

EDUCATIONAL HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCPs)

What is an Education, Health & Care Plan?

- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are legal documents that describe a child or young person's special educational, health and social care needs.
- They explain the extra help that will be given to meet those needs and explain how the help will support a child or young person to achieve what they want to in their life.
- They are person-centred plans which put your child at the centre of the assessment and planning process making sure your views are heard and understood to increase your choice and control
- Young people and families work with the Local authority to design and build the plan
- All children and young people who have significant special educational needs and meet specific criteria may undergo an Education Health and Care (EHC) Assessment, which could lead to an EHC Plan.
- An EHC plan replaces the Statements of SEN and Learning Disability. It is a personalised plan to meet the needs and outcomes for each child or young person. Including what they think is important and what they want to achieve now and in the future.

How to apply for an EHCP

- If you have concerns about your child's special educational needs or disability needs, your first point of contact should be the school or setting.
- You may speak to the class teacher, tutor, SENCO, Head teacher or key worker.
- The school or setting should discuss these concerns with you and complete an assessment of your child's needs themselves or request an assessment from another professional.
- This is then sent to the Local Authority to be reviewed by Panel.

The local authority will consider information and evidence that shows:

- The child or young person's academic attainment / developmental milestones / rate of progress is less than expected.
- The nature of the child/young person's difficulties
- How significant these difficulties are
- Actions already taken to support the child or young person.
- That progress has only been made as the result of additional intervention and support over and above that which is usually provided for other children/young people of a similar age

Education Health and Care 20 week assessment process

Stage One: weeks 0-6

- An assessment request is received by the LA with any existing evidence.
- The request and evidence are considered by a SEN panel and matched to eligibility criteria.
- A decision is reached about whether to assess or not.
- Parents or Young person informed of decision by SEN team.

NO means there is a right of appeal. YES proceed to stage two.

Stage Two: weeks 7-16

- SEN team seek further advice from professionals
- Family Child or Young person are helped to discuss and prepare their views, wishes and feelings and section A and B of the plan explained.
- Using all the information gathered a working draft plan is produced and shared and developed at a multi-agency meeting with parents and child or young person.
- Draft produced and sent for comment.
- SEN Panel review all information gathered so far and agree whether a plan is appropriate.
- Parents or Young person informed of decision by SEN team.

NO EHC Plan agreed - then right of appeal exists. YES - proceed to stage Three.

Stage Three: weeks 16-20

- Parents name preferred nursery, education or skills setting who are then consulted.
- Personal Budgets discussed if appropriate.
- Final Plan issued
- Support put in place if happy.

You have a right of appeal within two months if you are not happy with a decision of the final plan.

The EHC Plan:

- Guidance says EHC plan should be issued when the local authority considers the special educational needs of the child **cannot be reasonably provided** by a mainstream early years provider, school and/or post 16 institution
- Is reviewed annually by the school/setting
- Might go with your child or the young person if they change services or schools and when they leave school to go to college, work-related training or an apprenticeship
- Will cease when the education or training outcomes detailed in the Education, Health and Care Plan have been achieved
- Will not put children and young people at a disadvantage, it will meet the statutory obligations required under current legislation, including a right of appeal

The Local Offer

The Local Offer, section on your Local Authorities website, sets out in one place the up to date information about:

- All of a local authority's provision across education (from 0 to 25), health and social care which it expects to be available for children and young people in its area with or without EHC Plans who have special educational needs or are disabled
- Arrangements for identifying and assessing children and young people's SEN and how to obtain an EHC needs assessment
- Provision outside the local authority's area which it expects will be used by its children and young people with SEN and/ or disabilities
- Eligibility criteria for its services, for personal budgets, leisure activities, travel to and from educational institutions, SEN appeals and arrangements for dispute resolution including mediation
- Sources of information, advice and guidance about SEN and disabilities in the area

If you are a parent of a deaf child and need more support with the EHCP process then please do not hesitate to contact us on 01744 23887 or via email at enquiries@deafnessresourcecentre.org