, it remained important that the views and experiences of residents were heard by the Board. The Chair noted that the Board could work alongside statutory partners and other organisations to help address the issues raised and welcomed the fact that the consultation had already identified a number of potential solutions for further consideration. He confirmed that the Board Lead for SEND would be Karen Soper.

The Board acknowledged the potential benefits of the proposals but recognised that further detail and consultation would be required before they could be progressed.

Sara advised that any proposal would need to be developed into a formal business case and considered through the Board's decision-making framework. She emphasised that any procurement process would need to be conducted in a fair and transparent manner and in accordance with the relevant procurement rules and procedures.

Several comments and questions were raised during the discussion, including:

- The importance of meaningful consultation with residents, with Members emphasising that the Board's projects should be driven by the needs and priorities identified by the local community.
- Strong support for the development of a dedicated SEND hub, which

was recognised as a potentially valuable investment in supporting children, young people and families across the area.

- The identification of a gap in SEND provision during evenings and weekends, with Members noting the need for accessible support and activities outside of normal school hours.
- The need for further financial information and detailed costings to support the development and consideration of the proposals.

Following further discussion, the Chair requested that Karen review the consultation findings and, working in partnership with Andrea and Wyre Council officers, identify which of the proposals fall within the Board's remit and which may need to be progressed by other organisations. Karen was asked to develop recommendations for consideration by the Board at a future meeting.

It was noted that, subject to the Board's approval, the proposed recommendations would be subject to further engagement with residents and stakeholders to ensure they remained aligned with the needs and priorities identified through the consultation process.

Members also suggested that further work should be undertaken to explore opportunities to enhance accessible outdoor activities and SEND provision within the local area. It was also noted that the project could provide opportunities to develop links with local schools.

The Chair thanked Joanne, Liz and Tom for attending the meeting and for their contributions to the discussion.

52 Sub-group verbal updates

The Board sub-group leads provided verbal updates on the progress of each established sub-group.

52a Engagement

This item would be covered during item 11.

52b Quick wins

Courtney Isherwood provided the Board with an update on the work of the Quick Wins Sub-Group.

She explained that a proposal had been developed to support young people in Fleetwood during the six-week summer holiday period. The proposal would provide outreach youth work through the deployment of two dedicated youth workers, operating six days a week during peak times, to engage young people in positive activities and provide support within the community.

In addition, Trust staff would facilitate a young person-led community project each week, enabling participants to contribute positively to their

local area. The programme would conclude with an end of summer event during the final week of the school holidays.

In response to questions regarding parental consent, risk assessments and insurance arrangements, Courtney confirmed that Fleetwood Town Community Trust would be responsible for managing these requirements. She advised that the Trust had previously delivered a similar programme funded by Lancashire County Council, although that funding had since come to an end.

Members raised concerns regarding the Board's ownership of, and involvement in, the promotion of the project. In response, Courtney confirmed that opportunities for consultation could be incorporated into the programme through one to one engagement with local young people, with feedback captured and reported back to the Board.

The Chair noted that the proposal had been circulated as a late item and suggested that Board members be given a further 24 hours to consider its contents before a final decision was made.

Following discussion, it was **agreed** that delegated authority to make final decisions on the current proposal, and any future Quick Win projects, would be granted to Courtney Isherwood, in consultation with the Chair. Any decisions made under these arrangements would be recorded in the decision log and progress updates on approved projects would be provided at future Board meetings.

Courtney also highlighted additional work being undertaken in partnership with Lancashire Constabulary and Wyre Council to support young people during the summer holiday period. This included the provision of activity vouchers to encourage participation in a range of local opportunities. However, she noted that identifying activities which effectively engage young girls had proved challenging. Ideas were shared, including vouchers at salons, as a way to bridge this gap.

Andrea advised that a further proposal was currently being developed in partnership with MiniLinks to provide targeted sessions.

An update was provided on plans for the Board's engagement activities at the forthcoming Tram Sunday event. Proposed activities included a silent disco, a caricature artist, free ice creams for participants who completed a survey, a sound van to capture verbal feedback from residents, a penalty shoot out challenge and a Tram Sunday themed mini golf activity.

The Board also received an update on the proposed questionnaire to be used during the event. It was noted that the current questions would be amended slightly to reflect the project proposals and themes discussed during the meeting. The questionnaire would be used to gather residents' views and feedback on local priorities and opportunities.

