The SEND Reforms (brought about by the Children and Families Act 2014 which led to a new SEN Code of Practice in July 2014) have now come into effect as of 1st September 2014. In our previous issue, we focused on preparing for adulthood and services in Redbridge that support young people through transition.

This issue will update you on resolving disputes, mediation and appeals as well as the joint commissioning of services in Redbridge.

Throughout the assessment or planning process, the Local Authority will try to ensure that you and your child or young person’s voice is heard.

Disagreements about your child or young person’s SEN and EHC Plan

During or after the process of making arrangements about your child or young person’s support or EHC plan, you may have concerns or disagree with:

- How an establishment is carrying out its educational, health and care duties
- The special education that is being provided
- The health and social care elements within an EHC plan.

The EHC Case Officer who is dealing with your child’s assessment will usually be able to resolve any initial issues that may arise. If you are unable to come to an agreement with your EHC Case Officer, you can use one of the following methods to seek a resolution.

Disagreement Resolution Service

Community Accord offers a disagreement resolution service. This provides an opportunity to informally resolve disputes before they scale up into greater, more formal difficulties. You don’t need to have an EHC Plan or a Statement to access the Disagreement Resolution Service, and if you decide against it, it will not affect your right to appeal at a later date.

Mediation

Mediation is another informal method that you can use prior to resorting to Tribunal. For mediation to take place, the differences must be specifically linked to decisions about EHC needs assessments and plans, including health and social care elements of EHC plans. You will first meet with a mediator who can provide advice and who will issue you with a mediation certificate. It is then up to you to decide whether you want to go through with mediation before proceeding with a formal appeal.

Visit Mediation Process to find out more.

Appeals

Once you have met with a mediator and if you still feel that your child would benefit from a different decision, then you have the right to appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Tribunal (SENDIST).

A judge and a panel of tribunal members will review your case and the evidence and decide to either:

- Order the Local Authority to carry out an assessment
- Order the Local Authority to create or maintain an EHC Plan
- Order the Local Authority to make an amendment
- Dismiss your appeal.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Tribunal (SENDIST)

SENDIST hears appeals from parent/carers relating to SEN disputes and claims about discrimination.

Visit The sendist website for forms and guidance about making a claim.

Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA)

A registered charity which offers free, and independent legal advice and support about Local Authorities’ statutory duties for children and young people with SEND, exclusions, and claims of discrimination.

More Info Go to ipsea.org.uk

Who can appeal?

Parents/carers of children and young people from 0-25 years can pursue appeals to the Tribunal, and young people over the statutory school age of 16 can appeal in their own right, rather than through their parents.

More Info Read our Quick Guide to Appeals
Community Accord offers a range of resolution services to parents, young people, Local Authorities, education providers, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), health and social care providers relating to a child or young person’s SEND. This includes mediation and advice as well as disagreement resolution. This service is also available in case of inter-agency disputes.

Unit 41, Carlisle Business Centre, Carlisle Road, Bradford, BD8 8BD
More Info Contact Peter on 07909 254101, email p.cousins@communityaccord.com or visit www.communityaccord.com

Parent Link is a service for Redbridge families offering the following support:

Independent Advice and Support Service (IASS)
This is a service commissioned by the Local Authority to provide families with a source of independent advice & support.

Independent Supporters
This scheme will specifically support children, young people and their families who are going through an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC) assessment or are in the process of converting a current statement of special educational needs to an EHC plan.

344-348 High Road, Room 111-112, Ilford, IG1 1QP
Tel: 020 8551 7333
More Info Go to find.redbridge.gov.uk

Joint Commissioning is a strategic approach to planning and delivering services, in which partners across education, health and social care plan and work together to deliver more personalised and joined up services, which improves outcomes for families.

It gives partners an opportunity to redesign local services to operate more effectively together and to make best possible use of local resources, which should improve the experiences of service users.

Key principles for Joint Commissioning

- Child and family centred, based on improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND
- Cooperation between all partner agencies in joint planning and joint performance management
- Needs-led commissioning of high quality services, securing best value for money

More Info Read our Quick Guide to Joint Commissioning

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
The purpose of the JSNAs is to develop local evidence-based priorities for commissioning which will improve the public’s health and reduce inequalities.

Visit redbridge.gov.uk to read more about the JSNA

Have your say about the Local Offer
The quick and easy survey gives you the chance to share your thoughts and let us know what you think about the Local Offer website.

Visit find.redbridge.gov.uk and have your say!

Season’s Greetings!
As we approach the end of the year, Informed Families and the SEN and Disabilities Service would like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday and happy New Year.

Support for Young People with SEND

Parent Link

Independent Support for Young People with SEND

Have your say about the Local Offer

Season’s Greetings!

Support for Young People with SEND

Parent Link

Independent Support for Young People with SEND

Have your say about the Local Offer

Season’s Greetings!

Support for Young People with SEND

Parent Link

Independent Support for Young People with SEND

Have your say about the Local Offer

Season’s Greetings!

Support for Young People with SEND

Parent Link

Independent Support for Young People with SEND

Have your say about the Local Offer

Season’s Greetings!

Support for Young People with SEND

Parent Link

Independent Support for Young People with SEND

Have your say about the Local Offer

Season’s Greetings!

Support for Young People with SEND

Parent Link

Independent Support for Young People with SEND

Have your say about the Local Offer

Season’s Greetings!

Support for Young People with SEND

Parent Link

Independent Support for Young People with SEND

Have your say about the Local Offer

Season’s Greetings!

Support for Young People with SEND

Parent Link

Independent Support for Young People with SEND

Have your say about the Local Offer

Season’s Greetings!

Support for Young People with SEND

Parent Link

Independent Support for Young People with SEND

Have your say about the Local Offer

Season’s Greetings!

Support for Young People with SEND

Parent Link

Independent Support for Young People with SEND

Have your say about the Local Offer

Season’s Greetings!