

WHAT IS AN EDUCATION, HEALTH, CARE PLAN – EHCP?



An education, health and care (EHC) plan is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support.

EHC plans identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, a child of compulsory setting age or a young person has a learning difficulty or a disability if he or she:

- *has significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or*
- *has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in nurseries, mainstream settings or post 16 settings and,*
- *needs special educational provision to be made for him/her. For example, children could have difficulty with:*
- *keeping up with children in all of their subjects*
- *some of the work in settings such as reading, writing, number work or understanding information*
- *expressing themselves or understanding what others are saying*
- *making friends or relating to adults*
- *behaving appropriately in setting*
- *anxiety and stress*
- *organising themselves*
- *their sensory or physical needs which may affect them in setting.*

WHO CAN REQUEST AN EHC plan?

- Parents can ask the local authority to carry out an assessment if they think the child needs an EHC plan.
- A young person can request an assessment themselves if they're aged 16 to 25.
- A request can also be made by anyone else who thinks an assessment may be necessary, including doctors, health visitors, teachers, parents and family friends.

The person requesting the EHC plan completes the referral document and adds as much evidence to support the referral.

Before the referral can be submitted the referrer has to

- ❖ Discuss the referral with a SEND case officer – at least 6 weeks before.
- ❖ Complete the form fully providing detailed information about the child's education, health and care needs
- ❖ Have included details about the SEN notional budget
- ❖ Evidence that the parent has been fully engaged in planning and delivering the programme of work at SENS.
- ❖ Provide evidence about the graduated approach – assess, plan, do, review.
- ❖ Provide evidence of at least 2-3 terms of purposeful and relevant intervention.
- ❖ Engage with the appropriate specialist professionals from education, health and social care.
- ❖ Received advice and acted upon it.
- ❖ Provided clear and consistent evidence of the educational needs of the child including academic attainment and rate of progress.
- ❖ Provide information about the nature, context and extent of the child or young person's SEND.
- ❖ Provided, as necessity, a report from Dudley LA Educational Psychologist.
- ❖ Demonstrated the type of intervention used, e.g. 1:1, small group, the frequency and duration of the support during the week and over what period of time.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If the authority decide to carry out an assessment parents may be asked for:

- any reports from the child's school, nursery or childminder
- doctors' assessments of the child
- a letter about the child's needs
- all agencies listed on the referral document will be asked for another report. These agencies will ask to see the child in the school setting to enable them to provide up to date information and gather further evidence from class teachers, support staff and anyone working with the child.

The local authority will then tell parents, within 16 weeks, whether an EHC plan is going to be made for the child.

See Dudley's Local Offer for further information. <https://dudleyci.co.uk/send-local-offer>