Board members were invited to volunteer their time to support the engagement activities and assist with gathering feedback from attendees on the day.

52c Accessibility

Jesika Pook provided a verbal update on the work and activities of the Accessibility Sub-Group.

Lorraine Beavers MP presented the findings from the recent accessibility consultation event and highlighted the key themes and issues identified through the responses received. The Board noted the feedback provided and the importance of ensuring that accessibility considerations were reflected in future project development. A copy of the consultation responses would be attached to the minutes for information.

Following discussion, the Chair requested that further work be undertaken to review and analyse the consultation findings in more detail and to develop a range of potential project proposals for consideration. It was **agreed** that these proposals would be brought back to a future meeting of the Board for discussion and approval.

52d Lord Street

Councillor Duffy confirmed that a presentation on the Lord Street project would be provided at the next meeting to update Board members on progress and future plans.

52e Families and young children

Andrea Wallace provided an update on the proposed trail activity and the outdoor cinema event proposal.

Following discussion, the Board **agreed** that work should continue on the development of both the proposed trail activity and the outdoor cinema event.

52f Young people

Ameila Sherry provided a short update on work.

52g Post 16 education

Item noted.

52h SEND

Item noted.

53 Recruitment of Governance and Development Officer and Administrative Officer

Update was provided under item 4.

54 Pride in Fleetwood Engagement Plan

Andrea Wallace, Interim Programme Development Manager, presented the draft Engagement Plan that had been circulated to Board members in advance of the meeting. The Plan had been prepared for the Board's consideration prior to its submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Andrea introduced the Engagement Plan and provided an overview of its purpose, key objectives and proposed approach to community engagement. She outlined a number of the projects and activities contained within the Plan, explaining how they would support the Board's priorities and contribute to the development of future initiatives within Fleetwood.

The Board considered the contents of the Plan and the proposed programme of engagement activities ahead of its submission to MHCLG.

Lorraine Beavers MP highlighted the need to increase membership of the Engagement Sub-Group to ensure sufficient capacity to support the Board's community engagement activities. Councillor Duffy agreed to join the Sub-Group.

During the discussion, the Chair suggested that the Sub-Group should initially contact individuals who had previously expressed an interest in becoming members of the Board to ascertain whether they would be interested in joining the Engagement Sub-Group. The Chair further noted that, once the Sub-Group was more established, opportunities for membership could be promoted more widely to encourage participation from a broader range of community representatives and stakeholders. The Board welcomed this approach.

Following discussion, the Board **agreed** that the Engagement Plan should be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) the following day, subject to the correction of a minor typographical error relating to the spelling of Lorraine Beavers MP's name.

55 Developing the Pride in Fleetwood 4 Year Plan (2026 to 2030)

Andrea Wallace, Interim Programme Development Manager, provided an update on the development of future project proposals. She advised that engagement had commenced with partners and theme leads to identify and develop potential projects aligned with the Board's priorities.

Andrea reported that planning was underway for a large community engagement event, provisionally titled "Picnic in the Park", which was scheduled to take place in September. Further details of the event would be

presented to the Board at its August meeting.

The Board was informed that the engagement activity was expected to generate a broad range of ideas and potential projects. Andrea emphasised the importance of consultation in ensuring that local priorities and community aspirations were captured and reflected in future proposals. The feedback received would be considered by the Board and used to inform the development of the four year investment plan.

The update was noted.

56 Any other business

Following discussions regarding the Board's membership, the Board **agreed** that they should go back to the public to ask for expressions of interest with a particular focus on appointing a business representative to the Board.

Sara provided an update on a forthcoming playground improvement funding application for Wyre Council. She advised that a submission was required by 17 August and that a public survey would be launched to help identify local priorities and support the bid.

The survey would focus on four park locations within Fleetwood: Memorial Park, Marine Gardens, Rossall Park and Mount Park. Feedback gathered through the survey would help determine which site should be prioritised for investment and improvement.

Sara requested that Board members assist in promoting and sharing the survey to maximise community participation. Following discussion, the Board **agreed** to support Wyre Council by promoting the survey through their respective networks and communication channels.

57 Date and time of the next Pride in Fleetwood Board meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 20 August 2026 at 17:30pm

The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.41 pm.

