



Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum

Registered Charity No: 1141060

Feedback from Katie Marsden-Head of Service SEND

Parents Voice Report July – Sept 24

Page 10 - EP waiting times Whilst the statutory test for requesting, considering and agreeing an EHCN assessment, Local Authorities as part of the process can expect to see evidence of a graduated approach to supporting SEND needs. This ordinarily means that schools will seek advice and guidance from professionals such as an EP or other SEN support services and then implement the recommended strategies over a period of time (usually a minimum of a school term) to see if they make a difference.

Where a school has identified a pupil as being at SEN support, it would be expected that a rigorous and robust transition is discussed and planned between the current and future school, irrelevant of whether an EHCP is in place or not.

In terms of EP assessments, despite a national shortage of EP's, Lincolnshire is currently managing the demand for EP assessments with minimal delay.

Page 12 – Suitable Special School Lincolnshire has 12 'All Complex Needs' Special Schools and 4 specific SEMH Special Schools. Lincolnshire County Council through its Building Communities Strategy has committed and invested in excess of £100 million to develop over 500 new special school places over the last 3- 5 years.

In addition to the above schools, Lincolnshire has been successful in securing a new 'Free' school through the DfE. The proposed new free school will again focus on supporting children and young people with a primary need of SEMH. Whilst the DfE have approved the application, funding and a timeline on the building and delivery of the school has not yet been confirmed by central government.

With the demand for special schools being greater than the number of places available, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) are not always able to secure a special school place as quickly as they would wish. In these circumstances, the current mainstream school is supported by the Local Authority to continue to support the child or young person until a special school place is secured. LCC may also look to consult with Independent Non-Maintained Special schools (INMSS) to see if they feel able to meet needs and deliver the EHCP and have available places. LCC remains committed to its strategy and has recently committed to developing a further 350 new special school and SEND Hub places over the next 2- 3 years.

When a child or young person has an EHCP, the process for securing a school place is managed by the local authority through the school consultation process. When a child or young person is issued with a new EHCP or amendments are made following an EHC annual review, a parent/carer or young person will be asked for their school of preference. The local authority SEND Team will then consult with the

school of preference as well as other schools they believe will be able to meet needs and deliver the EHCP.

The school consultation process requires that an anonymised copy of the EHCP is sent to the school for them to consider and they are asked to respond to this consultation within 15 calendar days (timeline as detailed in the SEND Code of Practice), advising on whether they feel able to meet needs or not and whether they have available places. Parents are NOT able to apply for a special school placement directly.

Page 13 –Change of school

Find it difficult to provide a response to this one but agree with LPCFs response that this is about working with the LA and not viewing it as a battle, especially in a time where demand is outstripping placements.

Page 14 – Good news – reflections Lovely to hear positive feedback.

Page 16 – EHCP's The request for an EHC process and pathway can feel complicated and it is always recommended that if a parent, carer or young person is feeling unsure, it is recommended that they approach LIAISE or the son or daughters school to discuss.

The EHC process should take 20 weeks in total and is split into different parts as follows:

- ⇒ An EHC Needs Assessment Request (EHCNAR) can be made.
- ⇒ When an EHCNAR is received, the local authority are required to consider this request and reach a decision as to whether an EHCNA is agreed or not. This decision must be made and communicated 6 weeks from the date of the EHCNA assessment request being made.
- ⇒ If an assessment is agreed, this will be progressed.
- ⇒ Once the assessment has been completed the LA must reach a decision about whether an EHCP needs to be agreed or not. This decision must be reached and communicated 16 weeks from the date of the referral request being received.
- ⇒ If an EHCP is agreed, this should be written and issued within 4 weeks of the decision to agree and issue an EHCP.