Welcome to the August 2018 SEND Single Route of Redress National Trial newsletter. This newsletter focuses on:

Key updates

Events and webinars

Guidance and toolkit

Update from the national trial evaluation team

Key updates

Since the launch of the national trial on the 3rd April 2018 there have been 89 cases registered under the First-tier Tribunal’s extended powers.

Please note: The 89 cases identified above were registered between the 3rd April and the 2nd August 2018. Updates on the number of cases registered under the national trial will be provided on an ongoing basis in the national trial newsletter.

As the national trial progresses, further information and updates will be provided through this newsletter. This will include:

- Frequently asked questions
- Key themes and emerging intelligence
- Information and aggregate data on local authority and health commissioners’ expense claims

Checks on local authority decision letters:
As outlined in further detail in the June 2018 national trial newsletter, local authorities must clearly set out information on the national trial and the extended powers of the Tribunal in all their decision letters and in their local offers to ensure that families and young people are informed about the extended powers of the Tribunal.

Mott MacDonald are facilitating the trial on behalf of the DfE, and this is a reminder that Mott MacDonald have begun, and are currently, contacting all local authorities requesting
examples of decision letters to ensure these now contain the correct information. If your local authority is asked to provide us with an anonymised example decision letter, we would greatly appreciate your support in providing us with examples. Once all letters have been reviewed we will be refreshing the information available and providing examples of good practice via the Toolkit and future national trial newsletters.

Mott MacDonald will also be reviewing and monitoring Local Offers on an ongoing basis to ensure they clearly set out information on the national trial and the extended powers of the Tribunal, and may be in contact with local authorities for any queries.

**Events and webinars**

**DfE / IPSEA led SEND decision making and the law workshops**

Following feedback received from a range of organisations, the planned timeline for events and webinars for local authorities, health commissioners, parents and young people outlined in the June 2018 national trial newsletter has been amended.

There will now be a session on the national trial covering duties, progress and key updates at the DfE / IPSEA led SEND Decision Making and the Law workshops. These workshops will also provide an opportunity to ask questions and we encourage education, health and social care managers to attend.

The purpose of these workshops is to assist senior education, health, and social care decision-makers to interpret and apply the legal requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 to some key decision points. It will highlight key elements of the legislation, illustrated with practical examples and recent case law. It will also provide an opportunity for open discussion and problem-solving. Issues that will be covered include: decisions to assess and to issue EHC plans; the content and format of EHC plans; the single route of redress national trial; naming provision; the visiting guidance; and annual reviews.

Regional dates and links to book on to the SEND Decision Making and the Law workshops (please click the link in the date of the workshop column) are:

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date of workshop</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yorkshire and Humber</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 11th September</strong></td>
<td>Park Inn by Radisson, York City Centre, North Street, York, YO1 6JF</td>
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<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td><strong>Thursday 13th September</strong></td>
<td>The Royal Bath &amp; West of England Society, The Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN</td>
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<tr>
<td>London (1)</td>
<td>Monday 24th September (<em>please contact <a href="mailto:SENDdeliverysupport@mottmac.com">SENDdeliverysupport@mottmac.com</a> to book on</em>)</td>
<td>Swiss Cottage School, 80 Avenue Road, London, NW8 6HX</td>
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Parent carer webinar

A webinar for parent carers covering the process, examples and frequently asked questions will be made available online here in the Autumn. The webinar will be led by a DfE SEND adviser and will also include a representative from NNPCF and IASS.

If there are any questions or content you would like covered on this webinar please contact SENDdeliverysupport@mottmac.com.

National trial guidance and toolkit

We would like to remind you of the guidance and toolkit available to support local authorities, health commissioners, parents and young people throughout the trial. The toolkit includes a grant funding agreement letter and associated guidance for local authorities to complete prior to claiming expenses (excluding legal fees) for submission to Mott MacDonald - once the appeal has been concluded. Additionally, a webinar has been recorded and is available online.
Please disseminate the above resources with your relevant teams and networks. If you are experiencing any issues with the above resources there is a helpdesk that can be contacted at SENDdeliverysupport@mottmac.com or on 020 7651 0308.

The helpdesk details given above can be contacted for any queries you have regarding the national trial. Local authorities and health commissioners may also contact their local DfE SEND adviser and NHS England lead, please contact the helpdesk if you require details of your local contacts.

Parent carer’s and young people can also find support through the local Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) – IASS can provide free, impartial advice about the law on SEN, local SEN arrangements and support, the trial and your rights. It can provide support with managing appeals, including support with preparing cases and attendance at hearings.

**Update from the national trial evaluation team**

IFF research are working with Belmana and the DfE to evaluate the trial extension of powers. They have already had in-depth conversations with a range of stakeholders nationally, and with most of the 12 local authority areas chosen to participate in case studies. There is also a survey of appellants that is ready for when the first cases complete, and a survey to be sent to 32 local authorities who have kindly agreed to provide information and act as ‘reserves’ for the case studies (for instance, in case one of our 12 case study areas has no relevant appeals at all). IFF and Belmana will also be analysing responses to recommendation letters and Management Information from the Tribunal, alongside further national surveys of local authorities and CCGs, to create a rounded picture of the extended powers.

If IFF or Belmana approaches you to invite you to input into the evaluation, we’d be extremely grateful if you could assist them. Your help is critical to allow us to draw useful conclusions about whether the extended powers have been implemented as intended, what their impact has been, and whether they are deliverable and sustainable to inform a decision on their continuation after the trial.

Please disseminate this newsletter to your teams and relevant organisations. Additionally, if you:

- Have received this newsletter but are not on the mailing list and would like to be
- Know anyone who would like to be added to our newsletter mailing list
- Have any requests for specific information or updates regarding the national trial you would like to be included in future newsletters
• Have any specific queries regarding the national trial
• No longer wish to receive this newsletter

please contact: SENDdeliverysupport@mottmac.com who will deal with your request accordingly.