

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE
11 JUNE 2024

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

From Savannah Church, Local Resident to the Portfolio Holder of Children, Education and Families

1. Can the committee explain what the FOI on WhatDoTheyKnow is about?

Has someone at Bromley whistle-blown about what's been going on in your Home Education department. is your Deep Dive into the council's elective home education oversight going to include a deep dive into this?

Families need to know.

Reply: This question arises out of a recent FOI request to which we have already responded. Whilst we are unable to comment on matters relating to individual Council employees, it remains the view of Council officers that the Home Education team continues to provide a good level of service, and that the Deep Dive report will be able to reflect both the effectiveness of their work as well as any continuing challenges the team faces.

From Councillor Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder of Children, Education and Families

1. What is the volume of appeals that were lodged with SENDIST in 2023-2024 to date, 2022-23 and 2021-22, how many were resolved before a hearing, how many were lost by LBB and how much has LBB spent on such appeals in the last three years.

Reply: Please see below a table setting out the SENDIST appeals for the period 2021 to date. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs of tribunals from the costs of mediations as these are managed by a single team with responsibility for both areas. NB SEN data is reported on a calendar year basis. Outcome data is reported on the basis of those appeals upheld.

Year	Lodged with SENDIST	Resolved before final hearing	Cases upheld at SENDIST
2021	75	41	0
2022	87	48	4
2023	104	38	15
2024 to date	58	N/A	N/A

2. What happens to a child on a waiting list for an EHCP assessment/outcome when they become an adult, and at what age are they considered to be an adult in this scenario?

Reply: The majority of EHC Needs Assessments are now provided within the 20-week period, with timeliness of EHCPs now exceeding the London and National averages. Under the Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND Code of Practice 0-25, the assessment of children and young people who may have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities applies across the 0-25 age range. As such there is no impact on the assessment process for a young person at their eighteenth birthday.