

INFORMATION SHEET – EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS

What are EHCP's?

EHCP stands for Education, Health and Care Plan. They succeed Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and are official documents that record your child's special needs and note:

- what reasonable adjustments schools or colleges need to make
- what extra support or therapy your child is entitled to
- what kind of school or college can meet their needs.

The Children and Families Act of September 2014 mandates that children and young people are now given EHCPs instead of Statements of SEN. Anyone with an existing Statement of SEN must begin the transition to an EHCP and the local authority has a duty to complete this process by 1st April 2018.

An EHCP can be applied for by someone's school, their parents, or the young person him or herself if he or she is between 16 and 25. The 2014 SEND Code of Practice states that schools should start the EHCP process, and wherever possible do so with the knowledge and agreement of the parent or young person concerned. (Paragraph 9.8.).

Applying for an EHCP

If you believe your child needs extra support you should firstly approach the school. If the school is willing to co-operate it is generally better to apply for the EHCP through the school. There are various reasons why schools might not be willing to assist. In such cases you will have to apply yourself to the local authority.

Although this might seem a daunting task, never fear! There are plenty of sources of help at hand. The first place to start is with the Government's own advice. This can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/extra-SEN-help>

Other useful advice can be found on the *Independent Parental Special Education Advice* website:

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk>