



Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum

Registered Charity No: 1141060 ICO registration Z1810966

Feedback from LCC Head of SEND

Parents Voice Report Jan – March 25

Page 8,9 and 10 EHC's

We understand how important it is that the EHCP accurately reflects a child, or young person's needs and the support required to ensure that they can access education successfully. We also appreciate the time and effort parents, schools and professionals take to provide evidence. The information provided as part of the EHC needs assessment process and which is used to inform the EHC Plan. The local authority multi-agency EHC Moderation panel then reviews the identified needs in section B of the plan and the recommended provision detailed in section F to determine what type of setting should be able to deliver the provisions detailed. Once this decision has been made the local authority will consult with the both the parents school of preference as well as a school(s) they believe are appropriate to meet need and deliver the provision.

The draft EHCP is a starting point, of this process and parents feedback is a vital part of the process. If a parent or carer feel the plan does not reflect needs or the proposed provision accurately, we encourage parents/carers to submit their comments within the 15-day consultation period. This will allow us (the LA SEND Team) to consider parent/carers view and any additional evidence before finalising the plan. It is at this stage if a parent/ carer is not fully happy with the draft EHCP they can request a meeting with the SEND caseworker to discuss the draft plan.

If on finalising the EHC Plan with a named setting a parent/carers disagrees with the local authority's decision about the named school and school type, the parents/carers route to address this is through either SEND Mediation or the SEND appeals process

We do recognise that navigating the EHCP process can be complex and the Liaise service is Lincolnshire County Council's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS), which provides free, confidential, and impartial advice to:

- Children and young people aged 0–25 with SEND
- Their parents and carers
- Professionals supporting them (with consent)

If Liaises response was unclear, we (the local authority) would be happy to help clarify any points or signpost to further support.

Please be assured that our aim is to work collaboratively with parents and carers ensure that children and young people receive the right support in the most appropriate setting.

PCP Meetings

We recognise that clear information for parents about PCP meetings hasn't always been readily available. As part of our SEND Quality Assurance improvement work, the Local Authority SEND service is beginning to develop a series of **parent information leaflets** to support families through each stage of the **EHCP process**, including PCP meetings. We hope these will make things clearer and more reassuring for families going forward. Until this is available information on PCP meetings is below:

A Person-Centred Planning meeting is a key part of the EHC Needs Assessment. It's designed to focus on your child, their strengths, needs, hopes, and aspirations. The meeting brings together people who know your child well (including you!) to build a clear picture of what support they need to thrive. You can expect:

- Introductions from everyone attending, this may include professionals from education, health, and social care.
- A chance to talk about your child's likes, dislikes, strengths, and challenges.
- Discussion around what's working well and what's not — both at home and in school.
- Time to share your hopes and goals for your child's future.
- Professionals may share their observations or assessments, but the focus remains on your child's voice and your family's views.

As a parent/carer you are central to the meeting. You'll be invited to share your thoughts, ask questions, and help shape the assessment. If your child is able and wants to be involved, their voice will be prioritised too either directly or through you.

The information gathered will help inform whether an EHC Plan is needed and, if so, what it should include. It's a collaborative process, and the PCP meeting is a chance to make sure your child's needs are fully understood.

Can the school say they cannot meet his needs?

Once a draft Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan is issued, the Local Authority (LA) must consult with the schools (including the school the child already attends as well as parental preference) to confirm whether they can meet the child's needs. The school is expected to respond within 15 days of the consultation request.

If the school advises that they cannot meet the needs outlined in the draft plan, the LA expects the school to:

- Clearly identify the perceived barriers to delivering the provision and meeting the child's needs.
- Explain why the provision cannot be delivered as described and why perceived barriers cannot be removed.
- Suggest what changes or support might be needed to enable them to meet the child's needs.

The LA will then consider the school's response carefully, including whether the barriers can be addressed through additional support, training, or resources.

Importantly, if the school is the parental preference, the LA is required to name that school in the final EHC plan unless they can clearly evidence that one of the legal exceptions applies:

1. The school is unsuitable for the child's age, ability, aptitude, or special educational needs.
2. The child's attendance would be incompatible with the efficient education of others.
3. The child's attendance would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources.

These exceptions must be robustly evidenced the LA cannot refuse to name a parental preference school based on general concerns or assumptions.

Are schools required to deliver the provision in the EHC plan?

Yes, once the final EHC plan is issued, the LA has a legal duty to secure the special educational provision specified in the plan. If the school is named in Section I of the plan, they must admit the child and work with the LA to deliver the specified support.