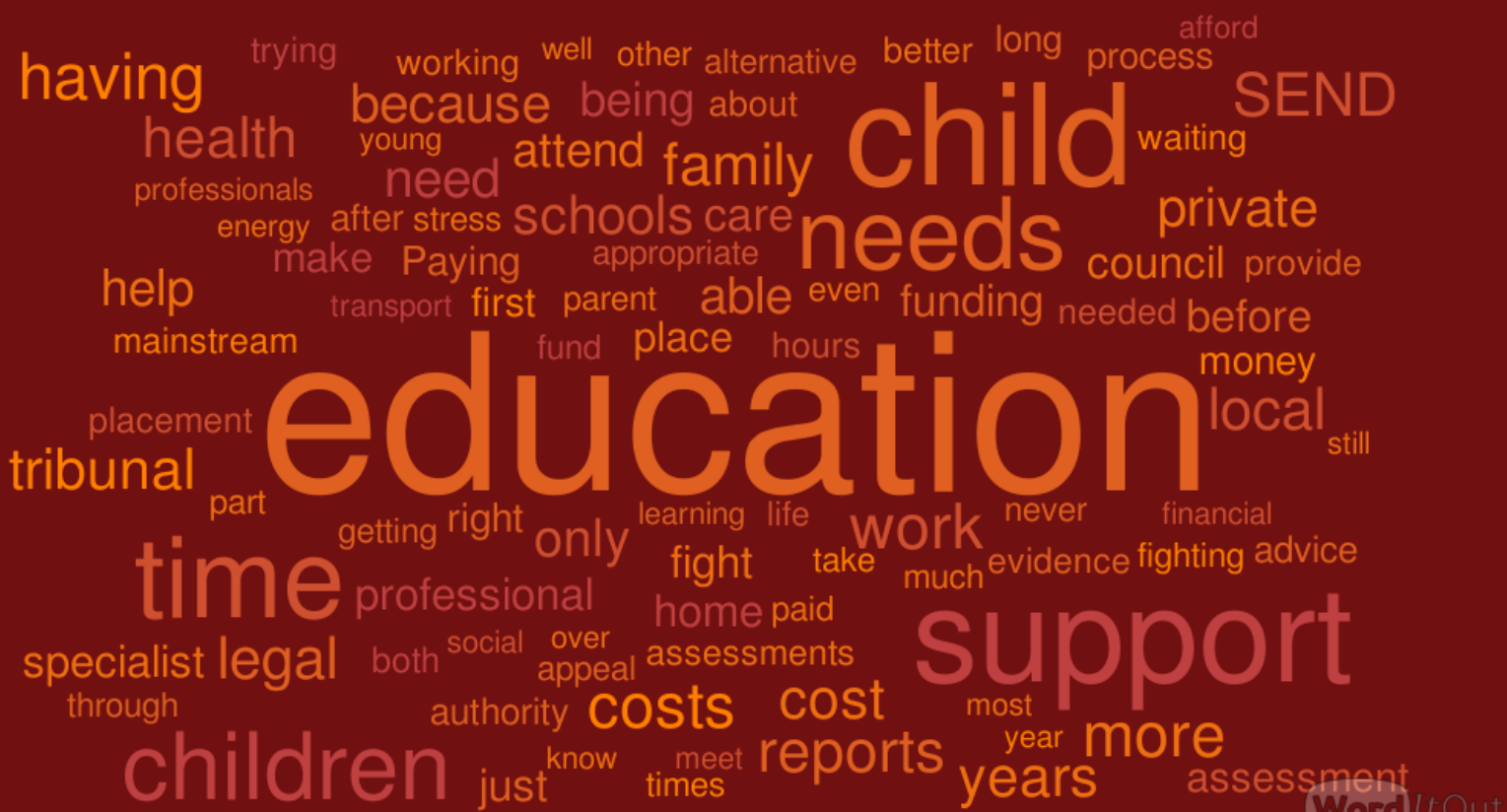




Fighting for your SEND child: the hidden costs

survey

REPORT
2024 Final



SEND Hidden Costs survey

Project Outline

Project title:

“Fighting for your SEND child: the hidden costs”. Research undertaken by the Support SEND Kids charity.

