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| ProjectDelivering Better Outcomes TogetherLocationNottinghamshire County Council TopicNational Trial of a Single Route of Redress |

Learning from national trial appeals

Nottinghamshire have been working with their social care and health colleagues to develop a more joined up approach to managing national trial appeals.

Since the start of the national trial in April 2018, Nottinghamshire County Council have seen the number national trial appeals double.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Health only | Social Care only | Both Health and Social Care | Total |
| 2018 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 2019 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 2020 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 14 |

Challenges

The team identified the following areas where improvements could be made:

* Coordination of health professionals who are required to input into completing assessment for each appeal due to the high demand of their expertise.
* Increased number of appeal time extensions as the assessment work was unable to be completed within the original appeal preparation time, which meant the appeals took longer to complete and engaged resources for a longer period of time.
* Delays to appeal preparation
* Increased backlog of appeals
* Having incorrect contacts details for different teams, which contributed to delays in completing the pre-hearing work. This has increased due the Covid-19 pandemic as more team members work from home and are not contactable in the office.

Solutions

The solutions to the challenges faced by the local authority have been listed below:

* Nottinghamshire County Council seconded a level 3 qualified Sensory Integration Therapist, who has been on post since from September 2019 until the end of the national trial. This has helped to manage the demand for assessments that are required as part of the appeal preparation.
* The local authority has also employed a SEN Social Worker who specifically looks at the mental capacity and gain wishes and feelings of CYP who are involved in the national trial. The local authority is able to receive a better picture of the CYP’s point of view going into the trial.
* Overall better Communication Systems now in place to enforce joined up partnership working.

**Top Tips**

1. Make sure all LA, Health and Social Care teams are aware of the EHCP requirements and information that needs to be included.
2. Create a joined-up approach between the different teams through better communications. E.g Organise a regular meeting with the relevant teams/ people, create a team contact list and keep it up to date.
3. Continually review the way you work with the different teams, what small steps could make the working relationship better?

**For more information:**

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The information provided in this case study originates from a presentation delivered at the National Trial Briefing Events in March 2021 hosted by Mott MacDonald on behalf of the Department for Education. The full presentation slides can be viewed or download at | | [Event Materials and Resources - Mott MacDonald (sendpathfinder.co.uk)](https://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/events-materials-and-resources).