

All about Statementing & the New EHC Plans (UK)

All about Education, Health and Care Plans (E.H.C. Plans / EHCP)

What's the difference between E.H.C. Plans and Statementing?

About Education, Health & Care Plans

About the new approach...

The government has introduced a new way to support children and young people with special educational needs/disabilities and their families. The Children and Families Bill aims to improve services for vulnerable children and support strong families (SEND). The reforms will create a real change in the way that education, health and social care professionals work with families and young people.

What is an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHC Plan)?

The Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is a new way of working that puts you – children, young people and families – at the very centre of the assessment and planning process, to make sure that your views are not only heard but also understood. This is called person centred planning and is all about increasing your choice and control. This new process focuses on what is important for children and young people – what they and you want to achieve now and in the future. Young people and families have helped to design the plan and so far people are saying that they feel more listened to and more involved in decision-making in ways that make sense to them.

Who is an EHC Plan for?

The EHC plan is for children and young people who have special educational needs (SENs) and/or disabilities. Your child's needs will be assessed by education, health and social care professionals to see if you should have a EHC plan. You can talk to your child's school, college or nursery about eligibility for an assessment. For example, your school's special educational needs coordinator (SENco) will be able to help.

What age does an EHC Plan cover?

Disabled and SEN children and young adults aged 0-25 as long as they are in some form of education.

How long does it take?

The whole process lasts up to 20 weeks.

How does it work?

At the start of the assessment, you and your child will have the opportunity to say what's working, what's not working and what you think needs to change. A facilitator will help you with this. At the same time a coordinator will gather information from the other people involved and arrange a meeting for you all to agree the outcomes and how you think they can best be met. Remember that this is all about a partnership between you and the professionals involved to make the right decisions for you as a family.

Near the end of this period, the multi-agency group will meet again to confirm the EHC plan and decide what support you might be eligible for to meet the agreed outcomes. The plan will be clear about how much things cost and will have agreed timescales to make sure that it is updated and reviewed regularly, for example annually. The plan will go with your child or the young person as they change services, change schools and also when they leave school and go on to college, work-related training or employment.

What's Different About The EHC Plan?

- An Education, Health and Care assessment looks at life beyond education and brings the different services together.
- The local authority is responsible for ensuring that assessments are effectively coordinated.
- The EHC plan has replaced the statutory assessment and statement of special educational needs (Statementing), although it will take a few years to 'convert' those who are currently on Statements.
- The EHC assessment and planning process needs to be completed in 20 weeks, whereas the statutory assessment (which may lead to a statement of SEN) needed to be completed in 26 weeks.

How might this affect the support my child gets?

The EHC assessment and planning process is designed to focus on agreeing individual outcomes and the support to achieve these will be tailored to each child or young person's range of needs. This could include helping families to make best use of support available – from the services available in the local offer, from the local community, or provided by statutory services where applicable.

The whole truth and nothing but...

This Myth section has been put together by the [Council for Disabled Children](#) and is designed to dispel some of the myths associated with the progress and implications of the Children & Families Bill, with a specific focus on the transition from Statements to the new Education, Health and Care plans. Below are some of the key myths we hear which are **NOT TRUE**.

'My child's statement ended on 1st September 2014'

From September 2014 there will be a transitional period (up to 3 years) during which statements can be transferred into EHC plans. A statement will remain valid until an EHC plan has been developed, or is agreed to be no longer necessary.

'I've been told that EHC plans are the same as statements and have the same legal duties'

Like Statements, any specified and quantified Special Educational Provision in the EHC plan will have to be delivered by the local authority and can continue up until the age of 25 if a young person stays in education or training.

'My LA has said that only pupils with statements who receive a certain level of funding will get an EHC plan'

The threshold for EHC plans is the same as those for Statements, that is where the special educational provision necessary to meet the child or young persons needs cannot be reasonably provided within the resources normally available to mainstream schools and early years settings.

'I have been told that if I'm not happy with anything in my child's EHC plan I can appeal'

The educational aspects of an EHC Plan can be appealed to the SEND tribunal in the same way as those of a statement.

'When I ask for my child to be assessed under the new system the LA must carry out a social care assessment now as well as an assessment of his educational needs'

No this is not true. The duty to assess a child's needs is only in relation to their educational needs not any social care needs they – or you as their carer – may also have. This type of assessment still has to be triggered separately by contacting your children's social work team. Once it has happened any information should be recorded in the EHC plan.