

Children and Families Partnership Board 30/09/2019

Issues our parents raise as concerns:

1. **Use of reduced timetables** and the effects upon the family e.g. parent's work, child's education and care, siblings etc.
2. **Exclusions** – impact on child and family when child is excluded for behaviour stemming from their additional needs.
3. **Challenging behaviour** – support is only available for those children with the most severe learning disabilities. Lack of support impacts upon education, home life, structure etc.
4. **Respite** – even when allocated, there are not enough carers suitably trained and qualified to supply the respite.
5. **Direct Payments** - Parents are encouraged to take Direct Payments but cannot find respite carers by themselves privately.
6. **Understanding of Learning Disabilities** - Social workers outside of the CWD team don't seem to have an appropriate understanding of disabilities and special needs. For example, a SW stated to one parent "I don't think he's got Autism." Or they might attribute certain behaviour to a disability incorrectly e.g. "He is behaving like this because he is autistic." – this could impact on a need being missed.
7. **Issues with timely communication** -When an allocated professional e.g. social worker/EHCP coordinator leaves the service parents are not informed and this can often lead to distress due to the lack of clarity and uncertainty for the parent. They are not told who to contact and who is taking over their case.
8. **The voice of children and young people** – this is rarely heard directly in meetings, feedback sessions, consultations etc