

The draft Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan

An information sheet for parents and carers

As you will see the plan is in sections:

- Section A - The views, interests and aspirations of the child and his or her parents or the young person.
- Section B - The child or young person's special educational needs (SEN).
- Section C - The child or young person's health needs which are related to their SEN.
- Section D - The child or young person's social care needs which are related to their SEN or to a disability.
- Section E - The outcomes sought for the child or young person.
- Section F - The special educational provision required by the child or young person.
- Section G - Any health provision reasonably required by the learning difficulties or disabilities which result in the child or young person having SEN.
- Section H - Any Social Care provision reasonably required by the learning difficulties or disabilities which result in the child or young person having SEN.
- Section I - The name and type of the school, maintained nursery school, post-16 institution or other institution to be attended by the child or young person.
- Section J - Personal Budget.
- Section K - Appendices to the plan.

Section I – 'placement', is left blank so that you can tell me where you think your child should be educated. You do not have to name a different school/college/early years provider from your child's present placement, if you do not want to. If you do want to, you can tell me which alternative placement you would like and the reasons for your preference. To help you decide, a list of all the maintained schools in the Hampshire area, both mainstream schools, mainstream schools with specialist resourced provision and special schools is provided in the enclosed booklet *Provision in Hampshire for children and young people with EHC plans*. You can also request a non maintained early years provider, an independent school or independent specialist college on a list approved under section 41 of the Children and Families Act. This list is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-special-schools-and-colleges. Details of local further education colleges can be found on our Local Offer website <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/localoffer>.

If you suggest the name of one of the types of education provider listed above, the local authority must name the provider in the EHC plan unless:

- a) It would be unsuitable to your child's age, ability or aptitude or to his or her special educational needs, or
- b) the attendance of your child at the education provider would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for the children with whom he or she would be educated or the efficient use of resources.

If you think that your child should attend a non maintained early years provider, an independent school or an independent specialist college not approved under section 41 of the Children and Families Act, you can suggest the name of an education provider and tell me why you think that placement should be named in your child's EHC plan. Your suggestion will be considered carefully but you should be aware that the local authority is under no duty to comply with such suggestion, although we do our best to ensure that children and young people are to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents, so far as that is compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure. A list of independent and non-maintained special schools in England (excluding section 41 approved special schools and colleges) is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-special-schools-and-colleges. If you are unable to access this link and would like a paper copy, please contact the named person whose details can be found at the top of the letter with this information sheet.

If you want to tell me the name of an education provider you consider suitable for your child you must do so within 15 days of receiving this letter; you can use the enclosed reply slip for this purpose. You may wish to visit relevant providers and ask to see their policies on special educational needs so that you are fully aware of what is available. If you attend a meeting with an officer of the local authority to discuss the draft EHC plan you will have another 15 days from that meeting to suggest an education provider. If you disagree with what the EHC plan says you can use the enclosed reply slip to request changes to the plan. If we agree to any changes we will send you another draft plan.

In accordance with Hampshire County Council policy, children and young people are educated as close to their homes as possible. If there is a local education provider which can appropriately meet your child's needs, then that provider would normally be named in the final EHC plan, but if you express a preference for another provider which is further from your home this will be considered, subject to a place being available, on the understanding that you would be responsible for transport arrangements and costs.

Once all these stages are finished a final EHC plan will be sent to you in which will specify education provision.

If you have any concerns or questions about this process, or disagree with any part of the draft EHC plan you may wish to seek advice or support from the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support (SENDIAS) Service in Hampshire, tel: 0808 164 5504 or visit www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk. They can also let you know about the independent arrangements set up to help resolve or prevent any disagreements between you and the authority.

Using either of these services does not prevent you from appealing to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) about the special educational needs identified in the final EHC plan, the provision to meet those needs or the education provider named in the final EHC plan; your rights are not affected and an appeal to the Tribunal can run at the same time as any disagreement resolution or mediation process.

Finally, it may be helpful for you to know that information about Education, Health and Social Care provision that is relevant to making provision for children and young people with special educational needs is available through our Local Offer which is available on our website at <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/localoffer>.

Our Local Offer also explains Personal Budgets. There are budgets that can be made available in some circumstances so that you can make your own arrangements for all or part of the final EHC plan.

For a copy of this publication in another language or format (eg: large print or in an audio format) please contact **0300 555 1384**, childrens.services@hants.gov.uk or **Textphone 0300 555 1390**

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