

LLR CCG DCO response to the Covid 19 concerns for Children and Young people with SEND 19.03.2020

Covid 19 is almost certainly going to adversely impact on the Statutory EHC process and timescales and on Health's ability to comply with the Children and Families Act 2014 part 3

This is our understanding from DfE:

The Government is bringing in an Emergency Powers Act, part of which will mean disapplying parts of CFA 2014 in relation to assessing, reviewing and provision in EHC plans

The SEND regulations on exemption would then take over. This is section 9.42 as this situation would meet exceptional circumstances -

- Where there are exceptional circumstances, it may not be reasonable to expect local authorities and other partners to comply with the time limits above

Given there is no guidance yet from NHSE & DfE, I will work with Local Authority partners and LPT to map the current/potential risk and challenges, and possible contingency plans for each of our services and providers in relation to the following:

- EHC needs assessment advice – those assessments in progress
- EHC needs assessment advice – new assessments whereby child has not yet been seen
- Delivering provision in plans
- Engaging in tribunal activity

I will share these resources widely

Some resources that may be helpful for parent carers of children and young people with SEND or children and young people themselves.

- National Autistic Society – guidance and helpline for parents', young people and staff: [https://www.autism.org.uk/services/nas-schools/vanguard/news/2020/march/coronavirus-\(covid-19\)-advice.aspx](https://www.autism.org.uk/services/nas-schools/vanguard/news/2020/march/coronavirus-(covid-19)-advice.aspx)

- Mencap - Easy Read guide to Coronavirus:
<https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Information%20about%20Coronavirus%20ER%20SS2.pdf>
- Place2Be – Guide to helping parents answer questions from their children and to support family wellbeing:
<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-for-children/>
- Young Minds - Talking to your child about Coronavirus and 10 tips from their Parents Helpline to support family wellbeing:
<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>
- Carers UK - Guidance for carers: <https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/health/looking-after-your-health/coronavirus-covid-19>
- Covibook – an interactive resource designed to support and reassure children aged 7 and under, designed to help children explain and draw the emotions that they might be experiencing during the pandemic: <https://www.mindheart.co/descargables>
- Amaze - information pack for parents
<https://amazesussex.org.uk/faqs-about-the-coronavirus-for-parent-carers-of-children-with-send-brighton-hove/>

[Public Health England](#) have produced an easy read version of their [Advice on the coronavirus for places of education](#). You can download it [here](#)