

Lived Experience - Preparing for Adulthood

22.11.23 This is a summary of the discussions:

Areas discussed



The PFA Process

Seeking Support

Keeping EHCP's up-to-date

Communication

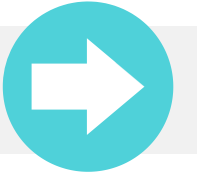
Engagement

Themes identified



- Difficulty seeking support from school on areas that are related to life skills and independence. (Non-academics).
- Schools can review outcomes rather than the whole EHCP document, which then becomes out-of-date.
- Further training needed for all involved on how to complete an Annual Review.
- Reports that are needed to update the EHCP are difficult to obtain and it seems to fall on the parent to chase up missing paperwork.
- Onus falls on parents to invite professionals to the Annual Review and drive the process.
- Everyone needs to be able to comment on their area of expertise. Parent should raise the problems and it should be professionals suggesting strategies.
- Often services e.g. S&L/OT discharge, then parents are told it's a very long wait to seek new diagnosis or get back into the system.
- Schools can be seen as gatekeeping information from specialist services/professionals. A holistic approach is needed to meet needs.
- Early Intervention is key, children are left to struggle for too long.
- Difficult for parents to maintain good relationships with professionals when they do not feel that provision is meeting need.
- Expectations are for schools (from year 9) to inform parents about the PFA process and this is not happening. Who should be responsible?
- The case officers can put a request in to the PFA Team if requested but no one person is responsible for starting the process.
- Children's Social Workers need confidence/training on PFA and prompts as to questions and topics for discussion.
- The PFA Team is part of the Social Care Team. The team appear to be reactive rather than pro-active. The PFA team should be contacting from age 14 onwards but this does not appear to happen.
- There are 700 families in Bexley who fall in the PFA group, how can more parents be engaged?

Follow up



Actions to be taken:

- Guide to be included in Annual Reviews at Year 9 and beyond to prompt points for PFA discussion, including a checklist of useful topics to cover.
- The BV My Guide on PFA, as well as links to other useful documents like The Transition Planner will be sent, via school, at the start of Year 9 for all cases with EHCP.
- Parent/carer email addresses and young people's email addresses now explicitly requested on every EHC application and at every Annual Review.

There is ongoing work to develop a new SEND/PFA strategy for 2024-2028