Project scope:

We surveyed our Support SEND Kids community to discover if there was a hidden financial/time/career cost paid by parents of SEND children. The survey was aimed at uncovering the hidden costs that the lack of support from employers, schools, local authorities have on the working patterns of SEND parents.

Survey and distribution:

1 Feb 2024: Support SEND Kids mailing list, 1000+ members received a survey.

2 Feb 2024: A similar SurveyMonkey survey link was posted on Support SEND Kids socials: LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, X.

Note: surveys were created with different platforms to allow participation when we did/didn't have user emails. This resulted in minor differences shown in the raw data.

Project data:

Data in full is provided in the Appendix. This includes the free-text responses in full, including many illuminating quotes from parents, names are redacted. None of the questions on the survey were mandatory.

Survey deadline:

The survey ran for 6 weeks from 1 Feb – 14 March 2024.

Project lead:

Tamsin Ogilvie, User Experience lead, Support SEND Kids charity.
Any questions please contact: tamsin.ogilvie@supportsendkids.org

Results Summary

No questions were mandatory.

519 total participants

- 454 female (or identifying as female)
- 60 male (or identifying as male)
- 3 other
- 1 rather not say

Does your SEND child have an EHCP?

- 412 child with EHCP
- 106 child without an EHCP

Fighting to get the right EHCP provision:

- 213 had to give up work completely
- 172 reduced working hours
- 80 changed role at work
- 61 nothing changed

Reason for changing working pattern:

- 125 lack of local authority help
- 81 lack of school support
- 36 lack of flexibility from employer
- 35 this doesn't apply to me
- 213 answered in detail (see results)

Would extra support from: school, LA or employer make a difference?

- 398 Yes it would make difference
- 27 No it wouldn't help
- 219 answered in detail (see results)

Changing work to fight for right EHCP provision:

- 185 this affected family finances immediately
- 103 this affects our family finances in the long term
- 86 I worry about money most of the time
- 23 we don't have money worries

Free legal guidance for parents is offered by our charity, Support SEND Kids, which can help with the EHCP process. Visit us here to learn more: [Support SEND Kids Q&A](#)

'Hidden Costs' are articulated clearly in this response:

“Time, energy, access to information to equip ourselves to take on the LA. The emotional and mental cost of having to fight on behalf of our children for everything. Impact on all our other relationships, missed career progression opportunities, increased costs when we have to bridge the gap left in LA provision for our children out of school or in school part time. Paying for private reports, private professional support, funding provision that should be delivered through the EHCP but isn't.”

Survey Results

Key findings

Impact of having an EHCP: 519 participants in total

412 child with EHCP

106 child who doesn't have an EHCP

Summary findings: Of respondents to the survey: 'Fighting for your SEND child: the hidden costs', 87% were women. Several of the 60 men who responded, referred to their wives giving up work or reducing hours. Of the female respondents only 11% said their working life was "unaffected" by having a SEND child.

Having an EHCP doesn't make much difference to the impact on working patterns. The EHCP doesn't remove the need for additional parental support. In general, many EHCPs focus on school adjustments, so only provide help during term time. The issue of inadequate holiday and after school care is significant in impacting working hours as parents need to step in to meet the gap. Children needing out of school help, whether or not this is provided by the EHCP, need parents to transport them.

In addition EHCPs have an annual review process which requires parental input on a regular basis, even if the EHCP is delivered in full. When the EHCP is inadequate, not delivered on, or not kept up to date, the child is still vulnerable to insufficient support and the load falls back onto the parent.

When a child can't attend school: parents are caring for children unable to attend school (37% of responses to: reasons for reducing hours or giving up work) most of this group don't have an EHCP and find the burden for home schooling falling on their shoulders.

Fighting to get the right EHCP provision:

- 213 had to give up work completely
193 women / 20 men
- 172 reduced working hours
156 women / 16 men
- 80 changed role at work
69 women / 11 men
- 61 nothing changed
50 women / 11 men

Of the total women who responded only 12% found their working life unchanged. With 40% (2 in 5 parents) having to completely give up work. The remaining 48% have had to compromise with reduced hours or by changing roles.