Date of Publication: 28 July 2026.

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Fleetwood SEND Consultation Report

Prepared by Joanne Barnes



Fleetwood SEND Consultation Report

Parent & Carer Feedback Analysis – Pride in Fleetwood

Prepared for Board Meeting – July 2026

Executive Summary

The consultation gathered detailed feedback from parents and carers of children and young people aged 3 to 21 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) living in Fleetwood (See Appendix 1). The findings reveal significant gaps in local SEND provision, particularly around specialist education, inclusive community spaces, therapeutic support, and respite. While some existing services are valued, the overall message from parents is that **Fleetwood lacks the infrastructure, staffing, and specialist facilities required to meet the needs of its SEND population.**

Parents consistently describe Fleetwood as a place where SEND families must “fight for everything”, where children are “pushed into unsuitable settings”, and where “there is nothing for SEND children at all”. Many families report travelling to Preston, Blackpool, or Lancaster for basic SEND appropriate activities, medical support, sensory play, and specialist schooling.

The £20 million Pride in Place investment presents a vital opportunity to address long-standing gaps in provision for Fleetwood’s SEND population. By aligning funding with community-identified priorities, Fleetwood can build a cohesive, sustainable and fully inclusive SEND offer that strengthens families, reduces crisis, and ensures every child has access to meaningful opportunities within their local community.

Methodology

The consultation was designed to gather the views of parents and carers of SEND children and young people living in Fleetwood. A short online survey was used to collect feedback, focusing on current provision, gaps in support, and priorities for future investment.

The survey link was distributed through multiple trusted channels to maximise reach and ensure representation across the SEND community. It was shared via:

- School SENCOs
- Family Support Workers
- Social care teams
- Colleagues at Lancashire County Council
- Parents and carers on Play Inclusion Project (PIP) database
- Fellow local providers
- Social media platforms, through both Play Inclusion Project and the local authority

In total, 32 responses were received. While this number is lower than anticipated, it is consistent with known challenges in engaging SEND families in consultation activity. Parents of children with SEND often face significant time pressures, caring responsibilities, and barriers to participation. Additionally, the consultation took place during a busy period for school staff and families due to end-of-term commitments, which further impacted response levels.

Despite the modest sample size, the feedback gathered provides rich, detailed insight into the lived experiences of SEND families in Fleetwood. The themes identified are consistent, strongly expressed, and align with long-standing concerns raised through other local engagement routes. Responses were analysed thematically, with direct quotations used to illustrate key points.

FINDINGS

What Is Working Well

Across responses, only a small number of services were consistently identified as positive:

1.1. SEND Hubs in Primary Schools

Parents noted that the two primary SEND hubs are helpful, but insufficient for the scale of need.

1.2. Break Time Funding/ Youth Clubs

Break Time was frequently referenced across responses, with families identifying both positive experiences and significant barriers. Where accessible, Break Time sessions are valued and provide meaningful support; however, many families reported challenges securing hours, placements, or suitable provision.

Parents highlighted that Play Inclusion Project (PIP) is one of the few services consistently funded through Break Time that reliably meets their child's needs. PIP was described as *“fantastic”*, *“a massive help”*, and *“the only SEND group in Fleetwood.”* Families emphasised that PIP offers safe, inclusive activities that their children would not otherwise be able to access:

“Play Inclusion Project works... Wish there were more groups like this.” “My daughter absolutely loves going. The club gives SEND children access to clubs that otherwise wouldn't be available.”

Some families also spoke positively about individual youth clubs such as the Boathouse and Break Time-funded sessions. These were appreciated by those who could access them, but feedback shows they are **not suitable for all SEND profiles**. Parents particularly noted gaps for children described as **“inbetweeners”** — those who do not fit neatly into mainstream or specialist provision and therefore struggle to secure appropriate Break Time support.

Overall, Break Time funding is seen as beneficial when available, but families consistently reported issues with accessibility, suitability, and limited options within Fleetwood.

Key Gaps Identified

Parents repeatedly highlighted systemic gaps across education, health, community spaces, and family support.

2.1 Lack of Specialist SEND School Places

This is the strongest and most consistent theme.

Parents report:

- No SEND school in Fleetwood.
- Over-subscribed SEND schools in Blackpool, Preston, Lancaster.
- Children forced into unsuitable mainstream settings.
- EHCPs not being met due to lack of placements.

