



Education, Health and Care Plans – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is an Education, Health and Care Plan used for pre-school children?

- A.** Yes – The Education, Health and Care Plans cover all children and young people from birth to 25 years old.

2. What will happen when someone reaches 25 years old?

- A.** Not all young people will need an ECHP plan until they are 25, most will cease at 18 unless the young person remains in education or training. Where a young person transfers into adult services an individual plan will be made to support any 'transition' into adult care services.

3. What is the different between an Education, Health and Care Support Plan and an Education, Health and Care Plan?

- A.** An Education, Health and Care Plan is a statutory plan which is issued as a result of an Education, Health and Care Plan assessment, as required under the Children and Families Act 2014. An Education, Health and Care Support Plan is a multi-agency plan that may be needed for children and families where they do not meet the statutory thresholds but still need access to multi-agency services.

4. Do I have to continue with the current Statement of Special Educational Needs and Learning Difficulties Assessments whilst Bristol is testing the new forms and process?

- A.** Yes - The current Statement of Special Educational Needs and Learning Difficulties Assessments ensure that parents/carers, children and young people retain their statutory rights.

Education, Health and Care Plans will not provide the same rights until 1 September 2014. We are, therefore, testing the new process alongside the current Statement of Special Educational Needs and Learning Difficulties Assessment (LDA) to make sure we are ready to use the new plans.

A child/young person will continue to have a statement or LDA until the Local Authority advise that it will transition into an EHCP. The Local Authority has until 2016 to convert LDAs and 2018 to convert statements.

5. Do we have to transfer all children with a current statement of Learning Difficulties Assessment over to the new plans in September?

- A.** No – the Government have allowed a 3 year transition period for anyone with a statement or Learning Difficulties Assessment to be moved over to an Education, Health and Care Plan. All statements/LDAs will remain valid until the transfer to a new plan has taken place.

It is likely that most children/young people will be transferred over at their yearly review.



6. Is there a change in the current thresholds for children/young people with a statement or Learning Difficulties Assessment?

- A. No – the current thresholds will remain the same. This means that we expect most children/young people with a statement or LDA to convert into an ECHP.

7. What will happen if it was due to be agreed that a child/young person does not need a Statement or LDA anymore?

- A. In the same way that it would have decided a statement or LDA was not needed, everyone may agree that an Education, Health and Care Plan is not needed, and there are statutory rights of appeal where this maybe the case.

8. What is the difference between a Lead Professional, Key Worker and Assessment Co-ordinator?

- A. We will finalise how all the roles work together before we roll out in September. As part of the test phase we are using:

Lead Professional – this is anyone from education, health, social care or other agency that is the lead for a particular specialism eg Speech and Language Therapist.

Key Worker – this is someone who will support the family to ensure that the child/young person's needs are understood. They might be from education, health, social care, voluntary or community sectors etc. The family can identify who they would like to be their own key worker.

Assessment Co-ordinator – this person will ensure that all information is gathered for the plans and make arrangements for the multi-agency meeting.

9. What will happen if people cannot attend the multi agency planning meeting?

- A. All involved professionals will have had opportunity to provide information for the Education, Health and Care Plan. This information will be available before the meeting.

10. What will happen if professionals do not agree on the best support package for a family?

The meeting is an opportunity for family/carers and, if attending, children/young people to talk about the information everyone has provided. This is also an opportunity for people working in education, health and social care to discuss how they can provide support in an integrated and joined up way that supports the child/young person's needs best for the family.

Priorities for the next 12 months will need to be agreed and, when there is not an agreement, the Local Authority will make a final decision.

11. If a child/young person already has a statement of Learning Difficulties Assessment – will they continue to have a yearly review with an Education, Health and Care Plan?

- A. Yes – EHCPs will continue to be reviewed to ensure they still meet the child/young person's needs.



12. What will happen in the summer holidays when schools are closed and no one from the school is able to input information into the Education part of the EHCP?

- A. The Children and Families Act allow for timescales to be extended where requests are made just before the summer holidays.

13. How will the Education, Health and Care Plans (the paperwork) be shared across all the agencies and family?

- A. The Local Authority is working on how to share this information electronically. We expect the Education, Health and Care Plan that is shared with the family to be recorded in a single IT system / database. Professionals from the different agencies will also do their specialist recording that supports the child and family in their own specialist IT systems where this is required.

14. Why is Bristol testing the new process if the final Code of Practice has not been published yet?

- A. We do know that the Education, Health and Care Plans will be introduced from 1 September 2014 and that there will be amendments to Plans needed before this date. 'Testing' the new process allows everyone involved an opportunity to help us get it right and for families, children and young people to participate and advise on this.