

# **Guidance for Parents about what are EHCPs and how can you apply for one**

## What are EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans)?

EHCP stands for Education, Health and Care Plan. It is also known as an EHC plan. EHCPs are available for those up to the age of 25. They are for children and young people who need more support than that which is available through SEN Support. To attend a special needs school, an EHCP is required (although many learners with EHCPs also attend mainstream schools).

An EHCP has three main purposes:

1. To identify the educational, health and social needs of the child or young person;
2. To set out the support that is needed to meet those needs;
3. To describe the desired outcomes of the support given.

An EHCP is a legal document, and the Local Authority (LA) must provide the special educational provision that it describes. If the provision cannot be provided within the learner's current school, then the LA is required to find a suitable placement elsewhere.

## How can you get an EHCP for a child or young person?

To get an EHC plan, you must ask the LA for an EHC needs assessment. This request is usually made by the SENCo, and should be done with the agreement of the learner and their parents or carers where possible. Parents and other parties can also make the request, as can the learner themselves if they are aged between 16 and 25.

Within 6 weeks, the LA must decide whether or not an EHC needs assessment is needed.

When making a decision about whether to carry out an EHC needs assessment, the LA will expect to see evidence of the learner's needs, and of the action already taken by the school or setting as part of SEN Support, so it is important that the 'asses, plan, do, review' cycle of SEN Support is well documented.

The process from initial request of an EHC needs assessment to when the final EHC plan is issued should take no more than 20 weeks. (There are some exemptions to this, which are detailed in chapter 9 of the [SEND Code of Practice](#).)

## **What is included within an EHCP?**

The exact content and layout of an EHCP document is agreed locally, and varies in each LA. However, they must contain the following sections, which must be labelled using the letters given. They do not have to be in this order.

Section A: The views, interests and aspirations of the learner and their parents/carers.

Section B: The child or young person's special educational needs.

Section C: The child or young person's health needs which are related to their SEND.

Section D: The child or young person's social care needs which are related to their SEND.

Section E: The outcomes sought for the child or the young person. This should include outcomes for adult life. The EHC plan should also identify the arrangements for the setting of shorter-term targets.

Section F: The special educational provision required by the child or the young person.

Section G: Any health provision required (related to their SEND).

Section H1: Any social care provision required.

Section I: The name and type of the school or setting to be attended.

Section J: Personal budget (if applicable)

Section K: The advice and information gathered during the EHC needs assessment is attached here (in appendices).

## **What is an Annual Review?**

By law, the EHC plan must be reviewed each year. In a school setting the Annual Review process may be completed by the SENCo or by the class teacher, or a combination of both, with involvement from the learner themselves, their parents or carers, and any professionals involved with the child or young person, such as social workers, therapists, teaching assistants and medical professionals.

This is an opportunity for each section to be changed or updated with any new information, such as newly identified needs, changes to the views, interests and aspirations of the learner, or any changes to provision. The whole process of completing an Annual Review takes 8 weeks, so it should be started at least 8 weeks before the

anniversary of the EHCP's first issue date. If the learner is in a transition year, for example moving from nursery to Primary school, from Primary school to Secondary school, or from Secondary school to post-16 provision, these deadlines may need to be brought forward to meet statutory deadlines.



Hi, I'm Hannah and I'm the Segment Manager for Twinkl SEND. Before joining Twinkl in 2021 I taught pupils with Special Educational Needs for 10 years, working first as a classroom teacher in a small SEN primary school, and then as a teacher and department lead in a Resourced Provision within a mainstream secondary school. To keep up to date with Twinkl SEND blogs and resources, you can follow the Twinkl SEND team on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) or [Twitter](#), or join our Twinkl SEN educators [facebook group](#).