

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal	Implementation of a digital Education Health & Care (EHC) Hub
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Department	Childrens Services
Date of Assessment	03 Oct 2017

Description of Service / Policy

Hampshire County Council's Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service is responsible for identifying, assessing, making and reviewing education arrangements for learners aged 0-25 years with special educational needs and disabilities. This is delivered through statutory education, health and care (EHC) assessments and subsequent EHC Plans. Geographical impact* All Hampshire

Description of proposed change

Developing an EHC Hub - an internet-based digital system for carrying out EHC assessments and the writing of EHC Plans, providing participants (parents, young people and professionals) with greater transparency and support delivery of statutory time scales. Participants will input their contributions directly into an internet-based system. Participants will be able to securely access this information in the form of EHC Plans. All communications and outputs will be managed electronically via this system.

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

Consultation has been undertaken with Hampshire Parent Carer Network and a number of SEN professionals to initially scope the project proposal. Later these parent carer representatives and SEN professionals joined a working group in designing and testing the EHC Hub. There has been collaboration between Hampshire County Council and four other local authorities throughout.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Statutory considerations

Impact

Age Impact Positive
Improve transparency through more accessible / more frequent information
Increase confidence that the assessment process is being delivered and educational needs are being met

Disability Impact Medium
Some people with learning difficulties or visual impairments may have difficulty using digital systems

Mitigation Support is available from SEN workforce professionals such as Special Educational Needs Coordinators (in schools), Independent Supporters (provided locally via funding from the Council for Disabled Children) and Information, Advice &

Guidance Staff working for 'Support 4 SEN' (who work in the Hampshire community). People will be able to access the Hampshire County Council SEN Service by phone.

Sexual Orientation Neutral

Race Low
Impact There is a potential for a negative impact on people whose first language is not English, though this is not substantially different to current arrangements where written materials are already communicated in English and via email. Emails may be translated by the recipient using on-line translation applications.

Religion and Belief Neutral

Gender Reassignment Neutral

Gender Neutral

Marriage and civil partnership Neutral

Pregnancy and Maternity Neutral

Other policy considerations

Poverty Medium

Impact Some people may not have access to the internet or to IT equipment in the home.

Mitigation Internet access is available through community settings including libraries and schools.

Rurality Neutral

Additional Information