
EHC plans

Education Health and Care Plans



Giving
disabled children
a brighter future

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What is an EHC plan?

Education, Health and Care plans are known as EHCP's.

For some children and young people with SEND the support that a mainstream nursery, school or college can provide is not enough to help them. These children and young people may need support through an EHCP.

An EHCP is a legal document. The plan will outline the needs of the child or young person, what they and their parents want them to achieve, the support they require, and who will provide this support.

The purpose of an EHCP is to ensure that the correct support is provided to help meet the child or young persons' education, health and social care needs. As they get older it will also help prepare them for adulthood.

Who needs an EHC plan?

EHC plans are for children and young people aged 0 to 25, who have a Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities that cannot be met by the support that is usually available at a mainstream school or college.

Most children and young people with special educational needs will be provided with the support they need without the need for an EHC plan. This is called SEN support. The purpose of SEN support is to help children achieve the outcomes or learning objectives that have been set for them.

Some children and young people may not make the progress expected of them even with this help. When this happens the Local Authority should carry out an EHC needs assessment.

Although an EHCP includes health and social care, if the child or young persons' needs in these areas do not impact their education and EHCP will not be appropriate.

How do you get an EHC plan?

EHC plans may be issued by a local authority following an EHC Needs Assessment. See our information and advice on EHC Needs Assessments [here](#).

An education setting, parent or a young person over the age of 16 can request an EHC Needs Assessment.

What does an EHC plan include?

Each Local Authority can design their own EHCP, however it must include the following clearly labelled sections:

- A: The views, interests and aspirations of the child, young person and their parents.
- B: Special educational needs.
- C: Health needs related to SEND.
- D: Social care needs related to SEND.
- E: Outcomes. What the plan aims to help the child or young person achieve.
- F: Special educational provision. What support will be provided to help them achieve the outcomes.
- G: Health provision.
- H: Social care provision.
- I: Placement - type and name of school or other educational setting.
- J: Personal budget arrangements.
- K: Advice and information – The information gathered during the EHC Assessment.

For more information on EHCP contents see our guide on draft EHCP's.

An EHCP should:

- Be based on decisions made openly with parents, children and young people.
- Describe what a child or young person can do.
- Be clear, concise, understandable and accessible.
- Take into account evidence from professionals, parents and the child and young person gathered during the EHC Needs Assessment.
- Specify clear outcomes.
- Consider alternative ways of providing support if this is what a parent or young person asks for. This could include a Personal Budget.
- Be forward looking – for example planning for important transitions in a child or young persons' life.
- Have a review date.

How will we be involved?

The child or young person's views are very important, as are their parents. The Local Authority and educational setting should take into consideration these views when making decision. They should involve and encourage you to take part.

Will there be a review of the EHC plan?

An EHCP lasts until either; it is no longer required by the child or the child reaches 25. If you move Local Authorities the plan should be transferred.

An EHCP should be reviewed at least once every 12 months.

Where can I get support?

You can find more information and advice at
www.kids.org.uk/sendiaass

This includes advice on EHC Needs Assessments, EHCP drafts and Annual Reviews.

You can also ask for support from your local Special Educational Needs and Disabilities information, advice and support service (SENDIASS). Find out more at www.kids.org.uk/contact-us