

## Education Law Services for Professional Deputies and Attorneys

The Children and Families Act 2014 required children and young people who previously had a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) to transfer over to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) by 1 April 2018 at the latest.

The challenge for Professional Deputies and Attorneys for disabled children and young people is ensuring that clients can access the right level of public funding, services and opportunities to which they are entitled.

### Why seek expert help?

Optimising the SEN provision in your client's EHCP can significantly improve their ability to access public authority funding and reduce their reliance upon settlement funds.

In addition, SEN provision is integral to promoting your client's health and wellbeing in accordance with the OPG Health and Welfare Standards. As well as the choice of school or placement, this can also cover therapies, additional learning support, and equipment.



# Services we provide

We provide a complete support service for Professional Deputies whose clients have EHCPs, or you can simply ask us to get involved on a case-by-case basis.

## Case specific advice

- Expert advice and Part 35 Reports to inform settlements, including likely future costs associated with educational, health and care provision.
- Comprehensive advice and solutions to optimise the SEN provision for your client and maximise public authority funding.
- Audits of EHCPs and advice on how to improve them.
- Advising on transfer to an EHC plan and EHCP reviews.
- Specialist advice on transitions between educational stages and on transitions to adult health and social care.
- Legal advice on transport from home to school or placement.

## Mediation and representation

- Correspondence, meetings and mediation with Local Authorities on behalf of your client.
- Advice and representation for SEN appeals to challenge inadequate provision.

## Capacity building and Practice support

- Initial audits for newly appointed Deputies.
- Auditing case files against OPG standards.
- Tailor-made in-house Education Law training for Deputies and supporting teams.
- Integrated Health, Social Care and Education Law advice for clients aged 0-25 and related public law challenges.
- The application of the Equality Act 2010 in Special Educational Needs.

## Why come to us?

Martin Searle Solicitors provides specialist services for Professional Deputies and Attorneys. Our team has a strong track record in Education Law and Community Care Law for disabled children, young people and those with Special Educational Needs.

For more information, contact our team on **01273 609911** or e-mail [deputyservices@ms-solicitors.co.uk](mailto:deputyservices@ms-solicitors.co.uk)

