

AMENDING AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN YEAR 6 ONWARDS - PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Amending - when and why?

- An amendment to an existing Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan should usually occur after an annual review when there are significant changes identified to the current EHC Plan.
- Education, Health and Care Plans will always be amended in preparation for a child moving onto their next phase of education (e.g. junior to secondary), subject to the EHC Plan remaining appropriate, which should be discussed at the annual review meeting.
- The EHC Plan may be amended at other times, e.g. following a change of address or school, or where there are changes in health or social care provision resulting from minor or specific changes in the child or young person's circumstances.
- When amending an EHC Plan from Year 6 onwards, outcomes in the plan will now focus on the four Preparing for Adulthood areas (described below).
- The Code of Practice states that EHC Plans are not expected to be amended on a very frequent basis.

What are the Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Outcomes?

- The four PfA areas are:
 - ◆ **Higher education and/or employment** (exploring different employment options, such as support for becoming self-employed and help from supported employment agencies)
 - ◆ **Independent Living** (children and young people having choice, freedom and control over their lives, their support, and their accommodation and living arrangements, including supported living)
 - ◆ **Participation in Society** (having friends and supportive relationships, and participating in and contributing to the local community)
 - ◆ **Health** (Being as healthy as possible in adult life)

Why is it important to be considering the PfA outcomes?

- The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced a new SEND system. At the heart of these changes is a commitment to ensuring that young people achieve better outcomes.
- From year 9 onwards, those supporting young people are required to focus on ordinary life outcomes such as paid employment; independent living (choice and control over your life and support, and good housing options); community participation (friends, relationships and community inclusion); and health and wellbeing. The Code of Practices encourages Local Authorities to start to plan early for children. In Portsmouth, this will start from Year 6.

Notice of Proposed Changes to the EHC Plan

- Once it is agreed that the Local Authority will amend the EHC Plan, the SEN team will send a 'Notice of Proposed Changes to the Education, Health, and Care Plan' document.
- This document will be based on the current EHC Plan and highlight the changes by using **strike through** and highlighting blue any deletions and putting into any additions in **yellow**
- A copy of the original / current EHC Plan will have also been sent to you for your information.
- The EHC Plan template is different for pupils who are in Year 6 or above and instead of using the four broad areas of need (Communication & Interaction, Cognition & Learning, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties and Sensory and / or Physical Needs), the four Preparing for Adulthood areas are used.
- As the broad areas of need do not easily fit into the four Preparing for Adulthood areas, you may see that some special educational needs detailed in section B, outcomes in section E and provision in section F have been separated under different sections, however the content will be the same as the original EHC Plan, unless highlighted in yellow or blue.

What do you need to do now?

You now have until the date detailed in the accompanying letter to:

- Indicate your preferred school placement for Year 7 (if your child attends a school that they can continue to attend in Year 7, then it is assumed they will remain in this placement, unless discussed in the Year 6 Annual Review).

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Visiting schools / education placements

- It is strongly recommended that you visit any new school / education placements before you express your preference. It is suggested that you speak with the Special Needs Co-ordinator (or the person who performs that role) of that establishment to discuss your child's needs and ideally take a copy of the draft EHC Plan with you.
- The Portsmouth SEND Information, Advice and Support Service may be able to support you with visits to schools.

What will happen next?

- If you have requested changes to the EHC Plan, these will be considered by a senior member of the SEN team. We will discuss with you if there any issues with making the requested changes.
- A member of the SEN team will meet with you, if requested, to discuss any issues regarding the proposed changes to the EHC Plan or placement.
- The SEN team will work closely with any school or educational placement not able to meet a child/ young person's needs to resolve any issues regarding placement.
- It may be necessary for the SEN team to present your child / young person's case to the Inclusion Support Panel (ISP) to ask advice about school placement.
- Once an appropriate educational placement has been agreed and any changes to the EHC Plan discussed and agreed changes made, the EHC Plan will be finalised and a copy of the Final Amended EHC Plan will be sent to you, school / educational placement and the other professionals who contributed to the EHC Plan.
- The final Amended EHC Plan should be received within 8 weeks of receiving the Notice of Proposed Changes to the Education, Health, and Care Plan document. You will be informed if there is a delay to this timescale.
- When the Amended EHC Plan is finalised, this will open up your right to appeal about particular sections of the plan. This will be explained in more detail at that stage.

Useful contacts:

- Council for Disabled Children: www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk
- Portsmouth SEND Information, Advice and Support - free, independent and impartial support for parents, carers and young people: www.portsmouthsendiass.info
- Preparing for Adulthood: www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk

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- Dynamite is the voice for the young people of Portsmouth aged 14-25 who have a disability (ie: Special Educational Need, Learning Disability or Physical Disability), to increase awareness and influence issues which concern their lives. [http://
www.portsmouthsendiass.info/en/YP:Get_involved](http://www.portsmouthsendiass.info/en/YP:Get_involved)
- Portsmouth Local Offer: www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org.uk
- Portsmouth City Council - Inclusion Service, SEN Team: 02392 841238.

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