Siân Berry MP
Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

24 November 2026

The Rt Hon Lucy Powell MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
By Email

Dear Lucy,

I am writing to following a meeting with Southern SEND Families who represent local young people and their families on issues linked to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) rights.

Parents in my constituency are deeply concerned about the impact of the current SEND reform proposals as they stand. Families tell me they support the principle of reform, but believe that improvements must not come at the cost of enforceable support, clear legal duties or independent appeal rights. Families need more effective provision, not fewer ways to challenge decisions when support fails.

In our meeting we discussed several issues, including on what a shift of responsibility towards schools would mean for enforceable Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) duties, accountability, appeal rights and phase transfers. I agreed to raise the following questions with you, which I hope you can answer:

- Will Ministers guarantee that individual support plans will not replace enforceable entitlements with promises that families cannot either appeal or compel schools to deliver?
- Will the Government preserve the Tribunal's ability to make effective decisions about the support and placement a child needs, rather than merely asking councils to reconsider?
- How will children with complex or unusual needs, including children out of school and those needing Education Otherwise Than At School, be protected if national support packages do not fit their circumstances?
- Will ministers publish draft legislative detail and explain how parents, disabled young people and frontline professionals can scrutinise it before rights are changed?

I am hoping to attend the debate on 30 November on the petition to protect the legal right to support children with SEND - and would be grateful for a response before then.

Yours sincerely,



Siân Berry MP,
Green Party, Brighton Pavilion