

Education, health and care plans (EHCPs)

An EHCP is a local authority plan for children and young people aged up to 25 who need extra support because they have a disability and/or learning difficulty.

EHCPs set out the child's educational, health and social needs and what support will be given to meet those needs.

If you think the special educational need's support your child is getting at school is not enough, you can ask your local authority to do an EHCP assessment. Doctors, health visitors, teachers and family friends can also make a request, if they think it is necessary. If your school is supportive, it's often helpful to make a request together. If you are aged between 16 to 25 you can request an assessment yourself.

As part of the assessment, the local authority may ask you for:

- Reports from your child's school, nursery or child minder
- Doctors' assessments of your child
- Your description of your child's needs.

You should hear within six weeks whether the local authority will do an EHCP assessment. Doing an assessment doesn't always mean that your child will get an EHCP.

The local authority will send you a draft plan first before the final one. You have 15 days to comment and ask for any changes.

Your local authority has 20 weeks to complete the process - from assessment to issuing the EHCP.

The EHCP will name a school for your child. That school must offer your child a place.

An EHCP may include a 'personal budget' to pay for your child's special needs such as extra learning support. You should have a say in how this money is spent.

You can challenge your local authority if:

- It decides not to carry out an assessment
- It decides not to create an EHCP
- You do not agree with the support in the EHCP
- You don't want the school offered in the EHCP.

For information & advice contact the Traveller Movement; telephone: 02076072002
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