

EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS

What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?

- The Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan is a legal document for children and young people with special educational needs.
- They set out a child or young person's special educational needs and the support that is required to meet these needs, including a suitable educational placement. They focus on intended outcomes and the steps that need to be taken to achieve those outcomes.
- An EHC Plan can only be issued after a child or young person has gone through the process of EHC needs assessment. At the end of that process, the local authority will make a decision, either to issue an EHC plan or not.

What is the criteria for an Education, Health and Care Plan?

- The special educational needs of most children and young people can be met with the additional help that is available from early years settings, schools and post-16 education providers. For children and young people with the most complex needs, additional support is required over and above that which is ordinarily available.
- Children and young people aged 0 to 25 years will be eligible for an EHC plan if there is evidence from the EHC needs assessment that their needs cannot be reasonably provided for within the resources normally available to mainstream early years settings, schools and post-16 education providers.

What support is available for those who don't require an Education Health and Care Plan?

- Most children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities receive additional help and support from the resources ordinarily available to their educational setting. The SEN Code of Practice refers to this as SEN Support. Further information about what additional support is available in each school and college can be found on their published SEN Information Report.



Who can make a request for an Education, Health and Care needs assessment?

- The following people have a specific right to ask a local authority to conduct an Education, Health and Care needs assessment for a child or young person aged between 0 and 25:
 - ◆ the child's parent
 - ◆ a young person over the age of 16 but under the age of 25, and
 - ◆ a person acting on behalf of a school or post-16 education provider (this should ideally be with the knowledge and agreement of the parent or young person where possible)
- Early years settings, schools and post 16 education providers will only usually make a request for a EHC needs assessment once they have sufficient evidence that their efforts to support a pupil from the ordinarily available provision is insufficient to meeting a likely special educational need.
- Portsmouth City Council will only consider professional's request for an EHC needs assessment on the request for EHC needs assessment form (available from Portsmouth City Council), together with appropriate supporting evidence including the 'SEN Support Plan', and reports from any professionals that are involved with your child / young person.
- Parents and Young People can make a direct request to the local authority for an EHC needs assessment by emailing the SEN Team:

SEN.education@secure.portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Or in writing to: Portsmouth City Council, SEN Team, Floor 2, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2EA

- Once the request has been received the SEN Team will contact the child / young person's educational setting to request the information detailed above. The local authority will strongly encourage parents to discuss their concerns with the child / young person's educational setting in the first instance.

Outcome of EHC needs assessment

- If the assessment demonstrates that the child / young person has significant, complex and long-term Special Educational Needs that require *provision which is additional and different to that available to the majority of their peers* then it is likely that the local authority will issue an EHC plan for the child / young person. The EHC plan will then be reviewed on annually through the Annual Review process.

SEND



- Not all EHC needs assessments will result in the local authority issuing an EHC plan. Usually, this will be because the outcome of the assessment demonstrates that the child / young person's Special Educational Needs can be met from the provision ordinarily available to educational settings at 'SEN Support' level. If this is the decision, the local authority will issue a Summary of Assessment for the child / young person. This will encompass the range of evidence gathered in the EHC needs assessment and the suggested recommendations made by professionals. However, it is an advisory document only - it does not have the same legal status or offer the same protections as an EHC plan and the education setting, local authority or health authority partners cannot be compelled to implement the recommendations. The Summary of Assessment will not name an educational setting.
- A parent / young person's recourse to the First Tier Tribunal - SEND will be opened on the local authority's issue of a formal decision and the Summary of Assessment

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
- Portsmouth Local Offer: www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org.uk
- Department for Education: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education
- Portsmouth City Council - Inclusion Service, SEN Team: 02392 841238
- Preparing for Adulthood: www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk
- 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

SEND