“He has had to go to mainstream even though EHCP says special school.”

“More SEND schools with SEND teachers.”

2.2 Insufficient Trained Staff in Mainstream Schools

Parents describe:

- Teachers lacking training in autism, ADHD, trauma, sensory needs.
- Schools unable to meet needs due to staffing shortages.
- Children being misunderstood or labelled as “naughty”.

“Schools need better training... masking, trauma, ADHD.”

“Change schools’ attitude—stop putting struggling children in the base with naughty kids.”

2.3 Lack of Inclusive Community Spaces

Parents consistently requested:

- Sensory rooms
- Soft play
- Accessible parks
- Safe indoor play areas
- Purpose-built SEND facilities with hoists, changing beds, quiet rooms

“Fleetwood would benefit from a purpose-built building with a hoist, changing bed, sensory room.”

“We need SEND parks and SEND swim days.”

“There is nothing for SEND children at all... we need something like the Space Centre in Preston.”

2.4 Limited Social Groups & Youth Provision

Particularly for:

- “Inbetweeners” (children not severe enough for specialist services but not able to access mainstream)
- Older SEND teens (13–18)
- Non-Break Time families
- Children who do not drive or cannot travel

2.5 Lack of Therapeutic Support

Parents reported:

- Long waiting times
- No local counselling or therapy
- No follow-up after diagnosis
- No support for siblings or families

“Therapy, education and support.”

“More support for parents and siblings.”

2.6 Insufficient Respite

Many families requested:

- More Break Time hours
- Local respite services
- 1:1 befriending
- Holiday clubs for SEND children

2.7 Poor Accessibility of Medical Support

Families reported:

- No school nurses
- Delayed diagnosis
- Lack of SEND-aware medical care
- Need to travel to Blackpool or Preston for basic services

Of those who responded 5 felt that “nothing” was working well.

What Families Must Leave Fleetwood to Access

Parents consistently travel outside Fleetwood for the following:

- Specialist SEND schools (Preston, Blackpool, Lancaster)
- Sensory rooms / sensory play (**Space Centre – Preston**)
- Soft play suitable for SEND
- Football in non-echoey environments
- Zoo, Sealife Centre, attractions
- SEND-specific swimming sessions
- Therapeutic services
- Medical assessments and diagnosis

This demonstrates a need to invest in Specialist SEND facilities and services in Fleetwood due to the absence of specialist SEND infrastructure.

What Parents/Carers Would Change About Growing Up in Fleetwood

Themes emerging included:

3.1 Greater Understanding and Acceptance

“More awareness... children are different, not less.”

“Stop judging SEND children.”

3.2 More Inclusive Activities

“More activities where they can be themselves instead of being overwhelmed.”

3.3 Better School Support

“More empathy from teachers.”

“Flexible attendance for low-immune children.”

3.4 More Specialist Provision

“No child should be left to struggle in an unsuitable setting.”

3.5 A Safe, Accessible Town

Broken accessible equipment, unsafe parks, lack of quiet spaces were frequently mentioned.

Priority Areas Identified by Parents

Across all responses, the following priority investment areas emerged clearly:

4.1 Build a Purpose-Built SEND Facility in Fleetwood

Parents repeatedly described the need for a building with:

- Sensory rooms
- Soft play
- Hoists and changing beds
- Quiet rooms
- Accessible toilets
- Space for youth clubs, therapy, respite, parent groups
- SEND-friendly sports and fitness sessions

This is the single most frequently requested investment.

4.2 Increase Local SEND School Places

Options include:

- A new SEND school in Fleetwood
- Expansion of existing SEND hubs
- Specialist units within mainstream schools
- Satellite provision from existing SEND schools

4.3 Expand SEND Clubs, Holiday Provision & Respite

Including:

- Holiday clubs for ages 4–18
- Youth clubs for “inbetweeners”
- Teen SEND groups
- 1:1 befriending
- More Break Time hours
- After-school SEND clubs for working parents

4.4 Improve Training & Support in Schools

Investment in:

- Trauma-informed practice
- Autism/ADHD training
- Sensory-friendly teaching
- Flexible attendance policies
- On-site nursing support

4.5 Create Accessible Community Spaces

Including:

- SEND-friendly parks
- Rebound therapy
- SEND swimming sessions
- Outdoor spaces prioritising SEND families

- Beach wheelchairs

4.6 Improve Family Support & Navigation

Parents request:

- Help navigating diagnosis
- Support groups
- Sibling support
- Post-diagnosis follow-up
- Local therapeutic services

Conclusion

The consultation provides a clear and compelling message: Fleetwood's SEND community is underserved, under-resourced, and urgently needs investment. Parents are asking not for luxury, but for basic, essential provision that allows their children to be safe, included, supported, and able to thrive.