Summary findings: There is huge financial pressure on a vast number of SEND families. Waiting times of 2 to 4 years for NHS assessments have meant many families have turned to the private sector, where assessments can cost many thousands of pounds. In addition, some local authorities are not covering the full cost of support for children. Parents describe how they have to step in to pay for weekly physiotherapy year after year, online schooling, extra speech and language support, among other costs. One stating: “[we are] having to spend three times as much for a disabled child to learn a new skill”. “If they [local authority] adhered to the law, I would still have a well-paid career”.

Chasing the local authority to deliver on their statutory obligations or hold them to account when deadlines are endlessly missed, often means going to Tribunal. “[We paid for] Tribunal costs, twice. With barrister and expert witness support both tribunals cost in the region of £20,000. They were both won with the LA capitulating on the morning of the tribunal because they had no case”. This substantial cost is never repaid to families even when LAs lose their case (based on research from IPSEA is 90% of cases). “LAs save money by refusing support, they lose cases that go to tribunal over 90% of the time and never have to pay parents costs. It's a false economy, as we would rather spend our time and money on helping our children. If they receive the help they're entitled to, the majority [of SEND children] will be independent contributing members of society. Sadly the lack of early help fails our children, and the employment rates of SEND people are abysmal. It need not be this way!”

Some women say they ‘can't afford to give up work’ because of these costs, while many others have had no choice but must stop work and careers as their children are unable to

attend school. Many more have had to compromise work in order to provide wrap around care. Many respondents point out that there are after school clubs for neurotypical children but nothing offered to children with special needs. Having no after school help significantly reduces the working day for many women, as does a lack of provision during the school holidays.

Impact on parental mental health is significant, especially women who have had to give up jobs they love, respondents noted they had been teachers, nurses or keen to build a career. Having to take themselves out of the workplace is damaging to their mental health as well as to the UK's social services. *“How many caring and diligent teachers and nurses can the country afford to lose by not providing adequate childcare?”*

Reason for changing working pattern:

- 125 lack of local authority help
118 women
- 81 lack of school support
78 women
- 36 lack of flexibility from employer
36 women
- 213 free-text answers – see separate results

Two main themes impact a parent's ability to work:

1/ when care for the child has to be done by parents (in most cases by the Mother).

This is when provision from school, Local Authority or other care team falls short. It affects the length of the working day, during term time and all days during school holidays. Due to lack of wrap around care, as mentioned earlier, neurotypical children are provided with after school clubs, neurodiverse, SEN or disabled children are left out. Children unable to attend school are at the extreme end of this scale, parents have to be on hand full time.

Examples include: *“I have had to give up a high paid career to look after my son. He's 11 so can't be at home alone. He's not been to school full time since year 1. There is no prospect of him attending school again. He is not able to cope with an independent PA as he does not trust adults in education due to school trauma. This is unlikely to change as neither the NHS nor the LA will provide treatment and as I can no longer work we cannot afford to go private. My time is spent trying to re-engage my son in education ... I am having to bear the costs of educating my son as he is no longer on a school roll and my son can't access the section 19 offer. There is also the mental toll which has affected all our family.”*

“Our child currently lives in a hospital, 1.5 hours each way (on a good day) ... If we don't visit, they may not eat much, sadly.”

As part of the work/carer decision are the costs associated with additional care during holidays or after school. *“Funds for outings during the school holidays and weekends. It's £100 per day for my brother to attend a workshop with other special needs kids. It's just not feasible to make that financial commitment weekly.”*

“There were no suitable school places for my child, He was rejected from 15 schools, I have to be present for any tutor sessions it would have been helpful to be able to have had a care assistant during these sessions so that I could continue to work.”

2/ Demands by school, LA, health professionals for parent to be available at short notice

The other impact is made by demands from the school or local authority on the parent. The parent is assumed to be ready at a moment's notice to attend meetings, come into school to handle difficulties with their child or to attend Tribunal or other legal requirements.

