

- 5 OCT 2009



department for  
**children, schools and families**

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Ms Jane McConnell  
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Our ref: 2009/0070357  
2 October 2009

Dear Ms McConnell

Further to my letter of 10 September regarding your formal complaint that Education Bradford is not specifying educational provision in statements of special educational needs (SEN)

The National Strategies Regional Adviser (SEN and school improvement) visited Education Bradford and raised your complaint with them.

Education Bradford refutes the complaint that they are routinely issuing statements of SEN that do not specify the educational provision required in Parts III. They agree that they have, in the past, included wording on their statements that give details of their delegation scheme but insist that this is in addition to specified provision relating to the child's specific need detailed later in Part III of the statement. As we do not have details of the specific complaints e.g. names of pupils where parents are alleging non-specificity then this could not be checked. Education Bradford have assured the Department that they included this wording re delegation to provide parents with additional information they may find useful but that given the concerns raised they no longer include this wording on the statement of SEN but include it within the accompanying letter.

Education Bradford have embarked on a plan to improve parental confidence in the SEN process and particularly around issues of specificity and clarity in statements and that includes reviewing their guidance and information for parents, how they work with parents face to face, the language used in statements and the quality of advice from those contributing to the assessment/statement. They are particularly keen to include outcomes from the Lamb Project when it is published in this review.

As part of this review the National Strategies Regional Adviser is going to deliver a session on 'Developing parental confidence in the SEN systems – Quality & Clarity of Statements' at a conference for SEN staff in Bradford.

Education Bradford has agreed to review the wording on all statements of SEN at the next annual review and to make any required amendments needed at that time. This will ensure that within 12 months the wording of all statements will have been reviewed with parents in school, particularly in relation to language used, specificity, quantification and clarity

The National Strategies Regional Adviser has agreed to carry out a random quality audit on recently issued and reviewed statements after 6 months (i.e. February 2010) as part of this wider programme of improving parental confidence. They will arrange to talk to some parents as part of this random quality audit.

I hope that this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

*Janice Halladay*

Janice Halladay  
Special Educational Needs and Disability Division