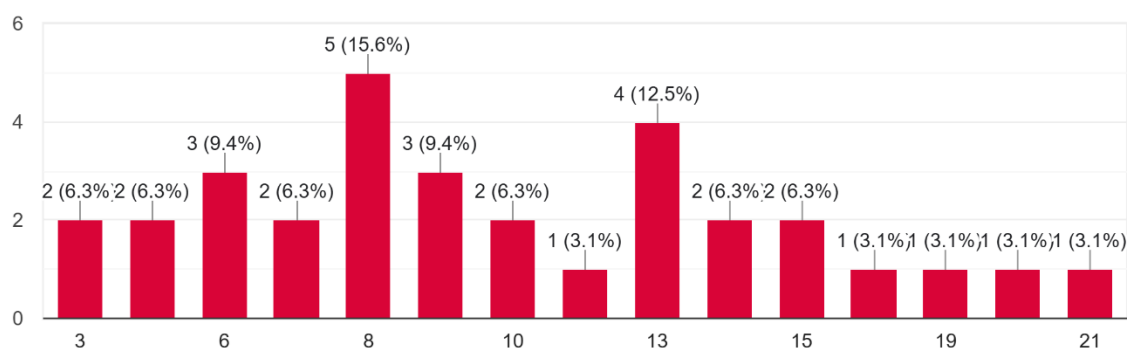
The Pride in Place funding represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform Fleetwood into a national example of inclusive community design, where SEND children and families are valued, supported, and able to access the same opportunities as everyone else.

This report provides a strong evidence base for prioritising SEND investment as a core component of Fleetwood's regeneration.

