

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am a SENCo working in Devon. I have been appalled by the way I myself have been treated as a professional and the parents and students I support.

I had attended a number of training sessions on the new Devon Assessment framework (DAF) in the spring and summer of 2014 however returned in September to find that they had written a transfer review form but DCC had not informed any SENCos that this was happening. The form was virtually impossible to use with boxes that didn't expand.

I held a number of transfer reviews and although I informed the SEN officer of the dates well in advance they did not attend.

When completed paper work was sent to DCC 0-25 team paperwork became lost within their system. I was asked to replace this paperwork.

Since the Transfer reviews have taken place the SEN officer has been contacting parents to advise them that a **My Plan would provide the same support as an EHCP**. Parents are confused around this.

When there is a query around a Statement transferring to an EHCP a reassessment of the child's needs should take place. This involved an Ed. Psych. talking to the SENCo but not observing or meeting the child. I do not believe that this is a reassessment.

Thanks for your time in reading this.

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My ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Following the transfer review meeting on [REDACTED], you will know that we have been gathering information to help us decide whether [REDACTED] has ongoing needs which require the transfer of his statement to an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan.

I am writing to confirm that following the completion of the Education Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment, the Local Authority has decided not to issue an EHC Plan.

The Local Authority has now considered all of the advice that has been received and has decided that an EHC Plan is not necessary. This decision has not been taken lightly but having considered the evidence from the EHC Needs Assessment the Local Authority believes an EHC Plan is not required for the following reasons:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] 'My Plan' with the same level of [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] 'My Plan' will be reviewed within the next twelve months.

Therefore, the Local Authority now proposes to cease [REDACTED] Statement of Special Educational Needs. The Local Authority recommends the use of the My Plan by [REDACTED] school. This does not have the same legal status as an EHC Plan, but is an outcomes focussed plan, which identifies provision and resource required from the

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Strategic Director People: Jennie Stephens

school to meet these outcomes. Where necessary, we will provide top-up funding to the school based on the plan. The My Plan (DAF2a) is part of the Devon Assessment Framework, within Devon's Early Help strategy, which can support children and young people on a continuum, according to need.

If you would like to meet with me on behalf of the Local Authority to discuss how [REDACTED] needs are to be met through SEN support in school please let me know and I will arrange this. This process may involve the development of a My Plan for [REDACTED] using the information gathered during the transfer review meeting and subsequent needs assessment.

If you disagree with the Local Authority's decision you have the right to appeal against the decision to the First Tier Tribunal (Education and Disability). You have two months from the date of this letter to register your appeal and this can be done by obtaining a Notice of Appeal form from the Tribunal directly. Your appeal must arrive with the HM Courts and Tribunal Service no later than the first working day, two months after the date of this letter. HM Courts and Tribunal Service contact details are 1st Floor, Darlington Magistrates' Court, Parkgate, Darlington, DL1 1RU or sendistquiries@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk.

Under the Children and Families Act 2014, I must advise you that before you register your appeal, you must contact a mediation advisor. The purpose is to consider whether mediation is a means of resolving your disagreement with the Local Authority. This service is independent and free to access. The Mediation Service is provided by Global Mediation and you can contact an advisor on 0800 064 4488 email: sen@globalmediation.co.uk. If having spoken to the mediation advisor you do not wish to consider the use of mediation, you will be issued with a mediation certificate which will enable you to commence your appeal. You have a further month from receipt of the mediation certificate in which to lodge any appeal to the Tribunal.

You may wish to seek independent advice or support from the Devon Information Advice and Support for SEND (DIAS) more information and contact details can be found below. Using these services does not prevent you from appealing to the Tribunal.

If you should have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Murphy, Casework Manager (Transfer)