

## 6) Case Study: Parents needing additional support

This Case Study shows how the IS was able to provide vital support to a grandmother with parental responsibility for her 5 year old grandson who was at risk of being permanently excluded because the school were unable to meet his needs.

### **Pedro and Nancy's (grandmother) Story**

Pedro's grandmother, Nancy, contacted the IS service as she was concerned about how her grandson Pedro was coping at school. Pedro has recently been diagnosed as having ASD as well as developmental trauma. Pedro lives with his grandmother due to both his parents' ongoing mental health issues.

Pedro has been attending his local primary school and they were not coping with his behaviour. Nancy has been asked to bring him home from school on numerous occasions (unlawful exclusions) due to his outbursts.

Nancy contacted the IS service to help with an application for an EHCP. The IS carried out a home visit and helped her to complete the application and duly sent them to the LA on her behalf. The IS fully explained the new EHCP process and the Section 19 Principles that would allow her voice to be heard and also be able to influence decisions regarding support for Pedro.

The LA recognised that this situation was critical and immediately provided extra support in the school to try and help them manage his behaviour as he was at risk of permanent exclusion.

The LA started the EHCP assessment process and the IS supported Nancy, and on that occasion Pedro's mum, to attend the meetings to ensure that their voice was heard. The LA were not taking into account Pedro's developmental trauma and were just looking at his support from a school's perspective. Even with the extra level of support provided in school, Pedro still struggled to cope in his surroundings and at one point managed to get out of school and run home. The IS, on Nancy's behalf, immediately raised this with the senior officer for SEND at the LA and raised this as a safeguarding matter. This really highlighted that his current placement was not meeting his needs.

A draft plan was proposed but on reading the document Nancy disagreed with several elements of the plan including that his current provision was being suggested as the appropriate placement for him. The IS helped arrange a meeting with the LA Inclusion Officer to discuss this. With the IS supporting Nancy it gave her the strength to challenge the LA's proposal with confidence and suggest alternatives. When required the IS was able to interject to quote the relevant sections of the Code of Practice.

The LA finally agreed that his current school could not meet Pedro's needs as described in section B. It was agreed that instead Pedro should attend Nancy's preference; an LA special school, with transport also agreed.