“[We need] School - to take the initiative to identify and put in place the correct interventions needed. Local Council - to not have unlawfully denied an EHC Needs Assessment, to not have unlawfully denied to issue an EHCP resulting in a 12 month battle to tribunal, to help parents to find a suitable school that can provide all the support required for our SEN child instead of refusing to assist because they have to be 'impartial'. Employer - I had to quit a conventional job and go freelance due to all the time off needed for meetings, organising professionals to assess my child, review reports, research, and putting together cases to fight the LA's many unlawful decisions. I also needed time off to find a suitable school for my child and then assist in the transition.”

“Needs of child were such that I needed to be on call whilst child was at school. She rarely made it through a whole day and I would be called to collect. Sometimes sent home due to lack of staff. Home schooling became best choice. She wouldn't accept anyone other than me. No energy or time for paid work or social life.”

Extra support from: school, LA or employer

311 Yes it would make difference

18 No it wouldn't help

(138 free-text answers – see separate results)

What SEND parents want is: *“recognition that as parents of children with SEND EVERYTHING is a battle, we already have a harder parenting job and we are exhausted and don't have the*

time, energy or expertise to take on local authorities to advocate for our children and fight to get what they are entitled to by law, but if we don't, nothing happens and our children suffer."

Summary findings: At its simplest, the need is "Money from the council/government. More experts available to support schools. They are stretched to breaking point." This is a systemic problem with one parent explaining: "We've battled with the LA to provide SaLT and OT within the EHCP.... but the NHS service is appalling. ... The staff turnover is very high. To force the LA to provide my son with the provision he needs as identified in the EHCP we'd need to ... take court action (a judicial review). But if the NHS is struggling to keep up with the demand then what's the point?"

Changing work to fight for right EHCP provision:

- 185 this affected family finances immediately
173 women
- 103 this affects our family finances in the long term
102 women
- 86 I worry about money most of the time
82 women
- 23 we don't have money worries

Not surprisingly, changing working patterns, by reducing hours or changing roles or leaving employment entirely affects family income. Of the women in our survey who answered this question, 56% found their finances immediately impacted, causing them to worry about money most of the time.

There is a difficult time/cost analysis for parents in paying others for help with their child(ren). This can be in wrap around (respite) care, holiday care or educational support provided when the children can't attend school. In addition to taking time off work to attend appointments. The biggest impact is however in the "hours and hours of work on EHCP and associated research" where parents must choose whether to upskill themselves or pay for professional advice. "Part of my personal journey is that I self-financed and trained in SEND Law - as I could not afford a Barrister on top of all the private professional assessments etc".



Free legal guidance for parents is offered by charity, Support SEND Kids, which can help with the EHCP process.

33% of all responders requested more information about Support SEND Kids charity to help them navigate the EHCP process and the SEND legal landscape.

Summary findings: Parents find the legal process daunting *“EHCPs are a legal document and as parent-carers not trained in legal matters you don’t know if the EHCP is worth the paper it’s written on and you have to pay privately to get it checked.”* Going to Tribunal is challenging: *“[our LA] used barristers which was intimidating”*. A noticeable number of women called for *“Training for parents on law EHCP and disability”*. This is where charities like Support SEND Kids can provide vital free legal support.

