

## **Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans**

### **Information for Parents and Young People**

Some children or young people with more complex educational needs receive support through an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. This leaflet is designed to help both parents and children understand the process and how they can get involved.

#### **What are Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND)**

Children and young people with SEND all have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children and young people of the same age. These children and young people may need extra or different help from that given to others in order to achieve their potential.

If your child's first language is not English, does that mean they have a learning difficulty? The law says that children and young people do not have learning difficulties just because their first language is not English, although, of course, some of these children and young people may have learning difficulties as well.

Many children and young people will have SEND of some kind at some time during their education. Early year's providers (for example, nurseries or child minder's), mainstream schools, colleges and other organisations can help most children and young people succeed with some changes to their practice or additional support. Some children and young people will need extra help for some or all of their time in education and training.

#### **Where to go for help if you think your child has a special educational need or a disability**

Children and young people with SEND will usually be able to get help from their early education setting, school, or college, sometimes with the help of outside specialists. This is often where any SEND issues are first identified. If they do identify that your child has SEND, your school or other setting must contact you (or, if your son or daughter is over 16, they might contact them directly) and should discuss with you what support to offer your child. The setting must tell you if they are making special educational provision for your child.

If you think your child has SEND, you should talk to your child's early education setting, school, college or other provider. They will discuss any concerns you have, tell you what they think and explain to you what will happen next.

#### **The Local Offer**

The local offer sets out in one place information about what is available in our area for children and young people with SEND. It provides clear, comprehensive information about provision and how to access it and it also is a mechanism for you to feedback where you think we are missing information.

Every local authority must identify education, health and social care services in their local area provided for children, young people and families who have SEND and include them in an information

directory called the Local Offer. This will also help local authorities as they can use it to see where the gaps in provision are. The Local Offer includes information about services provided outside your local area that local people are likely to use.

Local services should reflect what local people need. We have asked children, parents and young people what they think the Local Offer should include, and how they think people should be able to access it.

The local offer also includes contributions from local schools, colleges, health services and other service providers.

### **What is an EHC plan?**

An EHC plan is a legal document that describes a child or young person's special educational, health and social care needs. It explains the extra help that will be given to meet those needs and how that help will support the child or young person to achieve what they want to in their life. The plan is drawn up by the local authority with input from the parent and child after an EHC needs assessment.

An EHC plan can be issued to a child or young person between the ages of 0 and 25 years.

### **Who needs an EHC plan?**

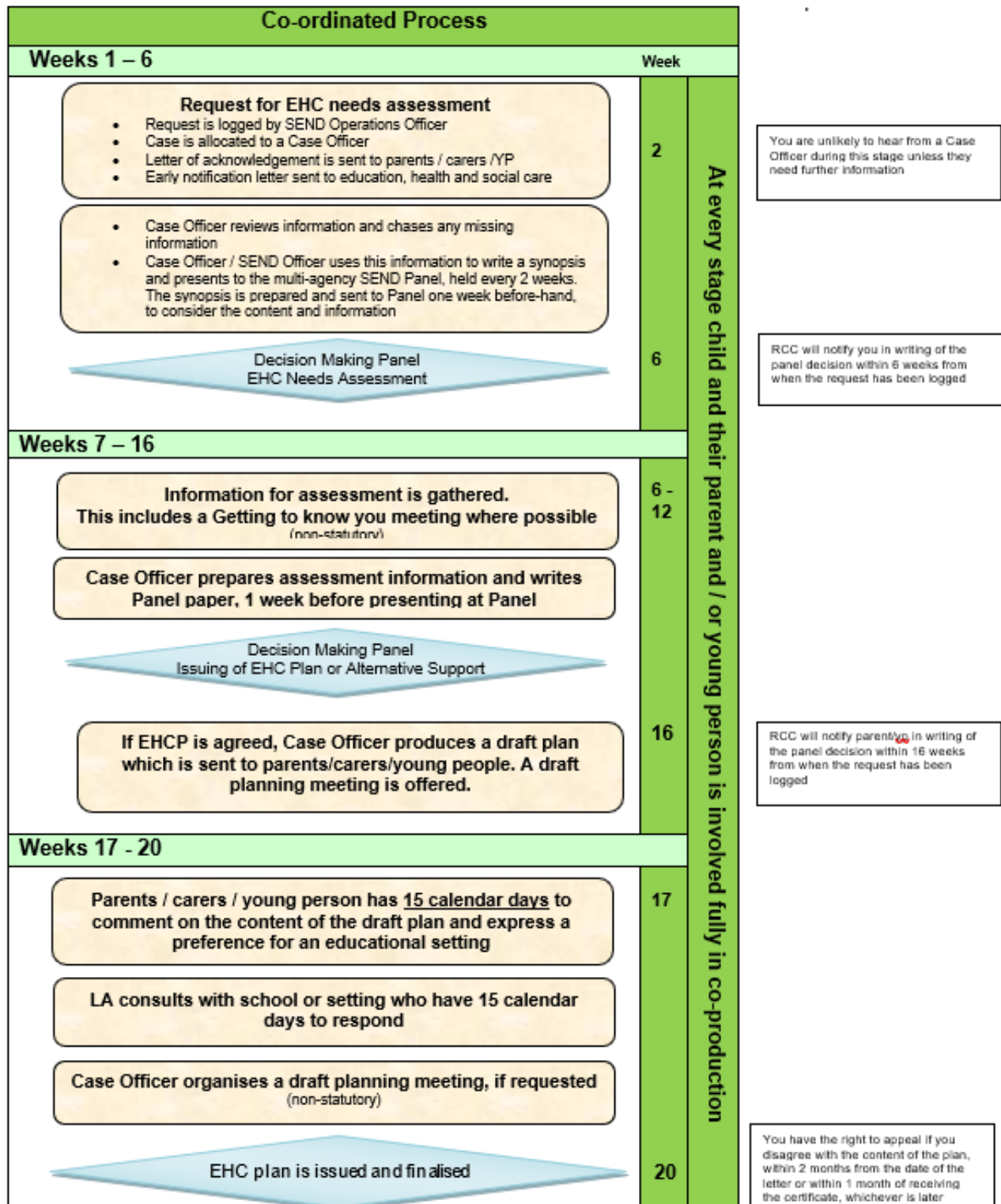
EHC plans are for children and young people whose special educational needs require significantly more help than would normally be provided in a mainstream education setting (a college, school, nursery). Although the plan can include health or social care needs, your child will not get a plan if they only have health or social care needs that do not affect their education.

