

SEND Reforms Update

The SEND Reforms have been live for a year and what a year it's been! Last September the Local Authority, Schools, Health and other organisations had the daunting task of implementing the new legislation to deliver new Education, Health and Care Plans which will replace Statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments from 2018 and 2016 respectively.

This academic year the Local Authority will focus on converting those children who are in Year 6 in special schools first and then those in mainstream schools. They will also want to convert all those in Year 11 onwards who are moving to a new educational setting to continue in Further Education, training or apprenticeships.

In addition, the aim is to try to convert all those who are in Year 9 in the summer term, and this is in addition to anyone who wants to request a Needs Assessment who currently holds a Learning Difficulty Assessment, as well as those requesting a new Statutory Needs Assessment. So... bear with the Local Authority and schools and ensure you work with them to develop your child's/young person's EHCP.

Our Voice has been working closely with the Local Authority and the Enfield Parents and Children team, who provide an independent information and advice service. It's been challenging at times but the aim of this new way of working together is that our children will be more likely to achieve their outcomes and goals and listened to more about what they want. However, it's not about getting more, since there are limited resources, but if we all agree how we can target what resources are available more effectively, this can only be a good thing.

Our Voice ran a mini survey of Year 6 parents' experience of the new process last year and results show that 90% felt the new process was satisfactory or good. They felt they and their children were more genuinely involved in decisions being made about them – which is a step in the right direction! Equally, if families felt unhappy for any reason, they felt able to discuss issues with the school and the local Authority to resolve them and this certainly is an improvement on how things were 18 months ago.

Training and information sessions will continue to help support you/your child so visit the Local Offer website enfield.gov.uk/SEND for more details. You can also speak to your child's school, the Independent Supporter team on 020 8373 2700, Our Voice (many of the management team have now been through the new conversion process themselves) or contact the Local Authority SEN team.

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