

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

An Education Health Care Plan known as an EHCP looks at a child or young person's special educational needs and any health and care needs that they may have in relation to their special educational needs. Practitioners, parents, carers, children and young people together consider what outcomes they would like to see for the child or young person. An EHC plan identifies what will be put in place to work towards these outcomes.

Why are EHC Plans replacing Statements of Special Educational Needs?

The Children and Families Act will be implemented from September 2014. This new law will mean that parents, carers and young people will have more opportunities to express their views and share their aspirations with the practitioners supporting them. There will be a gradual transfer from a Statement of Educational Needs to an EHCP. Each school will have a plan for this initially focusing on key transition points. The Dudley plan is to transfer years 5 and 11 each year over the next 3 years. Year 11 have been done year 5 are in progress and will be completed in May at annual review. Additional information is available on Dudley website: www.dudley.gov.uk

Each Local Authority has developed its own document, however the areas to be covered/included will be the same.

In Dudley an EHCP has 8 sections which looks at:

- Section A1-A5 About Me – This includes views, interests and aspirations of the child/young person and parents/carers.
- Progress and Attendance.
- Summary of Educational Needs. This looks at strengths and skills of the child/young person.
- Summary of Health Needs. This looks at diagnosis, medication or treatment required for the child/young person.
- Summary of Care Needs. This looks at social care needs and may include any short breaks or direct payments received by the child/young person.
- Forward Plan Year 9 Onwards. This looks at considerations where appropriate for Employment, Independent Living, Community Inclusion and planning for Adulthood.
- The Name of school/setting identified to meet these needs.

When will EHC Plans replace SEN Statements?

From 1st September 2014 EHC Plans will replace Statements of SEN. No more SEN Statements will be written. Statements which currently exist will remain valid but will gradually be converted into EHC Plans over the next three and a half years (by March 2018). These conversions will usually take place at key transition points.

Many young people over the age of 16 currently have Learning Disability Assessments (LDA). LDAs will also be replaced by EHC Plans, but over a shorter two year period. Current existing SEN statements and LDA's will continue to have the same legal status. New EHC Plans and conversions will have the same legal status as Statements of SEN and will cover the age range 0 – 25. An EHC Plan for a 19 to 25 year old would only be maintained when specific educational provision is still required