

# Education Health Care Plan frequently asked questions

## **Q. What is an Education Health and Care Plan?**

- A.** From 1 September 2014, an Education Health and Care Plan replaced Special Educational Needs (SEN) statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments. An Education Health Care Plan will describe the agreed outcomes for a child/young person, what support is needed to achieve these outcomes, who will provide the support and when the support will happen. Education Health Care Plans will continue into further education and training, and for some young people up to the age of 25.

## **Q. How long does it take to complete an Education Health Care Plan?**

- A.** Once an assessment has been carried out and it is agreed that an Education Health Care Plan is needed, the local authority should finalise an Education Health Care Plan within 20 weeks, compared to 26 weeks for a SEN statement.

## **Q. Will all children with a need for extra support require an Education Health Care Plan?**

- A.** No, an Education Health Care Plan will only be issued when, following an assessment by professionals, the local authority consider that it is necessary for it to make a plan because a child's special educational needs cannot be reasonably provided for with resources normally available through the service/school Local Offer. Some settings may issue children who do not have Education, Health and Care plans with a Provision Plan which will identify additional support needed.

## **Q. Will there be help for children without an Education Health Care Plan?**

- A.** Children who do not need an Education Health Care Plan but require additional support will be given SEN Support through their early years provider or school.

## **Q. What is SEN Support?**

- A.** SEN Support is the support available in school (including pre-school, nurseries and children's centres) for children and young people who have special educational needs but do not have an Education, Health & Care Plan. Additional SEN Support is support to meet a pupil's needs so that they can meet their individual goals.

## **Q. How often will the plan be reviewed?**

- A.** The Education Health Care Plan must be reviewed on an annual basis but parts of the plan may need to be reviewed more regularly, for instance if the child's or family's circumstances change. At the annual review, new outcomes will be identified in line with progress and development.

## **Q. What will happen to children/young people that currently have a Statement?**

- A.** All children/young people that currently have a statement of special educational needs and continue to need such support will be transferred on to an Education Health Care Plan. Local authorities have three years to complete this transfer process, which started in September 2014.

**Q. What is the process for getting an Education Health Care Plan?**

- A.** A parent/carer/young person can ask for an Education and Health Care needs single assessment or a professional can do this on their behalf with consent. The local authority will ask for information about the child/young person in question, including details of services they are already working with, their strengths, their needs and reasons for applying.

**Q. What can a parent/young person do if they do not agree with the decisions made in the Education Health Care Plan?**

- A.** If a parent/young person does not agree with the proposed amendments they will have 15 days to respond and/or request a meeting with the local authority. The authority must consider their requested amendments but does not have to incorporate these into the final Education Health Care Plan.

If the parent or young person are unhappy with the final Education Health Care Plan they will have two months in which to appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal but must consider mediation first.

**Q. What is the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal?**

- A.** The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal considers parents' appeals against the decisions of local authorities about children's special educational needs where the parents cannot reach agreement with the local authority. It also handles claims of disability discrimination against schools.