

# Preparation for Adulthood



## Education Health and Care Plans Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)?**

An education, health and care plan (EHCP) is a legal document which sets out the education, health and social care needs of a child or young person for whom extra support is needed in the educational setting, beyond that of which they normally provide. The plan will focus on outcomes (what the child or young person wants to achieve) and what's needed to achieve those outcomes. Families and practitioners work together to consider the outcomes and aspirations the young person has and how best to meet them.

### **Are EHCP's the only way to get support for a child or young person in educational settings?**

Settings are expected to follow the Graduated Approach to identify children with SEN, put in SEN Support (additional help above what's usually available) for those who need it and review their progress regularly. This should be done together with parent carers as well as the child or young person. The purpose of SEN Support is to help children achieve the outcomes and learning objectives that have been set for them. All settings have a duty, meaning they must do everything they reasonably can to meet the child or young person's SEN needs. If needs are significant and cannot be met by the school alone, then an EHCP may be considered.

### **Do EHCP's come with additional funding?**

Not necessarily. Schools are given Additional Support Funding to meet the needs of children with SEN as part of their core budget. Schools can choose to spend this money as they think best, to meet the needs of all their pupils with SEN. Some EHCP's will provide guidance on how SEND funding from a schools core budget should be used to support individual pupils. Other EHCP's may have additional funding where support needs are more significant.



### **Can I apply for an EHCP or does the school have to?**

A parent carer can apply for an EHC needs assessment independently from the school. It is worth remembering that the local authority will need to ask for evidence from the school or setting (where a child is attending one) in order to decide whether a needs assessment is needed. Therefore, we would always advise joint working wherever this is possible. Whether a parent carer or education provision applies, the 20 week deadline still stands.

### **Is the decision to carry out an EHC needs assessment the same as the decision to issue an EHCP?**

No, these are two separate decisions. Firstly, a decision is made by the LA about whether to assess, based on the evidence submitted. If it is decided that an assessment is needed, all information gathered during the process will be reviewed at the end of the assessment. A further decision, based on this evidence will then be taken about whether a plan (EHCP) is needed.

### **Does an EHCP always come with 1:1 support?**

No. The provision for each child or young person will vary and depends on the individual's needs. The provision described in the EHCP should be specific and, wherever possible, quantified (stating how much/how often). It should be based on the advice of practitioners working with the child or young person, gathered during the EHC needs assessment. Often, a child or young person with a high level of need will require a high level of support. The EHCP itself however should be outcome focused, with flexibility in how the young person will be supported to achieve these outcomes. This can sometimes be achieved through 1:1 support with a Learning Support Assistant or Teaching Assistant.

### **What if my EHCP is not issued in the timescales?**

The EHCP process starts from the date the Local Authority receives a request for an EHC Needs Assessment. Where it has agreed to issue an EHCP the LA must finalise the plan within 20 weeks of the start date. There are some exceptional circumstances where the LA do not need to meet this timescale which are set out in the SEND Regulations 2014, but they must notify you if these apply. If timescales have been exceeded, you should contact your SEN officer for an explanation in the first instance but may also consider making a complaint.

### **What is an annual review?**

All Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) must be reviewed at least once a year. A meeting will be held with parents, the child (if appropriate), the local authority, the school and all the professionals involved, to discuss the child's progress over the previous 12 months and consider whether amendments need to be made to the child's EHCP. Contributions to this meeting may be made in person or writing. For children with an EHCP the review will also focus on the Outcome and Targets section of the ECHP and decide whether or not any amendments need to be made or if a reassessment of needs is required.

