

SEND Documentation

Academic Year 2019/20

Inclusive Practice: Inclusion of children with SEND should be the default in all schools – London Councils – September 2019

This document is looking at the role of mainstream schools and local authorities in supporting children with SEND. London Councils conducted qualitative research into inclusive practice in mainstream schools to explore concerns about the disparity in levels of inclusion across schools in London.

<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/children-and-young-people/education-and-school-places/inclusive-practice>

Support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities in England- National Audit Office – September 2019

This long awaited report was finally published on 11th September. As expected, it's not good reading for the Department for Education. The report acknowledges that while some children with special educational needs and disabilities are receiving high-quality support, many others are not getting the help they should. It also states that the Department does not know the impact of the £9.4bn that the NAO has estimated has been funding SEND for the last year.

A full copy of the report can be found on the NAO website:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/support-for-pupils-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/#>

House of Commons Education Committee – Special Educational Needs Report – 23rd October 2019

Eighteen months after the start of the HoC Education Committee began their Inquiry into SEND they have finally published their report. The 127 page report states that a generation of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities is failing to receive the support it deserves, with poorly implemented legislation leaving families facing a nightmare of bureaucracy, buck-passing and confusion. The Committee heard from more than 70 witnesses and received more than 700 submissions of written evidence.

The Committee concludes that while the reforms to support children and young people contained in the Children and Families Act 2014 were the right ones, poor implementation has put local authorities under pressure, left schools struggling to cope and, ultimately, thrown families into crisis.

You can read the full report here:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201920/cmselect/cmeduc/20/20.pdf>

Not going to plan? – Education Health and Care Plans two years on – Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman – October 2019

This report gives a fresh picture of the Local Government Ombudsman's caseload since their report about EHCPs published two years ago in October 2017.

In 2018-19 the Local Government Ombudsman received 45% more complaints than in 2016-17 and they carried out 80% more detailed investigations. Most concerning of all was that nearly 9 out of 10 investigations (87%) were upheld.

The most serious issues that were investigated were:

- Severe delays – of up to 80 weeks delays
- Poor planning and anticipation of needs
- Poor communication and preparation for meetings
- Inadequate partnership working
- Lack of oversight from senior managers

Case studies from some of their investigations can be found here:

<https://www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/news/2019/oct/a-system-in-crisis-ombudsman-complaints-about-special-educational-needs-at-alarming-level>