Appendix 1

Selected quotes by participants

Bringing the parental experience to life

Some of many quotes by participants

1. If they [local authority] adhered to the law, I would still have a well paid career
2. Our child currently lives in a hospital, 1.5 hours each way (on a good day) at £14 a time all adds up. If we don't visit, they may not eat much, sadly.
3. LA constantly wastes tons of money by not having decision making in the first port of call, everything goes to panels of high level managers causing additional costs & wait times, way too many management layers, whenever you go to court, most LAs have Barristers on retainer.
4. LA's save money by refusing support, they lose cases that go to tribunal over 90% of the time and never have to pay parents costs. It's a false economy, as we would rather spend our time and money on helping our children. If they receive the help they're entitled to, the majority will be independent contributing members of society, sadly the lack of early help. Fails our children, and the employment rates of SEND people are abysmal. It need not be this way!
5. Having provision that meets the needs of relatively academic autistic children - many mainstream schools do not meet the needs of ASD students and the existing specialist provision is often aimed at less able students.
6. Time, energy, access to information to equip ourselves to take on the LA. The emotional and mental cost of having to fight on behalf of our children for everything. Impact on all our other relationships, missed career progression opportunities, increased costs when we have to bridge the gap left in LA provision for our children out of school or in school part time. Paying for private reports, private professional support, funding provision that should be delivered through the EHCP but isn't.
7. recognition that as parents of children with SEND EVERYTHING is a battle, we already have a harder parenting job and we are exhausted and don't have the time, energy or expertise to take on local authorities to advocate for our children and fight to get what they are entitled to by law, but if we don't, nothing happens and our children suffer.
8. Understanding that children with complex needs and/or obviously significant needs to be helped by providing the specialist input they need asap not waiting for them to fail or be excluded et cetera. The sooner we import the best chances the child has for independence in the future and not requiring long-term support.

9. Tribunal costs, twice. With barrister and expert witness support both tribunals cost in the region of ~£20,000. They were both won with the LA capitulating on the morning of the tribunal because they had no case)
10. Honest processes that follow the law.
11. The local authority have the legal duty to provide free legal advice via impartial services...in Manchester that is the SEND IAS, it is not impartial and does not provide appropriate advice but merely gatekeeps
12. If you want legal advice you have to pay for it.... parents who have been through it are setting up companies charging parents for support that should be given free from LA
13. You can get legal aid to take the local authority to judicial review to fight unlawfulness such as not providing section 19 and 42 education or not sticking to EHCP deadlines etc.
14. However the amount of money allocated to JR by legal aid does not cover the cost of judicial review, therefore unless you are rich and can pay a specialist solicitor which there are not many of ...you can't afford 5k to take the council to court to enforce your legal rights.
15. Council know they are untouchable and just carry on not meeting their legal responsibility... they know we can't get legal aid or afford to pay private whilst living in crisis unemployed /lost your jobs due to schools demanding you collect your child /refuse to allow them return and remain out of education
16. Professionals see broken children and broken parents as the cause rather than collateral damage of incompetent council senior leaders and managers
17. Lack of Council staff who care or who are interested in the child rather than their budgets. Staff seem to be agency and outside the county largely so no local knowledge of schools or their area. It's been an appalling experience. Parents often pay for therapists and interventions due to long waitlists and lack of resource
18. Often EHCPs involve medical issues. Our medical bills are high. Last year we paid almost £40k.
19. School - to take the initiative to identify and put in place the correct interventions needed. Local Council - to not have unlawfully denied an EHC Needs Assessment, to not have unlawfully denied to issue an EHCP resulting in a 12 month battle to tribunal, to help parents to find a suitable school that can provide all the support required for our SEN child instead of refusing to assist because they have to be 'impartial'. Employer - I had to quit a conventional job and go freelance due to all the time off needed for meetings, organising professionals to assess my child, review reports, research, and putting together cases to fight the LA's many unlawful decisions. I also needed time off to find a suitable school for my child and then assist in the transition.
20. Costs of private assessments: Private EP Assessment & Report - £750
Private SLT Assessment, Reports and DLD diagnosis - £1,500

Private SLT weekly sessions for 3 years - £4,320

Time off work over 4 years - £8,400 (approx)

Luckily I didn't have to pay for legal advice but we were contemplating it.

