



WHAT IS AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN?

The Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is a new way of working that aims to put children, young people and families at the centre of the assessment and planning process, to make sure that your views are not only heard but also understood. This is called person-centred planning and is all about increasing your choice and control.

This new process focuses on what is important for children and young people – what they and you want to achieve now and in the future.

Young people and families have helped to design the plan and so far they are saying that they feel more listened to and more involved in decision-making in ways that make sense to them.

Who is it for?

The EHC plan is for children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities and where an assessment of education, health and social care needs has been agreed by a multi-agency group of professionals. It is available from birth to age 25.

You can talk to your child's or the young person's educational setting about eligibility for an assessment. For example, the school's special educational needs coordinator will be able to offer advice.

If you wish to contact your SENDIASS Coordinator (previously known as PPC) please visit the website or telephone the PPS Enquiry Line which is open during office hours throughout the year including school holidays.

What's different about an Education, Health and Care assessment?

An Education, Health and Care assessment looks at life beyond education and brings the different services together.

The local authority is responsible for ensuring that assessments are effectively co-ordinated.

It is planned that in future the EHC assessment and plan will replace the statutory assessment and statement of special educational needs (SEN) process. If your child has a Statement of SEN already he or she will transfer to an Education, Health and Care Plan sometime before the year 2018. You will be informed when this is due to happen and will be fully informed and involved.

How does it work?

At the start of the assessment, you and your child or young person will have the opportunity to say what's working, what's not working and what you think needs to change. At the same time the local authority will gather information from the other people involved and arrange a meeting for you all to agree the outcomes and how you think they can best be met. Remember that this is all about a partnership between you and the professionals involved to make the right decisions for you as a family.

The EHC assessment and planning process needs to be completed in 20 weeks, whereas the statutory assessment (which may lead to a statement of SEN) needs to be completed in 26 weeks.

The whole process lasts for 20 weeks. Near the end of this period, the multi-group agency group will meet again to confirm the EHC plan and decide what support you might be eligible for to meet the agreed outcomes.

The plan will be clear about how much things cost and will have agreed timescales to make sure that it is updated and reviewed regularly, for example annually. The plan will go with your child or the young person as they change services, change schools and also when they leave school and go on to college, work-related training or employment.

What are our statutory rights?

Your rights do not change and you will still have the right to appeal in line with current statutory arrangements.

Support and advice is available throughout the process from the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).

How might this affect the support my child or young person receives?

The EHC assessment and planning process is designed to focus on agreeing individual outcomes and the support to achieve these will be tailored to each child or young person's range of needs. This could include helping families to make best use of support available – from the services available in the local offer, from the local community, or provided by statutory services where applicable.

You can ask for impartial advice and support throughout this process from your SENDIASS Coordinator (PPC). See the SENDIASS leaflet on the website for details of the coordinator for your home area.

North Yorkshire SENDIASS Enquiry Line – 0845 034 9469

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/25378/SEND---advice-and-support>

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