PFBA held a Spotlight on Services event where Charlie Lowe, SEND Team Service Manager, Integrated Assessment Team, gave a presentation and answered parent questions. There were more questions than time permitted so here are the questions that have been presented to Charlie and his team for answers. We will update you with the response when we have it.

**I feel my child is placed in the wrong school (DSP) and should be in a Special School. They have been let down and not making progress or learning life skills which they need. What can we do to get into a special school?**

**Why aren’t there enough places in Special schools putting pressure on mainstream schools to provide provision they can’t deliver?**

**If you have been understaffed (SEN team) does that mean it makes it easier to refuse EHCP’s?**

**Whilst you are going through a restructure our children are the ones being negatively affected, how are they going to catch up?**

**Why does it have to take 3 SEN admissions case workers and still we get nowhere?**

**Two of my children went to an independent school and they both suffered from education failure due to them being SEN. What procedures are put in place to make independent schools from failing SEN children?**

**In the restructure … will the new staff attend annual reviews? There is never anyone from the LA at these (if they take place at all)**

**How will communication improve between Local Authority and Health? Will Health professionals receive training regarding EHCP’s?**

**TARGETS – I really don’t understand WHY TARGETS- my daughter didn’t reach the targets for an EHCP at primary school but as soon as she went to high school she did. In order for Children’s education not to suffer, couldn’t these so called targets be changed?**

**What training do case worker officers get to be fully trained?**

**Due to a lack of specialist schools/places. What provision is being looked into for specialist schools?**

**What are you going to do about children with an EHCP written by agency staff which is not SMART and not relevant to a child and not signed by the parent?**

**What qualifications do case workers have?**

**Why does the parent always have to chase Bradford Council as responses can take ages?!**

**Are case workers high level administrators or education experts?**

**What do we do if targets aren’t met as part of the annual review process?**

**Can you communicate the legal timeframes for annual review process? Why do parents have to search around for these?**

**Will the actual EHCP document ever be redrafted? Ideally need ‘needs’, ‘outcomes’ and ‘provision’ on the same table would be much clearer?**

**When secondary school is assigned, how are parents informed? Can a parent be informed by a proper letter or email please?**

**What is your take on the fact that over 95% of cases are lost by LA’s at tribunal?**

**Could you explain the barriers to creating more spaces in Special Schools for 2023 start?**

**How do you see the role of the Tribunal in the EHCP process?**

**How is the SEN team’s practice informed?**

**Who is assessing the quality of EHCP’s?**

**Best school suited for my child is in a different local authority. How can we possibly prove that – no school in Bradford local authority can meet my child’s needs? E.g. Do we have to consult or obtain a letter from each and every school in Bradford?**

**What is Bradford doing about all the children who are not attending school at all or just existing on part-time timetables?… what sort of education is that?**

**What is there for high functioning diagnosed young people that cannot cope in a mainstream setting? Independent schools are full yet they are not for RP’s or special schools.**

**\*\* What support is there for children who aren’t in school? \*\***

**Do you feel that the current restructure will be fit for purpose? If so, for how long?**

**If you’re leaving why is no-one here to hear parent’s concerns?**

**How can the communication be improved in the annual review process? Parents and school should be notified who their case officer is… E.g. notification from Bradford LA upon receipt of the EHCP annual review document.**

**\* Please clarify the process as parents feel powerless and poorly informed? \***

\*Bradford council have said send final EHC plan to school for consultation and then school will give answer in 2 weeks’ time. This doesn’t seem fair as it implies the first to get there EHCP agreed gets a place first. Schools are saying they prefer to assess all EHC plans together for the next academic year. Can you explain the process please as Bradford Council are saying one thing and secondary schools are saying something else and also want a fair system\*

\*\*My daughter stopped going to school in March due to anxiety and since then we have been left. I’ve had to battle for everything. The longer this goes on the harder it will be to get her back into school\*\*