

Education, Health & Care (EHC) Plans and EHC Needs Assessments

Guidance for Post 16 Students

What is an EHC Plan?

An EHC Plan is a document that holds all the information in one place about what a young person wants to achieve from their education and training, and the support they need to do this. It is issued after an assessment of a young person's education, health and care needs. An EHC Plan can last until the young person leaves education and training (to a maximum age of 25 if necessary).

Why might I want an EHC Plan?

If you are expecting to continue in education or training, and think you will need a high level of additional support to do so, you may need an EHC Plan to make sure that the right support is in place. Most young people will be able to access all the support they need without an EHC Plan, and in those cases a full assessment will not be necessary.

An EHC Plan can help coordinate all the services and professionals who are supporting you so they can work with you in a more 'joined up' way.

An EHC Plan can help you have more choice and control over how the support you need is delivered. One example of this is the opportunity to have a Personal Budget - money or services provided instead of, or in combination with, traditional services that the Council and NHS provide. Providing the suggestions do not impact on your health, safety or wellbeing, are legal, and meet the aims in your support plan and the outcomes in your EHC Plan, there can be many different options available.

What will an EHC Plan not help with?

If you do not meet the criteria for particular services without an EHC Plan, having a Plan will not change this. For example, an EHC Plan will not change your eligibility for travel assistance.

An EHC Plan is not likely to help you get a place at a particular college or education provider if that setting has already made a decision not to offer you a place.

Who can I talk to?

If you need help to decide if an assessment/EHC Plan is right for you, support with filling out the form or would like more information, you can talk to the Additional Learning Support Team at your college. You can also talk to an Independent Supporter. Independent Supporters are independent of decision-making professionals and are there to give you impartial information, advice and support to help you through the EHC needs assessment process. You can contact this service by calling 0115 804 1740 or emailing independentsupport@futuresadvice.co.uk.

What happens next?

If you would like to apply for an EHC needs assessment, please contact the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service for an application form, either by phone on 0115 876 4300, by email at special.needs@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, or by writing to: the SEN Service, Building 5, Woolsthorpe Depot, Woolsthorpe Close, Bilborough, Nottingham NG8 3JP. An assessment request form is also available on-line at:

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/education-and-schools/special-educational-needs-service/request-for-statutory-assessment-for-education-health-and-care-plan/

The form should ideally be filled in by you AND by staff at your college or training provider but, if you are not in education, you may send in the form with just your sections completed.

Your family or your college can ask us to start an assessment, but we will not do so without your permission.

The assessment process takes 20 weeks in total, but you will know within 6 weeks whether the Local Authority has agreed to start an assessment. There is a diagram of the process on the next page.

Education, Health & Care (EHC) Assessment Timeline

The assessment process takes a maximum of 20 weeks:



BY THE END OF WEEK 6

The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service receives your EHC assessment request form, filled in by you and your college/training provider.

THE SEN Service gets in touch with you to talk about what will happen next.

Information is collected from some of the people who have worked with you within the last two years.

Professionals read all the information and decide whether to start an assessment:

If an assessment is not required:

You will get a copy of the reports, a letter explaining why an assessment is not needed and details of mediation and appeal. The letter will also be sent to your school/college.

If an assessment is required:

Reports will be requested from your school/college, educational psychologist, health services, social care services and others involved with you.

BY THE END OF WEEK 14

The reports are written and sent to the SEN Service. An Engagement and Advice Worker meets with you to draw up a one page-profile setting out your views, what you like/dislike and what you would like for the future.

Professionals read all the information and decide if an EHC Plan is needed:

If an EHC Plan is not required: You will get a copy of the reports and a letter explaining why an EHC Plan is not needed. You will also be offered the opportunity to meet with an SEN Officer to discuss any concerns you may have, and be sent details of your rights regarding mediation and appeal. The letter about the decision will also be sent to your school/college.

If an EHC Plan is required: the draft Plan is written and sent (along with the reports used to write it), to you and the professionals that wrote the reports.

BY THE END OF WEEK 20

You are invited to comment on the content of the EHC Plan and say which educational setting (such as a college or training provider) you would like naming in Section I the Plan.

The SEN Service considers your response. It consults with educational settings and considers their responses alongside yours. A placement is then identified and named in the Plan.

The final EHC Plan is sent to you and all relevant professionals/services. You will also be sent details about mediation and how to appeal.