

# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS

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## What is an EHCP?

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

An EHCP is a legal document. The plan will outline the needs of the child or young person, what they and their parent/carer 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 EHCP?

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.

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

## How do you get an EHCP?

To get an EHCP an Education, Health and Care needs assessment (EHCNA) is completed. The child's education provision/school can complete the referral for the EHCNA, parents/carers can also complete the request as can a child/young person themselves if they are aged between 16 and 25.

During the EHCNA, the local authority will review the information provided and request additional evidence if needed. Information may be requested from professionals such as an Educational Psychologist or Speech and Language Therapist.

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## EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS (CONTINUED)

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Following the EHCNA, the local authority decided whether or not to issue an EHCP depending on the outcomes of the assessment and whether education settings can meet the needs of the child through their ordinarily available provision.

### How are EHCPs reviewed?

An EHCP will be maintained until either:

- It is no longer required by the child
- The child reaches 25 years old

All EHCPs should be reviewed at least once every 12 months, this is known as the annual review.

Typically, the SEND team at your child's school will take a lead on the annual review process.

### What is a school consultation?

When an child with an EHCP moves schools, the usual application process cannot be

followed. Parents/carers of children with an EHCP will need to share their school preferences with the local authority. The local authority will then send the child's EHCP to these schools for a consultation.

The school has 15 working days to consider the consultation and the needs of the child, evaluating whether they are able to meet the child's need.

Once a school has confirmed they are able to meet a child's need, the local authority will confirm the placement at a funding panel. The outcome of this is then shared with the child's parents/carers.

### Where to seek advice

If you would like to receive impartial advice regarding your child's SEND, including EHCNAs and EHCPs, please contact Hillingdon Special Educational Needs Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).

<https://www.hillingdonsendiass.co.uk/>