

LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT 2014

19 Local authority functions: supporting and involving children and young people

In exercising a function under this Part in the case of a child or young person, a local authority in England must have regard to the following matters in particular—

- (a) the views, wishes and feelings of the child and his or her parent, or the young person;
- (b) the importance of the child and his or her parent, or the young person, participating as fully as possible in decisions relating to the exercise of the function concerned;
- (c) the importance of the child and his or her parent, or the young person, being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions;
- (d) the need to support the child and his or her parent, or the young person, in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help him

LOCAL AUTHORITY

A **local authority (LA)** is a government body that administers public services and functions at a local level. They are responsible for delivering various services that meet the needs of local communities including, but not limited to, education, social services & public health.

Local councils are made up of **elected councillors**, who are chosen by residents in local elections. These councillors make decisions on local services and policies. The **council leader** or an **elected mayor** leads the local authority, depending on the local governance model.



DEFINITION OF PARENT

The meaning of “**parent**” is defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996:

- (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, “parent”, in relation to a child or young person, includes any person—
 - (a) who is not a parent of his **but who has parental responsibility** for him, or
 - (b) **who has care** of him