



Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan

What are they? Who needs one?
What do they include?



In partnership with



What is an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan?

An Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan describes your child's special educational needs (SEN) and the help they will get to meet them. An EHC plan also includes any health and care provision that is needed.

It is a legal document written by the Council and is intended to ensure that children and young people who have the most complex needs receive the support they require.

An EHC plan can start from a child's birth and continue into further education and training, or it can be put in place at any point in between.

What does the law say?

The SEND Code of Practice says:

“ The purpose of an EHC plan is to make special educational provision to meet the special educational needs of the child or young person, to secure the best possible outcomes for them across education, health and social care and, as they get older, prepare them for adulthood.

”

Who needs an EHC plan?

Most children and young people with special educational needs will have help given to them without the need for an EHC plan. This is called SEN support.

The purpose of SEN support is to help children achieve the outcomes or learning objectives that have been set for them.

Some children and young people may not make the progress expected of them even with this help. When this happens the Council will carry out an EHC needs assessment. A few children and young people have such significant difficulties needs that an EHC needs assessment should not be delayed.

You or your child's school can ask the Council to carry out an EHC needs assessment. When this assessment is finished Bromley must decide whether to issue an EHC plan.

If your child has or may have special needs and may need provision to be made via an EHC plan, the Council must conduct an EHC needs assessment. You do not have to prove that an EHC plan is definitely necessary to obtain an assessment, you just have to show it may be necessary.

What does the law say?

The SEND Code of Practice says:

“ In considering whether an EHC needs assessment is necessary, the local authority should consider whether there is evidence that despite the early years provider, school or post-16 institution having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the special educational needs of the child or young person, the child or young person has not made expected progress.

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What does an EHC plan include?

EHC plans should:

- be based on decisions made openly, and with parents, children and young people
- describe what the child or young person can do
- be clear, concise, understandable and accessible
- consider how best to achieve the outcomes for the child or young person
- take into account the evidence from the EHC needs assessment
- specify clear outcomes
- consider alternative ways of providing support if a parent or young person wishes it, such as having a Personal Budget
- show how education, health and care provision will be co-ordinated
- be forward looking, such as anticipating, planning and commissioning for important transition points in a child or young person's life
- describe how informal support as well as formal support from statutory agencies can help in achieving agreed outcomes
- have a review date.

There is a full list of principles and requirements in the SEND Code of Practice.

Every EHC plan must include at least 12 sections, but each local authority can decide how to set these out.

Where the child or young person is in or beyond year 9, the EHC plan must also include the provision required by your child or young person to help prepare for adulthood and independent living.

How will I be involved?

Your views, and your child's views, are really important.

The Council, the school or college should help you take part and involve you in decision making. If you would like help to do this, please get in touch with us. We can also give you information on other sources of help, and on what to do if you do not feel that you have been heard or listened to.

What does the law say?

The SEND Code of Practice says:



Local authorities must consult the child and the child's parent or the young person throughout the process of assessment and production of an EHC plan.



Can I request a particular school?

The law says that parents or the young person has a right to request that a particular school, college or other institution is named in the EHC plan.

The Council must agree to this request unless:

- it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person, or
- the attendance of the child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, or the efficient use of resources

Will there be a review of the EHC plan?

The Council must review the EHC plan at least once every 12 months. This must be done in partnership with you and your child or the young person, and must take account of your views, wishes and feelings.

The Council must decide whether to keep the plan as it is, make changes, or cease to maintain it within four weeks of the review meeting. You have a right of appeal if the Council proposes to cease the EHC plan.

For some young people an EHC plan will continue until they are 25. However, the plan will stop if the young person:

- goes to university
- gets a job
- tells the Council they no longer want their EHC plan
- no longer needs special help and the Council decides that it should cease

What does the law say?

The SEND Code of Practice says:

“ Reviews must be undertaken in partnership with the child and their parent or the young person, and must take account of their views, wishes and feelings, including their right to request a Personal Budget.

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Where does the funding come from?

Bromley is responsible for ensuring that the special educational needs set out in the EHC plan are met and that the special educational provision is made, whatever their funding arrangements or agreements with other service providers.

All young people with an EHC plan and all parents of children with an EHC plan can ask for a Personal Budget.

What does the law say?

The SEND Code of Practice says:



A Personal Budget is an amount of money identified by the local authority to deliver provision set out in an EHC plan where the parent or young person is involved in securing that provision.



What can I do if I am not happy about the plan?

The first step is to contact your caseworker to discuss your concerns.

We can help with informal mediation and may be able to support you at a meeting. If informal mediation is unsuccessful, this may include independent disagreement resolution, further mediation or going to appeal.

What happens if I move to another local authority?

If you plan to move to another local authority area you should contact the 'old' and the 'new' local authorities so the support specified in the EHC plan will be in place. The 'old' local authority must transfer the EHC plan on the day of the move, as long as it has had 15 working days notice. Following the transfer of the EHC plan it becomes the 'new' authority's responsibility to maintain the EHC plan and name the new school or college.

Where can I find more information?

Our website has a range of useful information advice.
Visit www.bromleyiass.org.uk.

Alternatively, the Bromley Local Offer has a range of information about local services, support and activities available to families, children and young people aged 0 – 25 years who have SEND. Visit www.bromley.gov.uk/localoffer.

Get in touch with us



Email us on iass@bromley.gov.uk
or choicesservice@bromley.gov.uk for our Choice Service



Alternatively, you can text us on 07834 106 347

Call us on 020 8461 7630

Monday to Friday 9.30am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm

or visit www.bromleyiass.org.uk

