PFBA SEN Assessment Spotlight Event June 2023.

Thank you to the parent/carers who attended the SEN Assessment Spotlight on services event hosted by the PFBA on behalf of the SEND Partnership. Thank you also to the parent/ carers who took time to feedback their experiences and ask questions.

We are sorry there was not time on the day to answer every question, however the feedback we have received has helped us identify some areas we need to continue to work on and areas we can improve communication with parent/ carers’ and we will take this on board.

In the meantime, we have tried to cluster your questions into categories and have provided links where appropriate to specific pages to help share further information and developments within the services.; we hope these updates provide you with some reassurances we are making improvements and we are listening to parents as part of our journey.

**School Sufficiency:**

Thank you to parent/ carers who have asked questions around school place availability. The council has a Strategy for specialist places which has been shared with parent/ carers through the SEND Local Offer newsletter and on the SEND Local Offer. Please see a link for further details of the plan. If this is an area parent/carers’ would like more information on please feed that back through to either the PFBA or SENDT&C and we can look to continue to coproduce in the future.

[Bradford Local Offer | Strategic Plan 2022 - Sufficiency of Specialist Places for Children and Young People in Bradford](https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/service/1554-strategic-plan-2022--sufficiency-of-specialist-places-for-children-and-young-people-in-bradford)

**EHCA Applications:**

EHCA applications can be made by schools, young people over the age of 16 but under the age of 25 and parent/ carers. There is further support on how to apply for an EHC and what to expect through our One Minute guides. There has been a significant increase nationally over the last 2 years on the number of EHCA applications. Bradford SEN Assessment team are planning to meet Parent/ carer group leaders soon to discuss EHCA’s in more detail to try and increase understanding of the process and how better to support parent/ carers. We are also working closely with schools to ensure schools to identify training needs.

[Bradford Local Offer | An Introduction - One Minute Guides](https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/service/1436-an-introduction--one-minute-guides)

**Quality of EHCPs:**

We understand the quality of our EHCPs needs to improve and this was noted in our SEND Inspection. In 2022 we coproduced a quality assurance framework for our EHCPs. Please see information below.

[Bradford Local Offer | EHCP Quality Assurance Framework](https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/service/1559-ehcp-quality-assurance-framework)

We have also now appointed two SEND Auditors who provide regular reports on the quality of EHCPs. The SEND Auditors have developed their own local offer page which includes their findings so far on the EHCP audits – please follow the link below for further information.

[Bradford Local Offer | SEND Auditors](https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/service/1581-send-auditors-)

As part of our ongoing improvement journey SEND Inspectors will conduct a monitoring visit with staff from SEN Assessment and Senior leaders and the PFBA to ensure we are still making progress on our improvement journey.

**Annual Review timescales and communication:**

For parent/ carers with queries about the annual review timescales we developed a One Minute Guide two years ago to help parents understand the process. We recommend parent/ carers access the One Minute guide before their annual review. These guides have been shared widely with parent/ carers and parent/ carer support groups and through our local offer and local offer newsletter.

[Bradford Local Offer | An Introduction - One Minute Guides](https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/service/1436-an-introduction--one-minute-guides)

We are also in the process of developing an annual review portal. This system will improve communication around Annual review paperwork. We will update through the above channels.

**Communication:**

Thank you to all of you who have expressed concern around communication with staff or between staff around your SEND experience. Communication was fed back to us as part of our SEND Inspection in 2022 as an area we needed to develop a written statement of action for. Since then, we have been working hard to improve communication and have developed a SEND Communication Plan and recruited a SEND Communication lead.  Further information will be shared on the Local offer in due course and in the Local offer newsletter.

**Individual Experiences around school places, EHCA process, school provision:**

We are sorry it is very hard to answer individual queries without fuller details. However, there has been a lot of useful feedback in the report shared by the PFBA which we will continue to work with SEN Services on. We will continue to work closely with the PFBA as contracted service to ensure parent/ carers continue to receive updates on improvements in SEND we are making and have an opportunity to share their lived experience in an impactful way. We see any parental engagement and children and young people engagement work as a positive step forward for our services and will continue to work with the PFBA and the parent/ carer network to provide a selection of updates and engagement sessions where hopefully we can continue to answer your queries.

**National SEND**

Some of the queries shared were more linked to the national SEND landscape and not something the Local area is responsible for. We work hard to ensure we coproduce feedback with parent/carers into national plans impacting SEND.