**Predictable vs Exceptional Needs – what these mean and when these are used.**

These are terms that are used within the Sutton Local Area when talking about SEND needs that are:

* routinely to be found within the mainstream population (Predictable Needs) and
* those that are more exceptional in nature (Exceptional Needs).

These terms are predominately used in discussions with schools. These terms will not be used in LA responses to EHCNA requests as these will refer to terms used within the Code of Practice.

1. **Why use these terms?**

The use, and distinction between, predictable and exceptional needs is to:

* clarify the range of predictable needs that schools should be meeting from their delegated budgets and devolved funds (additional funding from the LA) and
* be clear as to those exceptional needs that the LA will continue to fund additionally given they are not predictably within the mainstream school population.

1. **Provision for predictable needs:**

Our mainstream schools will plan for predictable needs, using funding they have within their budgets for SEND together with additional funding provided by the LA. This will include providing for those that do not have an EHCP as well as those that do.

* One of the key reasons why the LA is providing additional money and we are being clearer about our expectations of all mainstream schools is so that we can meet our ***anticipatory duty*** for children with SEND (as laid out in the DDA). We want to ensure needs are met at the right time and that difficulties don’t escalate/become more acute
* Providing this additional funding directly to schools will help schools meet a greater proportion of needs ***ordinarily*** (ie there will be more provision that is ordinarily available)
* Children who already have EHCPs will not see their provision affected. The LA will ensure that schools have the necessary resources to continue to meet their needs.

1. **Will children with needs that fall within the predictable range need an EHCP to access provision and have their needs met?**

An EHCP should not be necessary in the future for a child to get the support they need. We will be moving to a situation where children won’t need EHCPs to access provision/have their needs met in mainstream so these will be less necessary

It is important to remember that predictable needs include those that would not meet the requirements for an EHCNA eg a child that needs some booster support in literacy for a period of time

1. **Does this mean that a child with predictable needs CAN NOT have an EHCP?**

Parents/carers will still be able to request EHCNA assessments and, thus, an EHCP may be the end result. However, an EHCP should not be needed to access support for children and young people with predictable needs. This is because the purpose of providing additional funding to mainstream schools and sharing best practice is to build capacity and ensure that support can be provided promptly and without delay.

1. **What happens if there are concerns about the support and progress of a child with SEND needs?**

As always, the first point of contact should be the school SENCO to talk through issues and see what needs addressing. This is true for all children with, or without, an EHCP and whether their needs fall within the predictable range or are exceptional.