



Public Engagement and Consultation Panel

Key Messages.



Date of meeting: 16th January 2026.



Chair of Panel: Councillor Liz Dowd.



Officer Contact: Jayne Vincent.

jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk



The reports are presented to the Public Consultation and Engagement Panel (The Panel).



This is what was discussed at the meeting:

Public Engagement and Consultation Panel Annual Report 2025.



The role of the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel is to help make sure the consultation we do is of a high standard.

During 2025, we have:



- Met 6 times.
- Looked at 16 consultation plans.
- Looked at 7 Feedback reports.
- Received 6 updates about young people having their say.

There is stronger joint working with the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion team. We hope that this will:

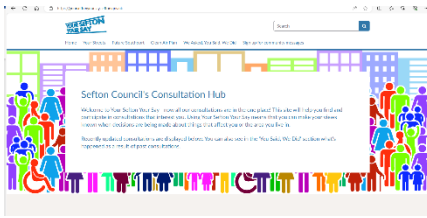


- help increase the number of Equality Impact Assessments (EIA). This is to see if the consultation will affect different groups of people.
- help us to collect the equality monitoring information. This is collected to show what groups of people are responding to the questionnaire and the feedback reports show which groups of people responded and what they said.





Sefton Council has an online consultation hub called Your Sefton Your Say. This is where all the council consultations are, for people to take part.

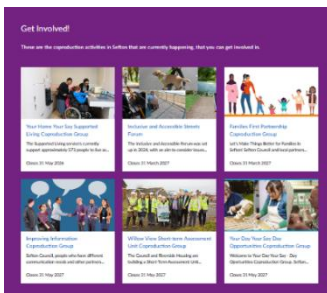


In 2025, there were 52 online activities:

- 26 surveys that the public could complete.
- 26 surveys that were not open to the public.



We carried out a review with staff who use Your Sefton Your Say and of the users that responded 100% said that they are happy with it.



We have also developed a Consultation Hub page that includes some of the coproduction activities that people in Sefton can get involved in. There are lots of coproduction activities taking place.



Sefton Council took part in research on Accessible Voting with the Disability Policy Centre. They worked with the Elections Team and Getting Involved Group. Their feedback helped create a report launched at Westminster in November 2025.

The Panel said:



- Thank you for all the work that has been done.
- Share the Annual Report with Elected Members (someone the public have chosen by public voting, for example the Sefton Local Elections).
- To look at how a person from Health can get involved with the Panel again.





For more information, please contact
jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk

Supported Living Feedback & Evaluation Update

Steve Metcalf said that there was lots of engagement in 2025:



- Attending forums and carers groups.
- Coproduction meetings
- Survey with 101 survey responses.



The survey said that the support from staff was very good.

Improvements needed:



- Money management.
- Internet fairness.
- Use of community activities.
- Access to work/volunteering.

There was low engagement from carers (7 responses).



Some people involved in the Coproduction Group have been involved in putting two questions for the tender process (helping to decide who will provide the care and support service).

The Panel said:



- It was a very good example of “you said, we did”.
- To think about how to engage with people from different backgrounds.
- Promote independent support through Healthwatch.
- Future focus groups are needed for carers.
- Increase targeted engagement to underrepresented groups.



For more information, please contact steve.metcalf@sefton.gov.uk

Update from Sefton Young Advisors.



Alex mentioned that the next Have Your Say Sefton topic is Jobs, Employment & Training (16+), launching end of January. Sefton Young Advisors are coordinating with Career Connect.



The feedback session will take place on the 12th March 2026.



A good practice guide for youth consultation is being developed. This involves working with Children’s Social Care and Edge Hill University.



Panel messages:

It is important to have clear “you said, we did” reporting back to the Panel.



The Panel thanked Alex for his presentation.

For more information, please contact Georgia.ribbens@seftoncvcs.org.uk.



SEND Parent and Carer Survey Feedback and Evaluation Report.

Jayne Vincent explained that this is the 7th annual survey. There were only 83 responses despite lots of promotion.

Findings show improvements, but major concerns remain:



- long waits
- inconsistent communication
- families feeling they must “fight the system”



The survey has been reopened (28th November – 8th March 2026).



Lots of communication and engagement planned, including Stay & Play visits, library promotion, mailing lists, and social media.

Panel messages:



- There should be more face-to-face engagement (not just surveys).
- Need to understand more about LGBTQ+ inclusion and sensitive monitoring questions.
- Services—not just Jayne—must attend Panel meetings when reporting on engagement.
- Global majority families face barriers: language, literacy, mistrust, crisis pressures and these should be considered when doing engagement.
- Strengthen schools' role and feedback loops throughout the year.

Date of next meeting: 6th March 2026.