Appendix

Child's Age

32 responses



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Timestamp	Details of Child's Disability	Child's Age	1. What is working well in Fleetwood? What should we do more of?	2. If you were able to allocate specific SEND funding across Fleetwood, what would be the three things you would prioritise? Priority One	2. Priority Two	2. Priority Three	3. What services/activities do you have to leave Fleetwood to find?	4. If you could change one thing about growing up in Fleetwood for a child with additional needs, what would it be?
6/22/2026 12:38:38	Down syndrome	15	Play Inclusion Project works, however there is no level of fitness for school age SEND. Evenings, weekends of gentle, easy to follow exercises would be helpful to my son, physically and mentally.	Diagnosis, my son had autistic traits that doctors won't acknowledge due to his Down syndrome, he has both.	Working with schools to help our kids, there's no nurse, and the attendance rate is a quite high expectation for our low immune kids to meet and also kids should be allowed out of term holidays, because my son can't handle the sounds of too many people, he want to bolt, which is unsafe for him, so he misses out or I get a fine, so we need understanding, compassion and fairness, not rigid rules for our SEND	Fitness program that our kids who can't move very well can access. My son has hyper mobility and some type of provision is needed on a regular basis that he can access so he thinks its fun,	Advice, football that is not in an echoey environment and his hearing and blood tests.	Nurses in school - he broke his leg once and didn't cry, so no-one knew until he couldn't walk and there was no nurse on site. Apparently the teachers are the new nurses now... and the nurses are the new teacher's training Teachers how to nurse, which I find is utterly bizarre. I'd like that to change, asap.
6/22/2026 19:14:39	AUDHD	8	The Boathouse Youth Club works well. However needed are clubs for the children who aren't severely disabled but not typical - "the inbetweeners". Holiday clubs for the same. Schools. Sensory rooms. Play areas. Counselling/therapy.	Schools - SEND units. Training for staff for ADHD, developmental trauma, masking etc.	Accessible clubs / settings. Safer / cleaner areas to play.	Counselling / therapy.	Sensory rooms. Soft play. Cleaner & more entertaining parks. Counselling/therapy.	The school knowledge, treatment, understanding, accessibility and acceptance.
6/22/2026 19:22:21	Autistic/ adhd	8	Send schools that have trained teachers in who are trained in Autistic and adhd kids - Like Cumberland School etc but more local	Send school	Safe place for them	A send indoor play area	Play areas And send schools are all out off fleetwood	Understanding and support safe areas
6/22/2026 19:41:44	Partial trisomy 13	21	More accessible parks and spaces	More SEN schools with SEND Teachers	More SEND social groups	spent on more	Special needs school in Preston- Tom Finney. Together we can do is based in Blackpool	More support for parents
6/22/2026 19:43:47	Autism, anxiety	19	Support workers	Budgeting for group sessions	suitable environment	maintenance of suitable environment	actual medical care	waiting times
6/22/2026 19:47:05	Autism	13	variety of activities	food budgeting	variety and quality of equipment	trips	N/A	more available support
22/06/2026 19:54:28A8:113	Unsure	14	group dynamic with other young people and support from staff	food variety	variety of equipment and activities	N/A	N/A	Cleaner environment for the public
6/22/2026 20:01:02	dsylexia anxiety	14	allowence for creative works	milton street building back	artistic supplies	N/A	Medical services	recognition of metal disabilities during younger school years
6/23/2026 19:09:09	ASD, ADHD, learning disability	13	PIP club Fleetwood	Accessible sports clubs that are frequent	Purpose built youth facility	Rest bite service	Nothing, everywhere is limited	Real community inclusion with age appropriate accessible activities
6/24/2026 9:50:13	Sensroy Processing Disorder, Auditory Processing Disorder	15	Break Time sessions	Sensory Room/play area	More accessible buildings/facilities available for activities to take place in. Fleetwood would benefit from a purpose built building with a hoist, changing bed, sensory room etc.	More specialist SEND support and understanding in high school. SEND children need a more flexible approach towards attendance, teaching techniques etc. Better training for teachers is also required	Sensory play areas - The Space Centre in Preston	More opportunities to socialise and build friendships
6/24/2026 12:01:11	Learning difficulties- dyslexia & dyspaxia- ADHD	7	More youth clubs	Respite	More youth clubs	More sensory areas	Soft play, football	Nhs to be more quicker
