

Leicester Community Academy - (The charity Leicester Educational Trust runs the school Leicester Community Academy)

EHC Plan

The new Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan will bring together all of the services that currently support you or your family.

The EHC plan will provide the same statutory protection as the Statement of Special Educational Needs, and now covers children from birth up to the age of 25 where needed.

The EHC needs assessments and plans are now a part of the service that Leicester Community Academy offer and started in September 2014.

For further information please visit:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/.../Education_health_and_care_plans.pdf

What does 'Special Educational Needs' mean?

A child has special educational needs (SEN) if he or she has learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for him or her to learn than most other children of about the same age.

Many children will have special educational needs of some kind during their education. Schools and other organisations can help most children overcome the barriers their difficulties present quickly and easily. A few children will need extra help for some or all of their time in school.

Special educational needs could mean that a child has difficulties with:

- **Communication and interaction** - in expressing themselves or understanding what others are saying
- **Cognition and learning** - in gaining basic skills in school such as reading and writing
- **Social, emotional or mental health difficulties** - making friends or relating to adults or behaving properly in school
- **Sensory and/or physical** - such as hearing or visual impairment, which might affect them in school or a medical or health condition which may slow down a child's progress and/or involves treatment that affects his or her education.

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Children make progress at different rates and have different ways they learn best. Teachers take account of this when they organise lessons and teach. Children making slower progress, or having difficulties in one area, may be given extra help or different lessons to help them succeed.

You should not assume - just because your child is making slower progress than you expected or the teachers are providing different support, help or activities in class - that your child has special educational needs. Every school has a special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO). If you have any concerns about your child you should contact the class teacher and the SENCO to discuss these.

What support is there for special educational needs and disabilities?

Before your child starts school or in early education:

Your child's early years are a very important time for their physical, emotional, intellectual and social development. When your health visitor or doctor makes a routine check, they may suggest there could be a problem, or you may already have worries of your own. You can talk to your doctor or health visitor who will be able to give you advice about the next steps to take and who can help.

If your child's needs are severe or complex, your health visitor or doctor may approach the other services on your behalf.

If your child is at an early education setting or at school:

If you have any concerns about your child's progress you should first talk to your child's class teacher. In schools (or pre-school) there is a SEN Co-ordinator (SENCO), who is responsible for co-ordinating help for children with special educational needs. You will be able to talk over your concerns with the teacher and/or SENCO and find out what the school thinks. The SENCO will be able to explain what happens next.

Working together with your child's teachers will often help to sort out worries and problems. Schools can offer strategies and support, set extra targets and when needed involve additional professionals to help, such as educational psychologists.

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Assessments and Plans

What is an Early Help Assessment?

In April 2014 the Early Help Assessment replaced the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). The Early Help Assessment is to be used for Children and families who may need support from a wide range of local agencies. Where they would benefit from co-ordinated support from more than one agency there should be an Early Help Assessment.

What is an Education Health Care Needs Assessment?

The Children and Families Act - Part 3 will introduce education, health and care (EHC) plans for children and young people with the most complex special educational needs. This will replace the statement of special educational needs assessment.

The majority of children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities will have their needs met within local mainstream settings. Some children and young people may require an EHC needs assessment in order for the local authority to decide whether it is necessary for it to make provision in accordance with an EHC plan.

This system covers 0 – 25 year olds with special needs or disabilities.

What is an Education, Health Care Plan

Timescales for the process are set out in the Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 - 25 years.

The purpose of an EHC plan is to:

- make special educational provision to meet the special educational needs of the child or young person
- secure the best possible outcomes for them across education, health and social care
- prepare them for adulthood as they get older

To achieve this, local authorities use the information from the assessment to:

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- find out and record the views, interests and aspirations of the parents and child or young person
- provide a full description of the child or young person's special educational needs and any health and social care needs
- agree outcomes across education, health and social care based on the child or young person's needs, hopes and aspirations
- specify the provision required and how education, health and care services will work together to meet the child or young person's needs and support the achievement of the agreed outcomes

Families with an EHC plan will be able to request a personal budget to buy services they need.

Who can request an EHC Needs Assessment?

The following people have a right to ask for an education, health and care needs assessment of 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
- a person acting on behalf of a school or post-16 institution (this should ideally be with the knowledge and agreement of the parent or young person where possible)

Anyone else can bring a child or young person who has (or may have) SEN to the attention of the local authority, particularly where they think an EHC needs assessment may be necessary. This could include:

- foster carers
- health and social care professionals
- early years practitioners
- youth offending teams or probation services
- those responsible for education in custody
- school or college staff

Bringing a child or young person to the attention of the local authority will be undertaken on an individual basis where there

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are specific concerns. This should be done with the knowledge and, where possible, agreement of the child's parent or the young person.

When should we request an EHC needs assessment?

Most requests are made by educational settings (usually the school), they should have evidence of support and interventions already in place and will hold information on progress made to date. An educational setting is expected to make a request where: despite the setting having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the special educational needs of the child, the child has not made expected progress

What are the admissions arrangements for pupils with an EHC Plan or Statement? How do schools places get allocated?

Students change school at set periods in their school career:

- Pre-school to Nursery
- Nursery to Infant
- Infants to Juniors
- Juniors to Secondary.

If your child has a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan you will get a letter explaining that the process of requesting the next school starts in the Summer term of the year prior to transfer. For example you will get a letter in the Summer of 2016 if your child will change school (transfer) in September 2017. You will be invited to a review of your child's statement or EHC plan and asked to start to consider options.

During the Winter term you will be asked for your school preference for the following September. Next we have to consult with schools, this is where we ask the school if they can meet the needs of your child, we will do this when you have told us which school you would like them to go to. After a school is agreed it will be named on the EHC plan and this will be sent to you.

Reviewed: September 2016

Next Review: September 2017