

Script for Video: What is an EHC Plan?

Title slide

Some children or young people with more complex educational needs will receive support through an Education, Health and Care Plan, often referred to as an EHC plan.

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An EHC plan is a legal document maintained by the local authority and is used for children and young people who need a lot of additional support in an educational setting.

It describes your child's special educational needs (or SEN) and the help that your child or young person will need to meet those needs and prepare them for adult life.

Although an EHC plan can include a child's health and social care needs, a child will not get an EHC plan if they only have health and social care needs and do not have any special educational needs.

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Most pupils with special educational needs will have help given to them without the need for an EHC plan. This is called SEN support and we have a separate video which explains how this works in schools.

An Education, Health and Care plan supports a child or young person whose special educational needs cannot be met by the resources and specialist advice usually available to their educational setting.

Many children and young people with EHC plans will still attend a mainstream nursery, school, or college. However, a child or young person will need an EHC plan to go to a specialist school.

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So, just to be clear...



An EHC plan can only be issued after an EHC needs assessment has taken place. However, not all EHC needs assessments will lead to a plan.

If the assessment identifies special educational needs or a disability which the local authority feel can be reasonably met by the nursery, school, or college then they won't issue an EHC plan.

A parent, carer, person with parental responsibility or a young person over the age of 16 years has the right to challenge if they disagree with the local authority decision.

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The purpose of an EHC plan is to make special educational provision (which means support) to meet the special educational needs of the child or young person which were identified in an EHC needs assessment.

The purpose is also to secure the best possible outcomes for them across education, health and social care, and, as they get older, to prepare them for adulthood.

(SEND Code of Practice 2015, Section 9.2)

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Supporting children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities to prepare for adult life may involve helping them to achieve the best outcomes in: employment; further education or training; independent living; health and taking part in the community.

By 'outcomes' we mean what everyone would like your child or young person to be able to achieve in an agreed timeframe with the support in the EHC plan.


(SEND Code introduction to chapter 8 and also section 9.64)

There is a lot of helpful information on the [Preparing for Adulthood website](#).

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An EHC Plan can potentially support a child or young person from 0 – 25 years, as long as the young person is still in some form of education or training (except university) and as long as the outcomes in the EHC Plan have not all been achieved.

This education or training does not have to be in a further education college. It could part of an apprenticeship, traineeship or perhaps a supported internship.



Equally, this education or training does not have to lead to an educational qualification to be maintained in an EHC plan. The Children and Families Act recognises that some young people will need more time and more support to achieve the skills which they need in later life.

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Let's just consider some frequently asked questions. Our service is often asked if an EHC plan will bring more funding which can help support a child in school.

An EHC plan does not in itself bring any additional funding or resources.

However, an EHC needs assessment may have identified special educational needs which were not previously clear. These new needs may trigger additional funding. This will be due to your child's needs not because your child has an EHC plan.

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Parents and carers also ask us if their child will need a diagnosis in order to get an EHC plan

A child or young person will not need a diagnosis of any condition for a request for an EHC needs assessment to be made nor for an EHC plan to be agreed.

EHC plans support children and young people whose more complex learning needs cannot be met by the resources and specialist advice usually available to their learning setting.

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Some parents want to know if an EHC plan will help bring their child the right support when they move up to the next school.

As we mentioned earlier, the law expects the majority of pupils with SEN to have their needs met through the four-stage cycle of SEN support.

This includes accessing specialist advice (with your agreement) if your child continues to make less than expected progress.

The specialist education services in our county of Suffolk support schools to support children & young people aged 0 -25 years and an EHC plan is not needed for schools to access their help.

For children and young people with SEND, it is usual to have a transition meeting between the family, the current school and the next school, before your child moves up. This is where you can discuss your child's needs in detail and explore whether



any further advice or assessment would be helpful. Remember an EHC plan will only be needed for children whose more complex needs cannot be met through the resources and specialist advice usually available to settings.

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Do visit our Suffolk SENDIASS website and YouTube channel to find more information and videos about EHC processes, about education and support for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.

[EHC needs assessments and plans](#)

[Education](#) (including information on SEN, equality, and inclusion)

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This video was made by Suffolk SENDIASS, but every county has an impartial and confidential SEND Information, Advice and Support Service.