

**Written evidence from Parental Submission 185**

1. Unsure where or how to begin for something that has affected my two sons over the last two decades but briefly would like to say it has mostly been a battle all the way.
2. My sons are now aged 27 and 19 years of age. Born and raised in [local authority]. When I found out my first son had special needs, felt lucky we lived in a Borough that had 'inclusive education'. Something that I thought was the best way forward for a child's education! What I didn't realise was, what a fight there was going to be ahead for the next couple of decades. Meetings with SENCOs, speech therapists, Head Teachers, Educational Psychologists. The meetings felt endless and unproductive.
3. Maybe if we can share our experiences just a little, it might help other parents of special needs children who are in a similar situation right now. Maybe even get the Authorities to work positively with families instead of being unhelpful.
4. Don't let [local authority] continue to hide under the 'Inclusion' umbrella. My boys' best years in Education began in a Post 16 Academy for Special Needs young people. Unfortunately my youngest son leaves their lovely establishment this Summer and I am already feeling worn down trying to find something that will replace the Academy and the wonderful staff there. We don't want a sitting service at College or a Day Centre, we still want their education to carry on for years to come to exercise their minds.

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