

## SEN support process for EHCPs and the Law Dudley Parent Carer Forum



On 14 June 2018 at Brierley Hill Civic Hall we facilitated an understanding the SEN support process for EHCPs training session. 60 people in total attended of whom 31 were parents and 29 were Professionals from Connexions (1), Black Country Partnership (25) of which many were from the Speech and Language Therapy Service (22), and Schools (3).

HCB Solicitors very kindly offered us their expertise at no cost to the forum.

Both parents and professionals valued being in the same room at the same time hearing the information together and having honest discussions and sharing viewpoints. Parents were more confident and reassured by professional's commitment and professionals had better understanding of how parents were feeling.

***"I feel a lot more reassured about professional knowledge being increased after today's session."***

***"I will take away how dedicated certain professionals are to the children's needs as evidenced by such a high proportion of the attendees being professionals"***

***"I learnt more about process and how parents are feeling"***

Feedback was also received about the fact that both parents and professionals appreciated having a good overview of the EHCP process and timeline, they felt they had a full understanding of the process and were given clear and honest facts. Participants valued the good examples of differing practice, legal content and definitions and the opportunity to have honest and open conversations.

The feedback that had the most impact on me though and made me proud that we had facilitated this session was from parents who felt more empowered, prepared, had increased knowledge and renewed enthusiasm to ensure their children and young people got what they needed from an EHCP.

***"I feel empowered and prepared"***

### What will you take away with you from today?



- Good timing! We need to go to tribunal tomorrow so this gave me a lot (parent)
- Clear explanation about the law (parent)
- Renewed enthusiasm to get what my daughter needs (parent)
- Information about private requests for medical reports (parent)
- Assurance of what I already knew which is that I should pay for my own assessments (parent)
- That I should join the parent carer forum to share knowledge (Parent)
- I feel a lot more reassured about professional knowledge being increased after today's session. (parent)
- To go home and re-read the EHCP to check all sections have the right information. (parent)
- We will take away value of tribunal process and how they value independent reports (professional)

- How dedicated certain professionals are to the children's needs as evidenced by such a high proportion of the attendees being professionals (parent)
- Handouts – useful for future reference (professional)
- Joint commissioning process needed (Professional)
- Relook at 'good practice' for EHCP reports (Professional)
- I need to talk to our organisation (BCPFT) about their understanding (professional)
- Professional reports for appeal
- Areas / points to discuss as a team re the need to specify inputs etc (professional)
- Increased Knowledge
- Read the drafts more thoroughly and double check each section
- I need to review the law / guidance

## What did you learn?



- I feel empowered and prepared (parent)
- The law on provision of the local authority and their responsibilities (parent)
- That training / meetings are taking place in Dudley, but not all parents know about them. (Parent)
- It's important to check documents (Parent)
- The law: breakdown of process (clear and precise) it was really informative YES! (Parent)
- It dispelled a number of myths (Parent)
- I wish I had known this information some years ago because things may be different for us now. (Parent)
- The law, tribunal process. Specific Information is important in the EHCP (professional)
- Exact steps and timeline of the process (Professional)
- Myths – was good to know the things that aren't true that we commonly hear (Professional)
- More about process and how parents are feeling (Professional)
- EHCP process and the parents journey (professional)
- Information regarding appeal and tribunal process, accountability and information regarding transport.
- Process on EHCP
- The appeal process
- Consolidated knowledge
- The EHCP process
- Legal viewpoint and loopholes, terminology etc to be aware of

## What did you love?



- That the speech and language team had attended this session instead of their own team meeting (Parent)
- Frankness / willingness to answer questions (Parent)
- Interactive nature of the presentation – others raised interesting points along the way (parent)
- Opportunity to meet other parents and professionals (Parent)
- Friendly and approachable, great to be able to ask questions (parent)
- Introduction to the parent carer forum which is new to me (parent)
- Range of professionals represented so that comparisons made (parent)

- Good joint meeting (professional)
- Really useful to hear from parents and fellow professionals (professional)
- Great structure for the session and presentation (Professional)
- Answered questions about specific scenarios that people had (professional)
- Opportunities to network with professionals and parent carers (professional)
- Hearing the law and be able to use that learning
- The understanding of a full EHCP
- Honest, clear facts on EHCP
- Awareness of the grey areas
- Legal definitions
- Legal content
- parents and professionals having open conversations
- Breaking down the them and us feeling by sharing discussion points – we are all working towards the same things
- Simple explanation of the process
- Overview of the EHCP process and timescales
- Hearing parents and professionals views coming together
- Expert knowledge and real examples
- Clear, concise information given, no ambiguity
- Having both families and professionals here together
- Solicitors were very friendly and approachable
- Excellent seminar, really well presented and informative
- The good examples of differing practice across LAs
- Liked the myths explanation

## What will you throw way?



- Table grouping – potential conflict where parents have complained against certain professionals (parent)
- The LA – really disappointed they didn't attend. (parents and professionals)
- Nothing
- nothing
- Nothing, it was a very informative and useful session
- All relevant

## Questions

Will commissioners, the SEN team and the LA have the training? It would be great if they did.

