

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

0-25

A guide for Parents and Carers living in Barking and Dagenham



What is the 'Local Offer'?

All local authorities have to develop and publish a local offer on their council website. Ours can be found at www.lbbd.gov.uk/localoffer

The purpose of the 'Local Offer' is to:

- Provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available for all children and young people with SEND and their families, (not just those who have an EHC plan); and
- Improve the services that are provided and make them more responsive to local needs and wishes.

Schools must publish a SEN Information Report which you will be able to find on the school's own website page. This report includes how special education needs are assessed and identified, arrangements for consulting parents and young people and involving them in their education. It will include how the school makes adaptations to the curriculum, the teaching approaches and the expertise and training of staff to support children and young people with SEN.

What is an Education Health and Care Plan?

The Education Health and Care Plan (EHC plan) sets out the new way of working for children and young people with more complex needs that puts you-your child/young person and the family at the very centre of the assessment and planning process. This will make sure your views are not only heard but understood. This is called 'person centred planning'. It's all about increasing your choice and control.

You and your child/young person will be asked to contribute to the first part of the plan-this is called Part A. This is where, with a member of staff from your child's educational setting and a case worker from our EHC team you will talk about your child's early years, what they enjoy doing, what is working well for them and what is not working so well. You and your child/young person will be asked to think about what their long-term aspirations are and what specific outcomes you all want. There will also be reports from a number of professionals such as Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Paediatricians and any other professional who is involved in your child/young person.

All this information will then form the actual EHC plan. If applicable, you will be offered the opportunity to have a 'personal budget' so you can have more choice

over the specific services for your child/young person.

This EHC plan will be reviewed every year and you and your child/young person will be invited to that review and able to offer your opinions on what progress your child/young person is making.

The outcomes in the plan will be reviewed and may change as the child/young person progresses or develops.

Who is the EHC plan for?

The EHC plan is for those children and young people who have much more complex special educational needs and disabilities. Also, that the child/young persons needs cannot be fully met from the educational settings own SEN budget and resources. The majority of children/young people's needs can be met adequately within their educational placement, but for a very few children, more specialist support and provision is required. Before an EHC plan can be agreed there has to be agreement from a range of professionals, e.g. schools, early years settings, Portage etc that an EHC plan may be needed.

The educational setting will then discuss this with you. They will then complete an EHC Request and this will be discussed by the multi-agency EHC Panel which meets every fortnight. The panel will decide whether there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the child/young person's needs are complex enough to warrant an EHC assessment.

Even though an assessment is agreed this does not necessarily mean the assessment will lead to a full EHC plan. The EHC panel agrees all draft plans and sometimes we issue a 'note in lieu' which means the plan is not statutory.

You can find out more details about the EHC process by going to our 'Local Offer' website. On the front page there is an animation which will take you through the processes. This animation can be found at: www.lbbd.gov.uk/localoffer

Children in the early years and under compulsory school age

Children in the early years are considered to have SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which requires special educational provision to be made and, when they reach compulsory school age, are likely to have greater difficulty in learning than their peers.

All early years children regardless of need can access early childhood services through children's centres, nurseries, childminders and pre schools. Early Years

children with more complex needs will usually be referred to the Portage Service. This is a home visiting service for children 0-3 with the most complex needs. There is also an early years service for deaf children.

Details about services for very young children can be found at:

<https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/residents/children-young-people-and-families/local-offer/local-offer-early-years-and-childcare/overview/>

Where health professionals believe that a child under compulsory school age has or probably has SEN they must inform you the parents and notify the local authority so that support can be put in place.

Specialist support for early years children could include, health visitors, Portage, speech and language therapists, children's centres or early years specialist teachers such as for the deaf and for autism.

Young people aged 19-25

It is very important to ensure that young people are prepared effectively for adulthood and the decision to provide or continue with an EHC plan should take this into account.

It is important to note that the legislation confirms that education to the age of 25 is **not** an entitlement, but a recognition that some young people need longer to learn and then to consolidate their learning. The local authority, together with the young person, his or parents/carers where appropriate and relevant professionals should use the annual review process to consider whether special educational provision provided through an EHC plan should continue beyond the age of 19. Thus, enabling the young person to progress towards the agreed desired outcomes that will prepare them for adulthood and help them meet their aspirations.

Further education is a really important time for young people and must give them a good foundation to continue learning through living and working in the local community once their college programme has finished.

How does the statutory process work?

At the start of the assessment, you will have the opportunity to look at all your child/young person's needs and consider what support they may need to progress and what desired outcomes you would like to see for the future. You can get support with this process from www.lbbd.gov.uk/residents/children-young-people-and-families/local-offer/local-offer-support-advice-participation-and-

[empowerment/independent-supporters-2/](#)

At the same time the EHC coordinator will collect information and reports from all the other professionals involved with your child/young person.

This whole process takes 20 weeks. During this period, you will meet with your child/young person's educational setting and the EHC coordinator and start to complete part A of the plan.

If agreed, the EHC plan will be very clear about what resources your child/young person needs from education, health and care. These needs may well change as your child becomes older and these changes should be reflected in the annual review.

The plan will move with your child/young person as they change schools, go to college or into work related training or move out of Barking and Dagenham.

The EHC plan is divided into lots of different sections.

Part A-the views interests and aspirations of your child/young person and their history

Part B-the child/young person's special educational needs

Part C-the health needs which are related to their educational needs

Part D-the social care needs which are related to the child/young persons educational needs

Part E-the outcomes sought for the child/young person. This may include outcomes for adulthood depending on the age of the child. It will also include the steps needed to be taken to reach the outcomes

Part F-the special education provision required by the child or young person

Part G- any health provision reasonably required by the learning difficulty or disability which result in the child or young person having SEN. If the child needs an individual Health Care Plan, this should be included in this section.

Part H1-any social care provision which must be made for the child or young person under 18 resulting from section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970

Part H2-any other social care provision reasonably required by the learning difficulties or disabilities which result in the child or young person having SEN. This

will include any adult social care provision being provided to meet a young person's eligible needs (through a statutory care and support plan) under the Care Act 2015

Part I-the name and type of school, nursery, post 16 institution or other institution to be attended by the child or young person and the type of that institution.

Part J-where there is a personal budget, the details of how the personal budget will support particular outcomes in the plan, the provision it will be used for including any flexibility in its usage and the arrangements for direct payments.

Part K-the advice and information gathered during the EHC assessment process

Useful resources

- www.education.gov.uk/childrenand youngpeople/send
- www.cdc.org.uk (Council for Disabled Children)
- www.lbbd.gov.uk/localoffer
- www.pact-uk.org.uk
- www.carerscentre.org.uk/
- <http://www.dabd.org.uk/>

Organisations

Information, Advice and Support Service
Carers of Barking and Dagenham,
334 Heathway, Dagenham, RM10 8NJ
020 8593 4422
carers@carerscentre.org.uk

Just Say Parents Forum
07936 851 199
justsaybdforum@gmail.com

Heathway Parents Forum
512a The Heathway, Dagenham, RM10 7SJ
020 8227 5500
theheathwaycentre@lbbd.gov.uk