6/24/2026 12:20:49	Global development delay non verbal Autistic	3	Nothing The current SEND system is failing too many children. There are simply not enough trained staff or specialist provisions available to meet the growing needs of children with SEND. Many schools and settings are doing their best, but they do not have the staffing levels, resources, or specialist support required to provide appropriate care and education for children with additional needs. As a result, children are not receiving the support they need at the right time. In Thornton, there are only a very limited number of schools that can genuinely meet the needs of children with SEND, and places within these settings are almost always full. This leaves families with very few options and often forces children into mainstream environments that are unable to adequately support their needs. Children who require specialist intervention should not be disadvantaged because of a lack of available places or resources. Instead, many are left waiting for support, struggling in unsuitable settings, and falling behind academically, socially, and emotionally. The children with the greatest needs are often the ones most affected by these shortages. Every child has the right to access an education that meets their individual needs. Until there is greater investment in specialist school places, trained staff, and SEND services, more children will continue to be overlooked and denied the support they deserve.	Send school for only children who really need it	More send support 1:1 availability	More funding for schools/ nursery's for send support staff	Aiming higher charity Blackpool Safe spaces to play	If I could change one thing about growing up in Fleetwood for a child with additional needs, it would be the lack of support and specialist provision available to them and their families. It is deeply disappointing to see so many children struggling to access the help they need. There are not enough specialist school places, support services, or trained staff to meet demand, leaving many children waiting for assessments, interventions, or suitable educational placements. Families are often left feeling unsupported and having to fight for services that should be readily available. Children with additional needs deserve the same opportunities as everyone else, yet too many are being let down by a system that lacks the resources to support them properly. No child should be left to struggle in an unsuitable setting simply because there is nowhere else for them to go. More investment, specialist provision, and early support are urgently needed to ensure that children receive the help they need when they need it.
6/25/2026 11:17:24	Autism spectrum condition	6	Fleetwood lacks a lot for the Sen community. The two schools in Fleetwood with Sen specific hubs are a massive help for those children who need that support	mine can access and not have to specifically be	Offer afterschool clubs with Sen children in mind because although some of us do have Sen children we also need to be able to work and the lack of staffing around these makes it hard for any working parent to access support	More than one Sen group in the community for children to access as currently the only one is play inclusion and you have to be in receipt of break time hours	Anything that is remotely Sen friendly ie space centre is Preston.	Lack of support for children and families
7/2/2026 17:54:25	Autism AdHD & PTSD	20	More support in school to help the child stay in mainstream and teachers learn to understand there needs	Therapy	Support groups for older children	Get diagnosis quicker	Therapy , Education & Support	Change into schools attitude towards children who are struggling not put them in base with naughty kids
7/2/2026 17:56:52	ADHD and autism	11	Nothing is working we need something for SEND kids	A exclusion unit for them to access when out of education	A calm, safe place when they can play, do nothing but be surrounded by sensory that can be accessed 7 days a week	Consider somewhere for children who need to burn of energy and be safe but still have a good time	Everything	Everything we have nothin here for them
7/2/2026 18:12:45	Adhd, none verbal	8	More play areas	More schools, correct equipment and staff	Safe place for children to explore	More support for families...rest bite	Suitable play areas, schools	For people to be more understanding of children with special needs, more safe paces equipped for children
7/2/2026 18:28:40	Global development delay, Autism, hyper mobility, Rare Genetic Neurological Disorder	13	Help understanding children are all different. Not to judge. More places for SEN support in the holidays .pip project etc	SEN support for the whole family	Older children love to play too. Our daughter is 13 but loves to draw paint etc there is nothing and she barely leaves the house. 1.1 befriending support	A free Fleetwood special needs group for children and parents of teens	We don't as we struggle to get her out of the house. Very vulnerable. Husband has cancer palliative care	To be understood and given a chance. We shouldn't have to fight for years for an EHCP

