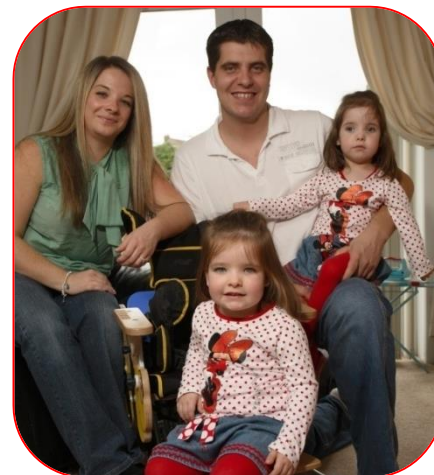


Navigating the Local Offer



The Experience of Parents in Dealing with SEND Reforms so far

Akash Sondhi



Aim of session

Aim of today's session is to understand:

- » Parents' Perspective on the changes;
- » Successes and challenges in facing such a major change in the system;
- » How Contact supports parents to understand and work with the reforms;
- » The value of working with parents in moving forwards in the SEND journey;
- » How Contact can help both professionals and parents work more closely to keep improving the system.



How we work with Parents

We are the only pan disability, family supporting charity for disabled children and their families.

We've been working with families for nearly 40 years supporting parents in a number of ways:

- » Helpline
- » Face to Face workshops
- » Online Community
- » Website enquiries
- » Independent support service (in London)
- » Parent Carer Forums
- » Support groups
- » Rare conditions



How We Work With Parents To Understand The Local Offer and the SEND Reforms

We are going to run through some of the workshop content we use when working with families

- » How children and young people are supported with their special educational needs
 - » Legal duties
 - » SEN support
 - » Education, Health and Care plans
 - » Sections of the EHC Plan
 - » Local Offer and Personal Budget
 - » Resources and how Contact can help



Local Offer



- » Information about provision which is available for children and young people aged 0-25 with SEN – with and without EHCPs
- » Aims to make provision more responsive to local needs
- » To include local provision and provision outside the local area including relevant national specialist provision



The Local Offer – a Parent perspective

- » Local Offer Information is VERY variable
- » Sites are not always easy to navigate
- » Sites not always updated
- » Less helpful for post 16 information

» BUT



- » Some sites are great
- » Parents and Young people actively involved in the development of the site
- » Helpful information and good content



Our focus with Parents

Section A – Views Interests and Aspirations

Written by both parents and children/Young Person and should include details about:

- » Play
- » Health
- » Schools
- » Independence and friendships
- » How to communicate
- » Child / young person's history
- » Aspirations and goals for the future
- » Further education and future plans including employment (if practical), especially from Year 9



Keeping it simple and straightforward

» **Assess, Plan, Do, Review:** The planning cycle for children with SEND

1. **Assess** – gather information about needs
2. **Plan** – decide what support is needed
3. **Do** – support given by teacher, SENCO specialists
4. **Review** - revise plan in consultation with parents



How to prepare for the meeting

As the parent you are an expert in your own child.

Prepare for the meeting by:

- » Looking at the school's website/Local Offer for the support they provide
- » Keeping an ongoing diary or observations about your child.
- » Checking what the meeting is about and who will be attending
- » Getting independent advice about your rights and your child's rights in school
- » Building good relationships with other professionals who are involved in your child's support, e.g. occupational therapist, SALT

When attending meetings try and take someone with you.



How Contact Can Work With Professionals to Improve the SEND Journey and the Local Offer

- » We offer a range of training courses for professionals to take themselves, for professionals to commission for the parents they work with, and courses for networks, groups, and parent carer forums.
- » We have nearly 40 years' experience of working directly with disabled children and their families, providing information, advice and support. Our training programmes build on this experience.
- » **OUR TRAINING COURSES ARE FOR THREE GROUPS:**
 - » [Professionals - to support your continuous development](#)
 - » [The families you work with - to be commissioned by you](#)
 - » [Networks, groups, and parent carer forums](#)



SEND Factsheets

Information for parents
The special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms – England

contact a family
for families with disabled children

NANCY
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
NURTURING AND CARE
FOR FAMILIES WITH DISABLED CHILDREN

Introduction to the Children and Families Act 2014

Since 1 September 2014 there have been changes to the way children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are supported. This factsheet is part of a series for parents explaining what the reforms are.