21. Assistance in navigating the support and benefits systems that are in place
22. The biggest hidden cost is parental mental health. My mental health really suffered due to the strain of trying to support my child and go through the hoops to get her the right support. I ended up in an acute mental health unit for two months because I had a breakdown. I still struggle with my mental health now and it has taken its toll on my family.
23. Lack of understanding in the media, always targeting children not in school as naughty or parents as being neglectful means it has a negative effect on us as parents due to the lack of understanding.
24. Funds for outings during the school holidays and weekends. It's £100 per day for my brother to attend a workshop with other special needs kids. It's just not feasible to make that financial commitment weekly.
25. Parents do not get their costs back, even when they go on to win a Tribunal. If local authorities were obliged to pay costs when they lost cases, they would be less likely to pursue vexatious cases, or work on the basis that they might as well challenge cases because this means enough families will drop out. In our case, the legal costs amounted to about ~£18,000 - it means that only families who can find these sums in the first place, and can write them off, have any reasonable hope of challenging local authorities who use taxpayers' money to fight them.
26. To work EHCPs should be working documents that accurately reflect the child's needs and detail the support needed who will provide it and when. Most are badly written, and don't, meaning a battle with the LA to get them changed, this will mean getting legal advice, specialist reports and lengthy battles, stressful and costly, parents find themselves funding gaps as well.
27. The cost is more about health than cash, spending your time dealing with so many forms, emails and calls etc takes you away from your work and family life, that makes you worried your not fulfilling your work commitments and not enjoying family life as there is always too much to do to fight the battles.
28. Mental health, family relationships, maintaining a positive face to my child. Not letting him see the impact the system is having on us as he will internalise it if he thinks it's his fault. Having no time or energy for self care.
29. Someone to oversee and coordinate everything involved in my child's care, including community paediatrician, consultant paediatrician, neurodisability team, teachers, SENDCos, specialists such as SALTS, OTs, psychologists as I am the one who currently needs to coordinate everything and ensure everyone is aware of the outcomes of appointments, meetings etc and ensure these are reflected in all reports, EHCP reviews etc.
30. ...There are only 2 schools that would be appropriate and both are private specialist, if the LA won't fund the place she can't go, she also can't go to

- mainstream..so what happens then, we write her off at 11 into a specialist school that'd doesn't even do gcse's?
31. For the LA to honour the terms of the EHCP and not make us endlessly battle to secure each aspect of support for our young person.
 32. Better help from the local authority to understand not just the application process but the annual reviews and phase transfers. With step by step instructions! (so I don't get exhausted googling what I should be doing)
 33. Attending training courses for parents about EHCPs - this is so important to know your legal rights
 34. You spend endless amount of time making complaints to the Local Council to ensure provisions set out in the EHCPs are met. More often they tend to miss the statutory time frames to complete Annual Reviews, and issue and finalise EHCPs that you are left having to take it to the Local Government Social Care Ombudsman. Also, you have to dip into your savings to pay for independent reports and pay for representatives when you are taking your appeal to the tribunal. It is all a very draining process!
 35. Honest information about what my son was entitled to. I was unaware of any alternative provision being an option when my son became unable to attend school.
 36. Paying for childcare so I could attend meetings. Paying to attend webinars to educate myself on the process. Also the stress and endless worry and uncertainty.
 37. I have had to give up a high paid career to look after my son. He's 11 so can't be at home alone. He's not been to school full time since year 1. There is no prospect of him attending school again. He is not able to cope with an independent PA as he does not trust adults in education due to school trauma. This is unlikely to change as neither the NHS nor the LA will provide treatment and as I can no longer work we cannot afford to go private. My time is spent trying to re-engage my son in education with learning embedded were school trauma exists in respect of core subjects. I am having to bear the costs of educating my son as he is no longer on a school roll and my son can't access the section 19 offer. There is also the mental toll which has effected all our family as well as previous advocacy fees when we first started the journey.
 38. I have to give up lots of free/leisure time. I cant afford to give up work. I have to pay £3500 for an ASD/ADHD assessment before I can even ask for EHC needs assessment. The NHS waiting list is 4 years.
 39. There were no suitable school places for my child, He was rejected from 15 schools, I have to be present for any tutor sessions it would have been helpful to be able to have had a care assistant during these sessions so that I could continue to work or pursue my own personal goals ie mental health walks.
 40. Sticking to EHCPs, granting the child the accommodations recommended in expert OT, SLT, EP reports so that fewer EHCPs might be sought in the first place. Better

