

9) Case Study: Aspirations and outcomes

This case study helps ensure that the provision reflects the ambitious challenges intended by the Children and Families Act 2014.

Ethan is 10 and is in Y6. He has very complex health needs, which impact, on his ability to communicate. This has led to misconceptions being made with regard to his cognitive ability.

Ethan's story

Ethan's communication problems make it difficult for him to fully express his aspirations for his EHCP. However, his mum's aspiration is for Ethan to become more independent, initially with support, so that he can experience more activities and relationships with people other than her. In order for him to be able to do this, she wants him to learn a new communication system at school so that he is less dependent on her to express his needs for him. She told me she feels he needs to be challenged more when he moves on to high school, as she feels that because of his health needs and disabilities, he isn't always given credit for the level of cognitive function he actually has.

So in the EHCP one of the outcomes is that Ethan will improve his communication skills when he starts at high school, and in the provision it provides details of the system that has been identified to help work towards mum's aspiration for him to increase his independence. There is also provision for Ethan to have visits to other educational establishments or groups, if the class he is in does not sufficiently stretch him cognitively. Mum was happy with this but she did have some concerns about the health information and felt that some of his physical and sensory needs hadn't been identified in section B.

I supported mum in contacting the SEN team and arranging a meeting to address her concerns. The meeting was also attended by other agencies she felt needed to be involved such as social services, continuing health care and the head of his new school. The meeting gave mum a platform to express her concerns but it also gave the SEN team the opportunity to explain some of the information in the plan and understand Ethan's needs more clearly.

This resulted in us submitting a written document detailing all the changes mum wanted to the draft, which has now been assimilated into the plan to ensure his new school completely understand his needs and how to support him.