

# Education, Health and Care Plans – The Two-Side Guide

## What is an Education, Health and Care assessment?

An assessment is a way of finding out about you. It will include what you like to do now, and when you are older, and the kind of help you might need to do it. People who are working with you will also be asked what they think might help you. At the end of the assessment, we might decide that to make sure everyone does all they can to help you, an Education, Health and Care Plan is needed.

## What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?

An Education, Health and Care Plan is all about you. It tells the story about how we are going to help you to overcome challenges you might face at your early years setting, school or at college. Your plan tells the people who work with you what support you need and helps them to work together to make sure you get this help. It is often called an 'EHC plan'. EHC plans include a lot of information, and it usually takes about 20 weeks from when we decide you may need a plan to the finished plan being sent to you.

## Why will this be happening?

We want to work together to support you to get the best from education. For us to make that happen, we need to understand what is difficult for you, and what might make things work better. That is why it is important you are part of this and feel happy to share your thoughts, feelings and ways you think we can help you. We want you to feel safe, secure and able to have the best experience you can whilst you go to school or college.

## Will I get an Education, Health and Care Plan?

Not everyone needs an EHC plan. Once we have all the information we need, we will have a meeting with all the people who are important in helping you. You and your parents or carers will be invited too. At this meeting we may decide a plan is the best way to help you. When this happens, we will make sure we all work together to make your plan happen.

## What if I don't get an Education, Health and Care Plan?

We might decide that a plan isn't right for you. This could be because we think your school is already supporting you and that just now, this is enough help for you. If this happens then you and your parents carers will be invited to a meeting with a Special Educational Needs Officer. This meeting is called the 'Way Forward' meeting. At this meeting we will look

together at getting the best out of the support which you already have, and think about what might need to happen in the future.

## **What will be in an EHC plan?**

Your plan is all about you. It will tell us what things you enjoy doing and what things you might want to try in the future. It will tell us about how you communicate, what you want to achieve and why you feel you need help with things. It will tell us what you like and don't like about the support you might receive and how often it will be needed. When it is finished, the plan will tell everyone at your school, any doctors or nurses, or any social workers you know all about you and how we've agreed to work together to support you. We will check every year to see how it's all working out, and to see if we need to change things – we call this an 'Annual Review'.

## **What if I need to know more?**

You can talk to your teacher, social worker or health worker. Or you could visit the local offer website at <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/localoffer>. You can also contact the local Special Educational Needs & Disability Information, Advice Service (SENDIAS) known locally as Supportive Parents for independent advice at <https://www.supportiveparents.org.uk> or phone 0117 9897725

## **Education, Health and Care Plan Guide**

1. Your school will ask you and your parents or carers about what things you are finding difficult at school/college. They will ask you what you think would help you. They will also be interested in you telling them the type of things you enjoy doing, what things you would like to do and what you wish to do in the future. This is all about you, so we need to hear what you have to say. Your school will put together an action plan with you and your parents or carers to see if this will help you – this is part of something called 'The Graduated Response'
2. If, after a while you need a bit more help, then your school will talk to you and your parents or carers about an Education Health and Care Assessment and how they can ask the Special Educational Needs team for one of these. This is the start of a way of getting the right help and support for you and recording it in an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan.
3. Once an assessment has been agreed, you, your parent or carer and often with someone from school will meet with other people who maybe able to help you. They will be looking at what extra support might be right for you. They will ask you what you think, and they will start to write down your thoughts, wishes and aspirations on a 'draft EHC plan'. This is a first try at writing your plan, which everyone can look at and decide to change if they need to.
4. You will be invited to meet these people at your Joint Planning meeting where you will all look at the draft plan together. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to talk about how you feel. This will help everyone there to put the finishing touches to your new plan, and to start helping you.

5. After the meeting your draft EHC plan will be finished off and sent to you and your parents. It will also be sent to the everyone that came to your Joint Planning meeting. This is your chance to make sure it says things that you have said. This plan is yours and we want everyone to understand what you need and how we can help you to feel supported.
6. If you or your parent or carer feel that something has been missed, or that you don't understand something, then this is your chance to share that with us. We want to help you to have the best support possible, so your thoughts and feelings are important to us.
7. We will send you and the others involved a copy of your final plan. This will tell us all what you are expecting from us and from the other adults that are going to help support you during that year.
8. . Every year we will look at your plan with you to make sure it has helped you. This is called an Annual Review.