



## PARENT LINK- INFORMATION SHEET no. 4

### RECEIVING THE PROPOSED STATEMENT

- The SEN (special education needs) code of practice states that Local Education Authorities (LEA's) should draft clear unambiguous statements. " *where diagnostic or technical terms are necessary or helpful, for example in referring to specific disabilities, their meaning should be explained in terms that parents and other non-professionals will readily understand*" (COP 8.31)
- The LEA will send you a copy of the proposed statement and all of the advice and reports that have been submitted.
- You then have 15 days in which to comment on whether or not you agree with the statement. During this time you might wish to contact your caseworker directly, perhaps you would like a meeting to discuss the proposed statement? If you do need a meeting or feel that you need more time the 15 days can be extended to allow for discussion. You will need to arrange this with your caseworker.
- If you are happy with the proposed statement you can complete the preference form for the school of your choice and send it back straight away.
- If you are not in agreement or are not sure about **any aspect** of the proposed statement it is **crucial** to contact your caseworker at the Local Education Authority. Remember the statement is a tool for you and your child as well as for schools and other professionals.

#### **The proposed statement**

The proposed statement is set out in six parts;

1. The child's name, address, date of birth, religion etc and the contact details for the parent or carer.

2. Describes your child's special education needs- it should outline your child's difficulties and capabilities (strengths and weaknesses). It should be detailed not general, you want it to specify why your child needs extra support!

This section will outline the types of help your child will receive. It will be laid out in three parts. **Objectives, Provision and Monitoring.**

**Objectives** - should set out what the statement will help your child to achieve

They ought to link clearly with the needs outlined in part 2.

**Provision** - this is probably the most important part of the statement. It should lay out in detail **ALL** the provision the child will receive. Again this should link clearly to the previous sections. A helpful way to think about how the sections link is, **WHAT** needs have been highlighted and **HOW** will they be met? Ask yourself **DO YOU AGREE WITH THE NEEDS IDENTIFIED? DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO MEET THEM?**

**Remember the code of practice states-**

"That the statement must specify any appropriate facilities and equipment, staffing arrangements and curriculum" (COP 8:35)

**Monitoring** - arrangements should be made to check whether the child's progress is meeting the objectives on the statement. It should show that targets would be set (usually as part of an individual education plan) and explain how often they will be reviewed. This sub -section should also identify any special arrangements for the annual review of the statement and recognise that the school should monitor and evaluate the child's progress during the year.

#### **4 Placement**

This section will be blank in the proposed statement. In the final statement it will name the school your child will attend.

**Non -educational needs** - if there are any aspects of your child's difficulties which are not educational these will be dealt with here e.g. specialist medical help, respite care, special travel provision. Speech and language therapy should appear under section 3 as an educational need. Only exceptionally will it be in part 6.

**6 Non -educational provision-** will describe any non-educational provision to be made available by education, health or social services.

### Important advice

Think carefully about whether or not you agree with the information on the statement!

Check all the reports to make sure no important information has been left out.

Explain the statement to your child, discuss it with them ( where appropriate)

Think carefully about the wording on the statement. What does it mean?

Some phrases that may raise questions

**Help as required** (who decides?)

**Regular** (could mean once a week, or once a year!)

**When needed** (who decides?)

**Periodic** (how often?)

**Small group** (how small?)

**As Necessary** (who decides?)

**Program monitored by....** (Who devises the program?) Who carries it out and how often?

Don't be afraid to ask for changes, You need to be sure about your child's provision. The Local Education Authority will explain any thing you are unsure of. Or you can call Parent Link for impartial information and support.

Remember the statement will be reviewed each year in the light of any changes to your child's needs. Although it is important for the statement to specific about your child's provision some flexibility is necessary for schools to decide what works best and to allow for times of change e.g school plays sports days etc..

The schools will outline the details of programs and times of support in your child's individual education plan. You should have regular input into reviewing this school based plan.

The information on this help sheet is designed to offer guidance on the proposed statement. It is a general fact sheet that addresses some of the main points. For more specific information advice and guidance you can contact Parent Link direct on 01273 481172