The SEND reforms are set out in part 2 of a new law called the Children and Families Act 2014. It applies to England only. There is also a new Code of Practice, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years. The Code tells local authorities, schools and others how they must carry out their duties under the new law.

Key principles

The new law aims to improve the system by giving more importance to the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people and their families. It is based on three principles:

- Participation**
Local authorities and health partners must work with parents, carers and young people to improve services in the area, for example through the Local Parent Council.
- Outcomes**
Local authorities must make sure that every child and young person with SEND has the best possible outcomes and happiness in their lives, whatever their needs.
- Local solutions**
Local authorities must make sure that young people and their families get the right education and support in their part of the country.
- Joint working**
Education, health and social care services must work more closely together.

What are the main changes?

- Education, Health and Law (EHL) plans have begun to replace statements of special educational needs. Like the statement, the EHL plan is a legal document specifying a child's learning needs, special educational needs, and the support, services and provision they will get, and the money, when relevant, which will be used.
- The EHL plan will be a legal document and a young person, at 16, if they will need the support, will be able to complete their education or training. The EHL plan has begun to replace the old statement of special educational needs.
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Need advice?
Call our free phone helpline
0800 012 3456

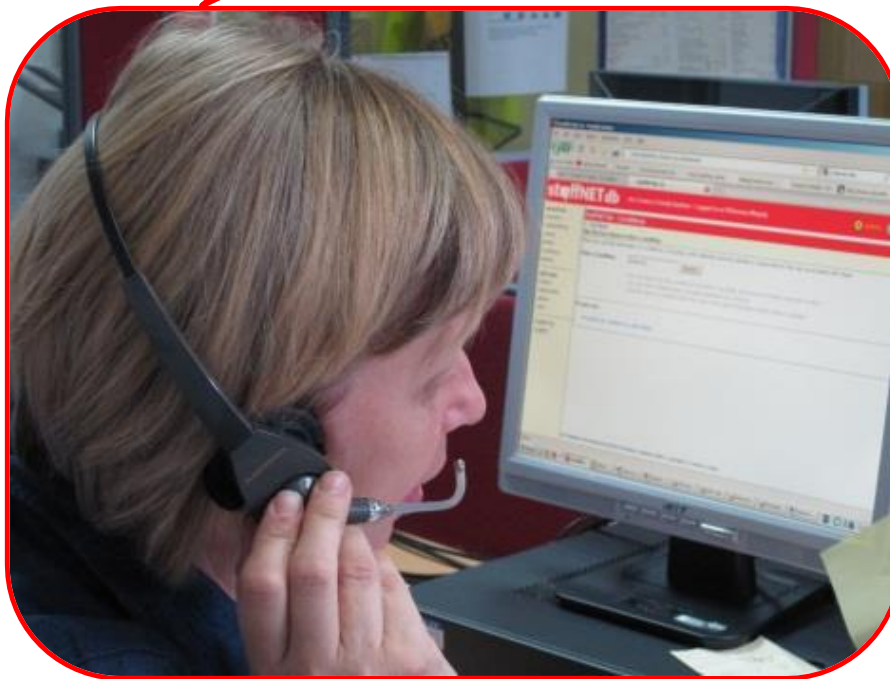
- » Changing from the old system to the new
- » Introduction to the Children and Families Act 2014
- » Extra support in mainstream school – SEN support
- » Help in the early years if your child has additional needs
- » Education, Health and Care Needs assessments
- » Education, Health and Care plans
- » Preparing for adulthood
- » The local offer explained
- » Personal budgets



The school says my daughter is a model pupil but at home her behaviour is difficult, please help?

How do I get an EHC plan ?

What does the law say about SEN?



My son has just been diagnosed with, what should the school be doing?

How do I challenge a decision?

freephone Helpline

0808 808 3555



Finally

Any Questions?

Thank You

Freephone Helpline

0808 808 3555

www.contact.org.uk

