SEND EHCP

What is an EHCP?

EHCP stands for Education, Health Care Plan.

An Educational Healthcare Plan is a legal document that sets out the education, healthcare and social needs of a child or a young person who requires extra support in school beyond what the school normally provides.

The purpose of an EHCP is to provide clear, structured support for any difficulties that the child or young person has.

The EHCP will identify what a school must implement to help the child or young person and the outcomes necessary to achieve it.

The EHCP will also set a clear timeframe during which the outcomes should be achieved and when they will be next reviewed.

As it is legally binding, this means the Local Authority must provide some funding towards any extra help identified as necessary.

Who is an EHCP for?

An EHCP is for any child or young person with significant and complex Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND). An EHCP is required when a child's needs cannot be met by the usual support available to them in their school or setting.

Many children with special needs receive support directly from their school without an EHCP. This support is general SEN support that comes from resources already available in the school. However, some children or young people's needs may be deemed significant and complex and require an EHCP assessment by the Local Authority.

The special education need of the child will be identified from the following categories:

- **communication and interaction**
- **cognition and learning**
- **social, emotional and mental health difficulties**
- **sensory and/or physical**

Who puts the EHCP together?

Information and evidence is firstly gathered from the education setting, the family and any professionals involved with the child and submitted to the Local Authority for an education, health care needs assessment (EHCNA).

The evidence is looked at by Local Authority SEND Provision to decide if an EHCP is required.

An EHCNA does not always lead to an Education, Health Care plan (EHCP) being issued, but if one is, then it should not take more than 20 weeks from requesting an assessment to a final EHCP being issued.

The Plan is put together by the Local Authority SEND provision using all of the evidence gathered. This is to make sure children with SEND have a package of support to help them through to adulthood (until they are 25). A draft copy of the plan will be sent to you to approve before it is finalised.

Children with an EHCP will usually be entitled to some extra support in school. These children will have outside agencies involved in their support, such as speech and language therapists, physiotherapists or the complex communication team.

What does an EHCP look like?

An EHCP is a comprehensive document with lots of information about the child/young person.

All EHCP's have to include:

- **section A**: family views and aspirations
- **section B**: the child/young person's special educational needs (SEN)
- **section C**: any health needs that are related to his or her SEN
- **section D**: his or her social care needs
- **section E**: what outcomes you're hoping to achieve within a given time frame such as a key stage
- **section F**: what special educational provision he or she requires
- **section G**: what health care provision he or she may require
- **section H**: what social care provision or support he or she may require
- **section I**: the name of your child or young person's school or other placement, and what kind of setting it is
- **section J**: this covers the Personal Budget. If you have one, and how it may be used to meet any outcomes
- **section K**: appendices (the advice and information that was gathered when the EHC needs were being assessed)

Is the EHCP reviewed?

The EHCP will be reviewed once every year in an Annual Review meeting led by the setting your child attends. The Annual Review Meeting involves reports/information from all the agencies involved with a child or young person, including the young person and families.

This meeting will review the progress towards the outcomes in the EHCP, discuss any changes in need or new needs that may be present, and give everybody involved with the child a chance to share their views, feelings and wishes about their education, health and overall care.

The review paperwork is completed by the setting and sent to the Local Authority. Any changes are updated on the EHCP and you will be sent a copy to approve before it is finalised.

If you have any queries at any point about the EHCP, you can contact the setting your child attends or the case worker allocated to your child from the Local Authority SEND provision.

How long does an EHCP last?

An EHCP should support a child or young person from birth up to 25, helping them access school, further education, training, and further support in the workplace.

What happens when the child transfers to their next school?

During the annual review before the child transfers to the next setting, a plan of transition will be discussed. The SENCo from the next setting will be invited to this annual review meeting. It is important you inform the current setting when you have decided which school you would like your child to attend next so plans can be put in place. A transition plan may include extra visits to the new school and visits from staff at the new school to the current setting but the plan will be individual to your child depending on their needs.