### **How do I get an EHC plan?**

EHC plans are drawn up by the local authority after an EHC needs assessment. You, your child's education setting or your child, if over 16, can ask your local authority to carry out an assessment.



**EHCP 20-Week Flow Chart**



### **What does an EHC plan look like?**

The plan has 11 sections labelled alphabetically:

- a) The views, interests and aspirations of your child.
- b) Special educational needs (SEN).
- c) Health needs related to SEN.
- d) Social care needs related to SEN.
- e) Outcomes - how the extra help will benefit your child
- f) Special educational provision (support).
- g) Health provision.
- h) Social care provision.
- i) Placement - type and name of school or other institution.
- j) Personal budget arrangements.
- k) Advice and information - a list of the information gathered during the EHC needs assessment.

The plan should be written so that everyone can understand it. It should be clear and detailed about the amount and type of support your child will get and how the support will help your child. The plan requires both yours and your child's input. It gives you the chance to explain your views as to the type of provision that will best meet needs.

### **Review of the plan**

The plan must be reviewed at least once a year. This is a chance for everyone involved in supporting your child to check how well they are progressing and whether anything needs to be changed. At the end of the review the local authority may make changes to the plan, leave it unchanged or cease it.

The plan will remain in place until your child leaves education or the local authority decides that your child no longer needs the plan to help them in their education. If you move to another local authority the plan will be transferred.

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **What is a Graduated Approach?**

This is a model of action and intervention in early education settings, schools and colleges to help children and young people who have special educational needs. The approach recognises that there is a range /continuum of special educational needs and that, where necessary, increasing specialist expertise should be brought to support the difficulties that a child or young person may be experiencing.

### **What does this mean for my child?**

Once it has been decided that your child has SEND, a four-step action process which is set out in the SEND Code of Practice (i.e. a graduated approach) should begin.

### **What is the four steps process?**

**Assess:** Schools are required to carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs, drawing on assessment and experience of the pupil, their progress, attainment, where relevant, their behaviour in comparison to their peers and national data. Alongside this, the views of parents and the pupil's own views should influence the assessment. Information from other services including health and care professionals should also be taken into account.

**Plan:** Parents, teachers and support staff who work with the child should be made aware of their needs, outcomes set, support provided and any teaching strategies and approaches, which should all be recorded and monitored regularly.

**Do:** The class or subject teacher remains responsible for the pupil and should work closely with other staff to ensure the support is provided and monitor its effectiveness.

**Review:** School will review the impact of any interventions and make adjustments to any outcomes or targets.

### **Who can apply for an EHCP?**

An EHCP can be applied for by someone's school, their parents, or the young person him or herself if he/she is aged between 16 and 25. Any professional working with the young person such as a Social Worker, can also apply.

### **Who is an EHCP for?**

The educational health and care plan is for children and young people who have special educational needs (SENs) and/or disabilities. Your child's needs will be assessed by education, health and social care professionals to see if you should have a EHC plan. You can talk to your child's school, college or nursery about eligibility for an assessment. For example, your school's special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) will be able to help.

**How does an EHCP work?**

At the start of the assessment, you and your child will get the chance to say what's working, what's not working and what you think needs to change. Your school and LA will help you with this because a great plan can theoretically mean great change for your child!

At the same time information will be gathered from the other people working with your child and a Getting to Know You meeting will be offered.

Near the end of the assessment time, the multi-agency Panel will meet again to make a decision to issue the EHCP. The SEND Case Officer will draft and send out your draft plan, which you will have 15 days to consider and if necessary, will be offered a draft planning meeting to discuss any of the content.

Once a plan is issued, it will be reviewed on a minimum of a yearly basis. This is really important so that any changes in their condition or development can be supported. The plan will then 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 or training.

**How might this affect the support my child gets?**

The EHCP assessment and planning is designed to focus on agreeing individual outcomes and the support needed to achieve these. The plan will be tailored to each child's needs. This could include helping families to make best use of support available. These might include services available in the local offer, from the local community, or provided by statutory services.

**Who decides which school my child will go to?**

It is the responsibility of the local authority, with input from the parents, to agree and contract a place for the child within a school setting. Wherever possible, the Local authority will seek to place either within county or as local as possible. In rare circumstances, specialist provision may be needed beyond this distance.

**How is provision contracted?**

Provision is contracted with the school or setting by the Local Authority. Care and consideration is given to this to ensure that the child's needs are met.

**How do I know provision is working?**

There is an annual EHCP review to which the child and the parents are invited to contribute to review and agree the actions for the next academic year, and to amend the EHCP as required.