



HOUNSLOW SENDIASS

Information Advice and Support Service

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) Factsheet

Summary

This factsheet includes information on what an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is, what it should include, who may need one, how they are reviewed and what to do if you are unhappy with your child's EHCP.

What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?

An EHCP is a legal document written by the local authority for children and young people aged zero to 25 years who are in education or training. The document describes:

- a child or young person's needs
- the support they require to help them achieve their long and short-term goals

An EHCP includes access to additional funding to help meet your child's or young person's special educational needs, when they are no longer met through SEN Support.

Who needs an EHCP?

Most children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will have their needs met within a mainstream education setting.

However, sometimes children may need additional support to help them with their education, health and social care needs. This is what is provided through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). If SEN Support is not adequate in supporting your child's SEN needs, then they may be eligible for an EHCP.

If you think your child is eligible for an EHCP, they need an Education, Health and Care needs assessment. You or your child's school can ask the local authority to consider making this assessment. When the assessment is complete the local authority decides whether to issue an EHCP.

What does an EHCP include?

The SEND Code of Practice says that EHC plans should:

- Be based on decisions made openly, 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 Paragraph 61.

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

A: The views, interests and aspirations of you and your child or the young person.

B: Your child’s or young person’s special educational needs.

C: Health needs related to their SEN or to a disability.

D: Social care needs related to their SEN or to a disability.

E: Planned outcomes for your child or the young person.

F: Special educational provision. Provision must be specified for each and every need shown in section B.

G: Any health provision required that is related to their SEN or to a disability.

H1: Any social care provision that must be made for your child or young person under 18.

H2: Any other social care provision required that is related to their SEN or to a disability.

I: The name and type of the school-maintained nursery school, post-16 institution or other institution to be attended.

J: Details of how any personal budget will support particular outcomes and the provision it will be used for.

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: 0 to 25 years - GOV.UK](#) Section 9 Paragraph 62 and Section 9 Paragraph 63.

You can find a detailed checklist covering each of these sections at the IPSEA [EHC PLAN CHECKLIST](#).

What decisions can I make?

It is important for you and your child to be involved in the decision-making process.

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. (Section 9 Paragraph 21)
- 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. (Section 9 Paragraph 168)

The local authority, school or college should help you to take part in decision making. Hounslow SENDIASS can also offer you impartial advice and support in this area.

EHCP reviews

EHCPs must be reviewed at least once every 12 months by the local authority. This must be done in partnership with you and your child or young person.

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 the right to appeal if the local authority proposes to cease the EHCP.

An EHCP can be maintained until they are 25. However, the plan will be ceased if the young person:

- Goes to university
- Gets a job
- Tells the local authority that they no longer want their EHCP
- No longer needs special help and the local authority decides to cease the EHCP

Personal Budgets

All young people with an EHCP and parents of children with EHCPs can request a personal budget.

The SEND Code of Practice defines personal budgets as:

- 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. (Section 9 Paragraph 95)

What can I do if I am not happy about my child's EHCP?

If you are unhappy with your child's EHCP, you should contact the school, college or local authority to discuss your concerns.

Hounslow SENDIASS can help you with impartial advice and support. We can also explain what options are available to you, such as independent disagreement resolution, mediation or appeal.

What happens if I move to another local authority area?

If you are moving to a different local authority, you should contact both the old and new local authority. The new local authority will amend your child's EHCP and name the new school or college.

The old local authority must transfer the EHCP on the day of the move, provided it has had 15 working days' notice.

Where can I go for more help?

Both the Hounslow SENDIASS and Hounslow Local Offer have pages with further information on EHCPs.

View the Local Offer's pages on EHCPs here: [Education, Health and Care Plans – London Borough of Hounslow](#)

For independent information, advice and support on EHCPs, please contact the Hounslow SENDIASS team.