training for all sencos, all teachers and headteachers on the NORMAL behaviour of autistic children, such as stimming behaviours and failure to recognise social hierarchy and taking things literally is not deliberately rude. Working WITH and believing parents instead of being dismissive or defensive. Acting upon their thoughts that a child might be SEN or have additional SEN; I know it requires paperwork, but it's for the child and protects future mental health. More visuals in lessons. More written instructions for those with processing issues. Awareness of hyperlexia and how it is a learning style and cones with comprehension issues. If referrals have been made by a paediatrician who is an expert, schools should not be approached for a second opinion that overrides the expert's opinion that led to that referral. All diagnosed autistic kids should be assessed by an OT and SLT because hypermobility is common and needs accommodation and most autistics are Gestalt Language Processors even if they are verbal. BAN teachers from shouting at the pupils in primary schools. I've felt I have no other choice but to home educate now. I wish he could attend school but it's killed his love of learning and made him distrustful of adults.

41. I am a parent of two Secondary age children, both with a complex cocktail of hidden disabilities (G[redacted] aged 14 - ASD, ADHD, SpLD (Dyslexia) and DLD / S[redacted] aged 11 - ASD / ADHD and SpLD (Dyslexia))

I am an advocate for other parents who are trying to secure the necessary EHCP and school provision to meet needs. Helping them navigate the challenges of the 'System' and Tribunal / Judicial Review. (Part of my personal journey is that I self financed and trained in SEND Law - as I could not afford a Barrister on top of all the private professional assessments etc..)

I am also a Chair of Governors at their previous Main Stream Primary school (Giving me valuable insights into the 'Operational' and 'Strategic' approach and challenges in 'attempting' to provide SEND provision.

Without any shadow of doubt the biggest barrier to learning for a child or young person with SEN within mainstream provision is the LOCAL AUTHORITY (Not their disability or addition need!) Most LA's operate a playbook and systemic culture of 'Delay and Deny' playbook. They persistently operate outside the guidance of SEND Code of Practice and not meeting statutory duties and unlawful practices are common place across many LA's.

The biggest flaw in the system is that there is no consequential impact on an LA for being unlawful and/or not complying with statutory duties / guidance /legislation. At worst they will be listed in the Noddy Guide as a precedent of caselaw - but there is no fiscal consequence whatsoever, parents cannot recover

their costs, so the systemic playbook of maladministration is continually perpetuated.

42. Parents find the process exhausting, unfair, unreasonable - with LA's expecting them to fold and accept compromises that are loaded in their fiscal favour. I have parents who I have advocated for, who would go on record to expose the level of unlawful and 'dirty tactics' to actively try and get unsuspecting parents to 'say' something that would derail their entitlement to provision. (Things like trying to get the parents to say that a particular school is their 'Parental Preference' - when in fact it was the nearest or only school that could meet needs - persistently not recognising the fact that they MUST name the school, in the absence of any other appropriate provision - WHY? Simple they would not be responsible for transport if the school was named as a parental preference.

43. We have mountains of damning evidence, over multiple cases. Unlawful practices. Falsifying evidence. And fiscal maladministration that defies logic, and can only be put down to spiteful action from the LA case works and leadership teams (We have fiscal evidence that demonstrates that Hillingdon LA refused residential provision requested by parents, on the grounds that there was no specific specialist professional advice that there was a need for a residential placement - Myself and the parents provided detailed financial evidence that, whilst there was not professional advice for the residential placement, it would be in the interest of the public purse, as the combination of a residential placement with only 1 transport trip to and from the school each week, would lead to a saving of around ~£80,000 per year, in comparison to the daily transport costs. We also pointed out that the journey time was excessive, and far beyond the guidance for maximum travel times for a child of his age with SEN. The LA point blank refuses to provide the provision - and at the significant additional and necessary expense of TAX payers - The LA was failing in its duty of care, statutory duties, guidance, and not acting in the interests of the public purse... it beggars belief.. and the parents are more than happy to go on camera and triangulate the damning evidence of maladministration, malpractice and spiteful behaviour - where the child is the one that suffers the detrimental impact to their education and social / emotional wellbeing.

