

EHC Plan

EHC plan stands for education, health care plan, this is a legal document which replaced the 'statements of special needs' in 2014. These plans are for children and young people aged up to 25 who require more additional support than what is given in a mainstream setting. The plan identifies educational, health and social needs and what's needed to support these needs and the effect this will have on the child. It's important to note an EHC plan won't be given if your child has needs that don't affect their education. An EHC plan is to be reviewed at least once a year or when your child's needs change- each plan should be unique and completely individual.

An assessment will need to be carried out before an EHC plan is given/refused, the local authority, health professionals involved with your child, yourself, your child's nursery/ school or your child themselves if aged 16 or above can request an EHC assessment. Things you may be asked for during the assessment include evidence in the form of, reports from your child's education setting/nursery, doctor's assessments, and evidence from yourself.

Step by step process of the EHC plan:

1. You will be told within 6 weeks whether or not an EHC plan is going ahead, if it is the local authority will create a draft EHC plan and you will get a copy. If you are told there will be no EHC plan after the assessment you can challenge this.
2. Once given the draft plan you have 15 days to comment on it
3. The local authority then has 20 weeks from the date of the assessment to give you the final plan, again if you don't agree with the outcome of the plan, you can challenge this.

An EHC plan consists of 11 sections, these are:

- A. The views, interests, and aspirations of child
- B. Child's special educational needs
- C. Health care needs related to child's special educational needs
- D. Social care needs related to child's special educational needs
- E. Outcomes- how this extra help will benefit the child
- F. Special educational provision required to meet child's special educational needs
- G. Any health provision required
- H. Any social care provision required
- I. Placement- the type and name of educational institution
- J. Personal budget arrangements
- K. Advice and information obtained from carrying out the EHC plan