

Information Advice & Support

Guides for Parents and Carers
in North Lincolnshire

8. Education, Health and Care Plans



North Lincolnshire

Formerly North Lincolnshire Parent Partnership

**SEN & Disability
Information
Advice &
Support
Service**

**Information,
Advice & Support
Services Network**
for SEND



www.northlincs.gov.uk

Introduction

This is one of a series of information resources for parents and carers in North Lincolnshire. They are intended to offer an introduction to parts of the *Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice* and to complement the Department for Education (DfE) Parents' Guide.

Each booklet is available on the Local Offer website (www.northlincslocaloffer.com/SENDIASS) and will also be available on the forthcoming Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) website.

All titles in the series contain hyperlinks to other relevant information and look-ups to words explained in the online glossary. Throughout the booklets:

- links to words included in the glossary are marked in **bold**
- quotes are referenced and presented in *italics*.
- hyperlinks are underlined.

Additional references to other sources of information, advice and support are included at the back of the booklet.

Education, Health and Care plans

This information is about Education, Health and Care plans. It also includes information about Statements of Special Educational Need.

What is an Education, Health and Care plan?

An **Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan)** describes your child's special educational needs (SEN) and the help they will get to meet them. An EHC plan also includes any health and care provision that is needed. It is a legal document written by the local authority and is intended to ensure that children and young people with an EHC plan receive the support they need.

EHC plans are for children and young people who need more support than their school or other setting can provide. The plans can start from a child's birth and continue into further education and training.

The SEND Code of Practice says:

The purpose of an EHC plan is to make special educational provision to meet the special educational needs of the child or young person, to secure the best possible outcomes for them across education, health and social care and, as they get older, prepare them for adulthood. (9.2)

Who needs an EHC plan?

EHC plans are for children and young people who have a special educational need or disability that cannot be met by the support that is usually available at their school or college.

Most children and young people with special educational needs will have help given to them without the need for an EHC Plan. This is called **SEN support**.

The purpose of SEN support is to help children achieve the **outcomes** or learning objectives that have been set for them.

Some children and young people may not make the progress expected of them even with this help. When this happens the Local Authority should carry out an **EHC needs assessment**. A few children and young people have such significant difficulties that an EHC needs assessment should not be delayed.

You or your child's school can ask the local authority to make an EHC needs assessment. When this assessment is finished the local authority must decide whether to issue an EHC plan.

The SEND Code of Practice says:

In considering whether an EHC needs assessment is necessary, the local authority should consider whether there is evidence that despite the early years provider, school or post-16 institution having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the special educational needs of the child or young person, the child or young person has not made expected progress. (9.14)

The law states that if your child has or may have special educational needs and may need provision to be made via an EHC plan, the local authority must conduct an EHC needs assessment. You do not have to prove that an EHC plan is definitely necessary to obtain an assessment, you just have to show it *may* be necessary. If you think your child needs more help than the school can provide, you can ask for an assessment.

You can find more information about EHC needs assessments and how to ask for one in North Lincolnshire's **Local Offer** or in the SENDIASS booklet: *Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment for Children in Early Years Settings or at School*.

What does an EHC plan include?

The SEND Code of Practice says that EHC plans should:

- be based on decisions made openly, and with parents, children and young people
- describe what the child or young person can do
- be clear, concise, understandable and accessible
- consider how best to achieve the outcomes for the child or young person. They **must** take into account the evidence from the EHC needs assessment
- specify clear outcomes
- consider alternative ways of providing support if a parent or young person wishes it. This could include having a **Personal Budget**
- show how education, health and care provision will be co-ordinated
- be forward looking – for example, anticipating, planning and commissioning for important transition points in a child or young person’s life
- describe how informal support as well as formal support from statutory agencies can help in achieving agreed outcomes
- have a review date.

There is a full list of principles and requirements in the SEND Code of Practice section 9.61.

Every EHC plan **must** include at least 12 sections, but each local authority can decide how to set these out.

The sections are:

1. **Section A:** The views, interests and aspirations of you and your child or the young person.
2. **Section B:** Your child’s or young person’s special educational needs.
3. **Section C:** Health needs related to their SEN or to a disability.

4. **Section D: Social care needs** related to their SEN or to a disability.
5. **Section E:** Planned **outcomes** for your child or the young person.
6. **Section F: Special educational provision**. Provision must be specified for each and every need shown in section B.
7. **Section G:** Any **health provision** required that is related to their SEN or to a disability.
8. **Section H1:** Any **social care provision** that must be made for your child or young person under 18.
9. **Section H2:** Any **other social care provision** required that is related to their SEN or to a disability.
10. **Section I:** The **name and type of the school, maintained nursery school, post-16 institution or other institution** to be attended.
11. **Section J:** Details of how any **personal budget** will support particular outcomes and the provision it will be used for.
12. **Section K:** The **advice and information** gathered during the EHC needs assessment

Where the child or young person is in or beyond year 9, the EHC plan must also include the provision required by your child or young person to help prepare for adulthood and independent living.

You can read the full list of what must be included in each section in the *SEND Code of Practice* sections 9.62 and 9.63.

You can find a detailed checklist covering each of these sections at: <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/what-you-need-to-know/ehc-plans>

Can I request a particular school?

The law says that parents or the young person has a right to request that a particular school, college or other institution is named in the EHC plan. The Local Authority must agree to this request unless:

- it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person, or
- the attendance of the child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, or the efficient use of resources

You can find out more about your rights to request a particular school or college in the *SEND Code of Practice* sections 9.78-9.90.

How will I be involved?