Appendix 2

Results break down

SEND Hidden Costs survey results total								
Combined results								
Total participants	519	Mailerlite	94	SurveyMonkey	425			
Q1	Does your SEND child have an EHCP?		Q1	Does your SEND child have an EHCP?		Does your SEND child have an EHCP? Answer yes, if any of your children have one.		
Yes	412		Yes	83		Yes	329	
No	106		No	11		No	95	
Q2	Are you male or female?		Q2	Are you male or female?		To understand if the impact of managing an EHCP affects parents differently, please tell us if you are male or female?		
Female identifying	454		Female identifying	66		Female identifying	388	
Male identifying	60		Male identifying	26		Male identifying	34	
Other	3		Other	2		Other	2	
Rather not say	1		Rather not say			Rather not say	1	
Q3	Fighting to get the right EHCP provision have you...		Q3	Fighting to get the right EHCP provision have you...	women men	Fighting to get the right EHCP provision have you...	women men	
changed your role?	80		changed your role?	15	4	changed your role?	54	7
reduce your hours?	172		reduce your hours?	27	7	reduce your hours?	129	9
had to give up work completely?	213		had to give up work completely?	29	10	had to give up work completely?	164	10
nothing has changed	61		nothing has changed	10	3	nothing has changed	40	8
Q4	Reasons for having to reduce hours or give up work...		Q4	Reasons for having to reduce hours or give up work...	women men	Reasons for having to reduce hours or give up work...		
Lack of flexibility from employer?	36		Lack of flexibility from employer?	12		Lack of flexibility from employer?	24	
Lack of support from school?	81		Lack of support from school?	33	3	Lack of support from school?	45	
Lack of support from local council?	125		Lack of support from local council?	45	8	Lack of support from local council?	72	
Other	42		Other	42		This doesn't apply to me	35	
Free text responses	213					Answer in more detail (free-text responses)	213	
Q5	What extra support from school, local council or employer would make a difference?		Q5	What extra support from school, local council or employer would make a difference?	combined	Would extra support from school, local council or employer make a difference?		Men & women combined:
Add your answer here.... (free-text analysis shown separately)	219		Add your answer here.... (free-text analysis shown separately)		81	Yes	398	
yes	398					No	27	
no	27					Comments (free-text responses)	138	
Q6	If you changed your working pattern, did it affect your finances...		Q6	If you changed your working pattern, did it affect your finances...	women men	If you changed your working pattern, did it affect your finances...		
This affected family finances immediately	185		This affected family finances immediately	47	12	This affected family finances immediately	126	
This affects our family finances in the long term	103		This affects our family finances in the long term	47	1	This affects our family finances in the long term	55	
I worry about money most of the time	86		I worry about money most of the time	35	4	I worry about money most of the time	47	
We don't have money worries	23		We don't have money worries	4	2	We don't have money worries	17	
Q7	Is there anything else, about the hidden costs of fighting for an EHCP, you would like to add?		Q7	Is there anything else, about the hidden costs of fighting for an EHCP, you would like to add?	combined	When looking for help with my EHCP, I know I can get free legal guidance from the Support SEND Kids Q&A site (supportsendkids.org) ...		
Add your answer here.... (see free-text analysis)	78		Add your answer here.... (see free-text analysis)		78	Yes, I visited the site, it was helpful	30	
						Yes, I visited just to look around	30	
						Yes, but I didn't find the help I needed	30	
						No, I didn't know I could get help	160	
Q8	When looking for help with my EHCP, I know I can get free legal guidance from the Support SEND Kids Q&A site (supportsendkids.org) ...		Q8	When looking for help with my EHCP, I know I can get free legal guidance from the Support SEND Kids Q&A site (supportsendkids.org) ...	women men	If you want to keep informed about this research, please enter your email. We will add you to our mailing list. You can unsubscribe at anytime.		
Yes, I visited the site, it was helpful	59		Yes, I visited the site, it was helpful	21	8	Yes	68	
Yes, I visited just to look around	45		Yes, I visited just to look around	12	3	No/skipped	152	
Yes, but I didn't find the help I needed	39		Yes, but I didn't find the help I needed	8	1			
No, I didn't know I could get help	192		No, I didn't know I could get help	23	9			