

11) Case Study: Empowering

This case study illustrates the transformation that can take place as a parent grows in confidence and self-belief while being assisted in navigating the transfer review process. It also demonstrates the importance of managing anxiety levels arising from the delays in completing the EHCP (a national difficulty) without alienating the Local Authority.

Ivan is 7 and has been diagnosed as being on the Autistic Spectrum.

Ivan's Story

Ivan's Statement is being transferred to an EHCP. During our initial telephone conversation and our first face to face meeting, half an hour before the transfer review meeting, Ivan's mum's anxiety was notable and she was concerned about the expectations on herself and Ivan during the transfer review. She doubted and questioned the value of the information that she held, in comparison to that held by the professionals attending.

Despite having had limited time to meet with Ivan and his mum, the review meeting was a positive experience with both Ivan and his mum being able to participate fully with support. It was agreed that the current level of support was appropriate and would continue at least until Ivan's next review.

Over the following weeks I met with Ivan's mum 7 times and Ivan twice. These sessions helped me realise a clear picture of their aspirations for the future. Ivan's draft was due to arrive and despite being aware of the process and the timescales, Ivan's mum still lacked confidence in her knowledge and asked me to contact the LA to request information around the delay to Ivan's plan.

Ivan's draft plan didn't arrive until almost 4 months later and then had to be returned as it was missing information on a health condition; Ivan's sensory issues; and the 1:1 support that was agreed at the transfer review meeting, had not been included either in his provision.

Ivan's mum asked me to liaise with the LA when we had not had a response to the query asked around the missing information and provision, although she confidently liaised not only with the SENCO at Ivan's current placement, but also with the SENCO at the juniors school he is to attend.

The 2nd draft was received 6 weeks later with not only the 1:1 support which had been previously agreed but also with the provision of extra 1:1 support for at least the first term whilst he settles into the junior school. Although information was missing from section C of the plan and also the sensory/physical section reference made in the provision, Ivan's mum was happy to sign and return the plan. She is now waiting for the final copy of Ivan's EHCP.

For me the difference the IS service made was evident by the change in transformation I witnessed in Ivan's mum. From the transfer review meeting she progressed from someone who could not see the value in the information she held and lacked the confidence to express those views without support, to a woman who eloquently expressed her son's needs to secure not only the provision that had been previously agreed but also the extra support now included in the plan.