The *SEND Code of Practice* says:

Local authorities must consult the child and the child's parent or the young person throughout the process of assessment and production of an EHC plan. (9.21)

and

Reviews must be undertaken in partnership with the child and their parent or the young person, and must take account of their views, wishes and feelings, including their right to request a Personal Budget. (9.168)

Your views, and your child's views, are really important. The local authority, school or college should help you take part and involve you in decision making. If you would like help to do this please contact North Lincolnshire SENDIASS for impartial advice and support. We can also give you information on other sources of help and on what to do if you do not feel that you have been heard or listened to.

Will there be a review of the EHC plan?

The local authority **must** review the EHC plan at least once every 12 months. This **must** be done in partnership with you and your child or

the young person, and must take account of your views, wishes and feelings.

The local authority **must** decide whether to keep the plan as it is, make changes, or cease to maintain it within four weeks of the review meeting. You have a right of appeal if the local authority proposes to cease the EHC plan.

For some young people an EHC plan will continue until they are 25. However the plan will stop if the young person:

- goes to university
- gets a job
- tells their local authority they no longer want their EHC plan, or
- no longer needs special help and the local authority decides that the EHC plan should cease.

Where does the funding come from?

For children in mainstream school some of the funding comes from the school. The local authority may 'top up' this funding from their 'High Needs Block'. Special schools have a standard amount of funding for each pupil. This can also be 'topped up' with Element 3 funding when necessary. For young people in 6th forms or attending college some of the funding will come from the college budget. This may be 'topped up' by the local authority if the amount of funding needed is more than the 'nationally prescribed threshold'. This is an amount of money that is decided on each year. You can find out more in the SENDIASS booklet: *Funding for Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools* and by visiting the **Local Offer**.

The local authority is responsible for ensuring that all the needs set out in the EHC plan are met and that the provision is made, whatever their funding arrangements or agreements with other service providers. .

All young people with an EHC plan and all parents of children with an EHC plan can ask for a Personal Budget. The SEND Code of Practice says:

A Personal Budget is an amount of money identified by the local authority to deliver provision set out in an EHC plan where the parent or young person is involved in securing that provision. (9.95)

Sections 9.110 to 9.118 of the SEND Code of Practice tell you more about what can be included in a Personal Budget. SENDIASS can give you more information on Personal Budgets, including **Direct Payments**.

Will Statements change into EHC plans?

Children and young people who have a Statement will gradually transfer to the new system. Local authorities must complete this process by 1 April 2018. The SEND Code of Practice says:

...it is expected that all those who have a statement and who would have continued to have one under the current system, will be transferred to an EHC plan – no-one should lose their statement and not have it replaced with an EHC plan simply because the system is changing. (Introduction, xi)

What can I do if I am not happy about the EHC plan?

The first step is to contact the school, college or local authority to discuss your concerns.

SENDIASS can give you impartial advice and support and explain your options. This may include independent disagreement resolution, mediation or going to appeal. You can also find out these in the

SENDIASS booklet: *What if we don't agree about decisions about SEN provision.*

What happens if I move to another local authority area?

If you plan to move to another local authority area you should contact the 'old' and the 'new' local authorities so the support specified in the EHC plan will be in place. The 'new' authority will amend the plan and name the new school or college.

The 'old' local authority must transfer the EHC plan on the day of the move, as long as it has had 15 working days notice.

Where can I get more information, advice or support?

You can read about Education, Health and Care plans in Chapter 9 of the *SEND Code of Practice*.

The Local Offer tells you about the local arrangements for special educational provision, including EHC plans.

SENDIASS offers:

- information, advice and support to explain the process and to help you take part in EHC plan needs assessments
- advice and support about EHC plans
- information, advice and support to help you take part in reviews of EHC plans
- support to help you find out more about the funding and provision for SEND made for your child
- information, advice and support about Personal Budgets if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan
- information about other organisations, support groups and information services that may be of help
- information, advice and support about your rights to make a complaint, seek independent **disagreement resolution** or

mediation and appeal to the **SEND Tribunal**.

There are also a number of national organisations that provide information and advice about SEND. These include:

Contact a Family

SEN National Advice Service Helpline: 0808 808 3555

www.cafamily.org.uk

Special Educational Needs & Disability

For further information:

SENDIASS

Hewson House, Brigg
North Lincolnshire, DN20 8XJ

Telephone: 01724 277665
Email: help@nsendiass.org.uk
Web: www.northlincslocaloffer.com/SENDIASS



No English?

For information please call:

08000 193530 (Arabic) للحصول على المزيد من المعلومات اتصل بـ:

তথ্যগুলি বাংলায় জানতে হলে এই নম্বরে ফোন করুন: 08000 193531 (Bengali)

欲知粵語版的資訊，請致電: 08000 193532 (Cantonese)

हिन्दी में जानकारी के लिये 08000 193533 पर फोन करें (Hindi)

بۆ زانیاری به کوردی سۆرانی تەلهفۆن بۆ ژماره 08000 193537 بکەر. (Kurdish Sorani)

Para mais informação em português contacte-nos através do telefone 08000 193538 (Portuguese)

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਸਾਹੁਵਾਦੀ ਲਈ 08000 193539 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ (Punjabi)

“Warbixinta oo af Soomaali ah wac 08000 193540” (Somali)

08000 193541 اردو میں انفارمیشن کے لیے اس ٹیلیفون نمبر پر رابطہ فرمائیں۔ (Urdu)

Nie mówisz po angielsku? Po informacji zadzwoń pod numer 08000 195587 (Polish)

Не знаете английский? Для информации звоните 08000 195586 (Russian)

For information in alternative formats or to request a signer or interpreter to speak to us please contact 01724 296629