



The Children and Families Act 2014 made some key changes to the ways in which SEND children and young people, aged 0-25 should be supported:

Children, young people and their families should be at the heart of assessment and planning.

That there would be a change in culture leading to assessments and plans being undertaken using person centred approaches.

That everything we do should be focused on the outcomes for children and young people.

To make this happen Section 19 of the Act said that the Local Authorities must have regards to:

- The views, wishes and feelings of the child, young person and their parent carers.
- The importance of allowing them to participate in decisions relating to themselves (or their child).
- The importance of providing information to enable active participation in decision-making.
- The need to support the child, young person and their parents to facilitate development and enable the best possible outcomes, educational or otherwise.

Behind this is the SEND Code of Practice 2015 which states:

1.11 Local authorities must consult children with SEN or disabilities, their parents, and young people with SEN or disabilities in reviewing educational and training provision and social care provision and in preparing and reviewing the Local Offer. It is important that they participate effectively in decisions about support available to them in their local area.

1.13 Parent Carer Forums are representative local groups of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside local authorities, education, health and other service providers to ensure the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families”