

Education, Health and Care Plans – All You Need to Know

This resource is designed to provide you with the key information needed to understand an Education, Health and Care Plan or an EHC/EHCP. It is worth noting that Local Authorities adopt their own processes for managing EHCP applications and assessments, therefore the information within this guidance sheet is by no means exhaustive.

What Is an Education, Health and Care Plan?

An Education, Health and Care Plan or EHC/EHCP is a legal document which describes a child or young person's Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). An EHCP is written and provided by a Local Authority in order to give children and young people the help and support they need to make progress academically, socially and emotionally.

An EHCP replaced a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) when the revised Code of Practice was introduced in 2014.

Who Is an EHCP For?

An EHCP is for any child or young person that has a significant and complex Special Educational Need or Disability. An EHCP is required when a child's needs cannot be met by the usual support that is available to them in their school or setting.

Many children with SEND receive support in their school or setting without an EHCP, however their support would come from resources already available within school. This is called SEN Support. Following support at the SEN Support level, some children or young people's needs may be deemed significant and complex and therefore require an EHC assessment by the Local Authority

How Long Can a Child or Young Person Receive an EHCP?

An EHCP should provide support from birth up to the age of 25 in order to support with further education, training and support into the workplace

How Can Parents or Carers Receive an EHCP for Their Child?

As a parent or carer, you can contact the Local Authority and ask for an EHC assessment for your child. At this point, the Local Authority will review all evidence on a panel and make a decision whether to assess or not. If a decision is made to assess, at the end of that assessment period the LA will decide whether to issue an EHCP.

What Will Happen Once the EHCP Is Issued?

When an EHCP is issued for a child or young person, the Local Authority must ensure the special educational provision outlined in the plan is put into place. If a Local Authority names an independent school or independent college as special educational provision, then all costs must be met by the LA.

What Does an EHCP Include?

An EHCP will include 12 sections of key information including:

- A - the views, interests and aspirations of the young person.
- B - the child's or young person's Special Educational Needs.
- C - health needs related to their SEN or to a disability.
- D - social care needs related to their SEN or to a disability.
- E - planned outcomes for the child or young person.
- F - provision for the needs mentioned in Section B.
- G - any health provision.
- H1- any social care provision that must be made for a child or young person.
- H2- any other social care provision related to a child's SEN or to a disability.
- I - the name/type of school or setting.
- J - details of any personal budget.
- K - advice and information from the EHC assessment.

If a young person is in or beyond Year 9, the EHCP must set out the provision to support the young person in preparing for adulthood and independent living.

What is an EHCP Review Meeting?

The class teacher or form tutor of a child or young person with an EHCP will be invited to attend the child's Annual Review Meeting. This meeting is carried out in partnership with all the outside agencies that are involved with a child or young person, including the young person themselves.

The meeting will review the progress towards the outcomes in the EHCP, discuss any changes in their need and any new needs that may be present. It will also give everybody involved with the child a chance to share their views, wishes and feelings about their education, health and overall care.

The EHCP will be reviewed once every year by the Local Authority.

Statutory guidance 'Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice: 0-25years' can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25