7/2/2026 18:33:48	Sen register , currently awaiting diagnosis	9	More send places closer than Lancaster Better training for staff in mainstream schools	Creating more send places	Better training and more understanding	Easier ways / more professionals to help parents navigate the maize of getting to diagnosis/help	Send/intervention education settings	More activities with trained staff
7/2/2026 18:55:01	Asd traits very delayed	10	Nothing	Easier access for assesment	More help	Not being pushed away when turn 16	None	More places to go and more info if any places plus 16 as younger gooo
7/2/2026 19:02:39	Autism and GDD	5	There is nothing for send children at all we need something like the space center in Preston and also send parks and send swim days there is enough empty buildings to build a sensory play area also autism play days	Sensory play area	Parks	Autism play days	Everything Sen	To have more to do for them so they are included more
7/2/2026 19:07:10	Autism Global development delay and processing disorder	8	More things for send children	More clubs	More inclusion projects	Sensory spaces	More places thay are inclusive for send children	Mpre sen schools
7/2/2026 19:40:23	Possible autism	3	Support group for SEN parents	Support for parents	Support for the siblings	Sen play group	Most support groups	A lot more awareness for other children and adults
7/2/2026 19:45:27	Ulcerative colitis, IBD, IBS, Small illuem has been not in school properly for 3 plus years.	16	Make it easier for send kids to get the help their need in school and in long term hospital admissions.	Long term hospital admissions. More support for said children in hospital with send needs.	More support for parents and full explanation included.	More support for other family members of send children ie brothers and sisters.	All of them due to his disability. Alot of people don't know what send is and what long term health problems is can cause and time they miss out in school due to illness.	More support to child and family members and more awareness in school and teachers fully understand what a send child needs are. More empathy from teachers and schools aswell.
7/2/2026 20:17:12	Epilepsy adhd	10	Fun day	Play groups	Outside swimming pool	Anything	Nothing	The old outdoor swimming pool
7/2/2026 20:25:29	Adhd, Autism	9	Not much. There is nothing for the inbetween SEND children it needs small groups and have actual things in Fleetwood for the people who don't drive. More support for the parents and not just classes.	Something for the inbetween SEND children specifically.	Small group activities that do not include sport for example arts and crafts.	Singing and dancing for SEND children in a small group	I do not drive so I cannot get to any other SEND things out of the area.	More support for the inbetween SEND children as there is 0 help for them and for people to have more understanding.
7/2/2026 21:48:56	Autism	7	Play Inclusion Project is great. Wish there was more groups like this	A Space Centre type venue	More specialised building to be hired by SEN Groups	A additional needs school in Fleetwood not just units within primary schools	Most things apart from swimming but the new people at YMCA seem abit naff and care more about money then our community	More understanding and more accessible paths, playgrounds etc. the accessible parts of playgrounds always seems to be broken
7/2/2026 22:00:53	Autism	6	Get more Special schools	Specail sen School	Better facilities	More support and activities	Everything	Better services
7/4/2026 22:50:30	Autism with global development delay and learning disability	5	Nothing is working well in Fleetwood. he was awarded 72 hours but Pip did not offer any place dispute us applying several times last year, so his hours were wasted and we got not respite or support or social time for him	A school holiday club for send kids from age 4 for all school holidays especially for working parents	A social club for all send kids from age 4	Support for parents of send kids	Everything from NHS we have had to go to Blackpool from our first concerns to diagnosis, now he is school age he has had no support medically	A Send school from reception, he has had to go to main stream even though EHCP says needs special education needs school, school have cared for him in nursery room all year and cannot provide for him going into year one in September and no send school placement yet offered. We started application when he was 1 year old and still overlooked unlike other kids we know with less needs
7/6/2026 12:39:18	Autism and Epilepsy	6	My Daughter attends the weekly and holiday groups in fleetwood with pip inclusion project and absolutley loves going. The club gives send children access to clubs that otherwise wouldn't be available.	Offer more hours with breaktime funding	More Send Clubs	More inclusivity within local parks	Soft plays, zoo, sealife centre. Any sort of attraction. Sensory rooms.	More inclusive clubs, wether that be youth clubs or parent and child play.
7/7/2026 12:28:03	Autism and GDD	8	More send knowledge within schools and training, having experienced mainstream and Sen school there is a lack of understanding in mainstream mainly because the school do not want to be too good and handling Sen children on account on ending up with more of them, it's takes away learning from the rest of the class as the spectrum is so broad it's not a case of all the children are the same, some need a lot more support than others but they do not have facility to do that. The difference from mainstream to Sen for a child having first experience is like night and day, our son has developed in lots of areas and goes in school happy and out of school happy and is full time , something never supported in mainstream.	Send school places, either more send schools local or start a provision within in mainstreams for those on the spectrum that may manage a little more but the school is supported with trained staff and things like sensory rooms and more autonomy with school curriculum	Council run swim lessons for Sen children with trained support staff, safety is a big factor for a lot of sen parents and having that as an option i think is something lacking especially in a coastal town	Follow up and support for families, some children are diagnosed young with a disability and you are left to navigate the following years, no follow up to see development and possibly additional diagnosis if applicable, no training to parents with skills or knowledge do the coming years, and more provision for working families, it's assumed if your working you can afford certain activities or help. So a lot of charity run help is based on no income or benefits, there are a lot of working families not in a financial positive situation,	Supported play groups like OJ's where it's secure and an inclusive family supported environment for our children	No support, no information or knowledge, it's assumed in Fleetwood if you have a child with autism, adhd etc your just trying to scrounge the system, this is massively incorrect, having experienced a life with a child with Sen, working full time and dealing with all elements of his care, fighting for an appropriate school, most times on lack of sleep and energy is sometimes just horrific, there isn't the level of support for parents there could be, i think a lot of children can benefit alot more if there is support and help to help the children a lot more, it will help them in the long run,
7/7/2026 18:30:21	ASD ADHD. LD	13	PIP are fantastic there is nothing else for our kids it needs to be extended to an older age as our children age out to quickly, they need longer	Play group / youth club for kids who are not known to PIP in a place where sound (old churches) is not an issue	Sensory area like space	Outdoor space that prioritise Send kids / families could incorporate beach wheelchair	Space Tiggers	Lack of education and judgement of society. Children need to be more integrated to be understood. Schools need to do better to be inclusive and teach that come children are different not less
7/7/2026 19:35:56	Autism	9	Nothing but SEN play areas are needed.	Play area especially for SEN children as some places only do once a week SEN Sessions	Sensory play like space in Preston but on a larger scale	More Sen swimming times rebound therapy	I haven't seen any and I've been here 2 years end of July	More activities for a child with additional needs. Where they can be themselves instead of going to activities with everyday children where it's far to noisy and then they end up getting upset and disregulated