

Response ID ANON-XFFY-STFG-H

Submitted to Reviews of Education, Health and Care plans: proposed timescales
Submitted on 2022-08-12 10:35:56

Instructions

Introduction

Welcome. Please tell us if you are responding as a child or young person, parent or on behalf of an organisation.

SEND organisation

What is your name?

Name:
Teresa Quail

Would you be happy for us to contact you for further information if required? If so, what is the best way to contact you?

Whether and how to contact respondent for any follow-up:

Yes

Would you like to provide your email address?

Email::
exec@batod.org.uk

Would you like us to keep your responses confidential?

No

Reason for confidentiality:

Introduction: follow up

What organisation do you represent (if any)?

Type of organisation the respondent represents:
British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD)

Question 1

To what extent do you agree or disagree that, where a local authority proposes to amend an Education, Health and Care plan after a review meeting, it should issue proposed draft amendments to the plan as soon as practicable after that meeting and in any event within eight weeks?

Disagree

Question 1: supplementary

You have said that you don't agree with an eight week deadline for local authorities to issue draft proposals for any amendment to EHC plans. Please say what deadline you think the local authority should be subject to instead and why.

What deadline other than eight weeks should there be and why?:

BATOD has selected disagree principally so that we can make the following comments that are important to our members.

BATOD feels the timeline for producing the plans should enable quality plans to be created. There is variation across the local authorities (LA) in their present ability to meet the current legal timescales. Members note the disappointing quality of plans produced in some LAs. The challenges with current timescales mean that meetings to agree outcomes on the plan rarely happen, resulting in poor quality and at times, inappropriate plans. The ability to provide quality plans requires an effective process from start to finish and better and adequate resources to meet the set timescale.

BATOD members, qualified Teachers of the Deaf (QToD), often report a lack of invitation to the review meeting. As a specialist professional in the team around the child, being absent from the meetings and the lack of opportunity to submit a professional report impact on the quality of the plan generated. An effective process would require all relevant advice and information to be appropriately prepared and shared between parties in advance, regardless of the timescale.

BATOD recognises some members will be concerned that an extension to the timescale may impact on school placements and the specialist provision required for the children who require access to a specific education provision that meets their needs. A particular period of concern will be related to the points of transition.

Question 2

To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 2?

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Question 3

Currently the advice and information gathered before a review meeting should be circulated at least two weeks in advance of that meeting. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals that information should instead be circulated at least three weeks in advance of the review meeting?

Strongly Agree

Question 4

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposals in this consultation would have a positive impact on those with particular 'protected characteristics' such as a disability and on children's rights?

Neither Agree or Disagree

Please explain your response.

Explain impact on protected characteristics and children's rights:

BATOD requests clarification on what determines a positive impact on protected characteristics and children's rights. Research highlights that a majority of deaf children regularly fall behind at every stage of their development. Evidence would be required to prove that a further delay in the process would not cause further negative impact to deaf children and young people.

Question 5

Is there anything else you would like to say about the proposals in this consultation?

Any final comments:

BATOD agrees that advice and information gathered before a review to be circulated three weeks in advance of the review meeting. Sharing information sooner in advance gives all parties, particularly parents, children and young people time to process and question the information and prepare for their review meeting.

Accessibility of the consultation

Unlike the SEND Green paper, there was no accessible version of this consultation in British Sign Language (BSL) which BATOD, alongside our colleagues at the NDCS (National Deaf Children Society) feel this has restricted the access to of the consultation for some stakeholders.