Coronavirus Act SEND Easements

The Department for Education and the Secretary of State have invoked the easements to the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014 contained in the Coronavirus Act 2020.

This means that some aspects of the law for children and young people with SEND are modified for a period of time to give local authorities and health commissioners more flexibility during the Covid 19 crisis.

You can find the guidance issued here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus>

The NNPCF have been working with the Department for Education and other stakeholders in the sector to ensure that the changes protect the key principles of the Children and Families Act. Most notably:

* Coproduction with individual families and with parent carer forums at a strategic level remains of paramount importance
* Any changes to provision must be explained to families and options discussed with families
* Clear records of the decision kept and why it was made with a clear requirement to reinstate the provision as soon as possible

Any dilution of the rights of families is a concern and we will continue to work with the Department for Education to review these easements and we will be seeking for them to be lifted as soon as possible.