

Welcome

My goal is to empower you with knowledge and resources to effectively support your child's educational journey.

In this presentation, we'll cover topics ranging from understanding your child's support needs to advocating for continual support. We'll explore various support options available, and important processes such as applying for an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) assessment. We'll explore the roles of key professionals.

Getting the Right Support for My Child

Advocating for your child's needs

As a parent or carer, you are your child's best advocate. It's essential to actively communicate your child's needs and preferences to educators and service providers. Be proactive in seeking out appropriate support services and resources to meet your child's individual needs.

Understanding different support options

There are various support options available, including classroom accommodations, specialised interventions, and external services such as speech therapy or counseling. Take the time to explore and understand these options to determine what best suits your child's needs and preferences.

Working with schools and services

Building positive relationships with your child's school and service providers is key to accessing and implementing support. Collaborate with school staff, attend meetings, and stay informed about available resources and services to ensure your child receives the support they need to thrive.

SEN Code of Practice

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice- All CYP are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards and fulfilment of potential.

This should enable them to:

- **Achieving their best.**
- **Developing into confident individuals leading fulfilling lives.**
- **Transitioning successfully into adulthood, whether it's into employment, further education, or training**

(Section 6.1)

Getting the right support for your SEND Child

Identifying your child's needs

The first step in supporting your child is to identify their specific needs, which may include academic, social, emotional, or physical challenges. Observing your child's behaviors, communicating with educators, and seeking professional assessments can help in this process.

Importance of early intervention

Early intervention is crucial for addressing your child's needs and maximising their potential. Recognising and addressing challenges early can prevent further difficulties and improve outcomes for your child.

Collaboration with educators and professionals

Collaboration between parents, educators, and professionals is useful for developing effective support strategies. Establishing open communication channels and working together as a team can ensure a holistic approach to your child's education and well-being.

Mainstream School Responsibilities

According to the SEND Code of Practice, says mainstream schools **must** :

- use their best endeavour to make sure that a child with SEN gets the support they need - this means doing everything they can to meet children and young people's SEN
- ensure that children and young people with SEN engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEN
- designate a teacher to be responsible for coordinating SEN provision - the SEN coordinator, or SENCO
- inform parents when they are making special educational provision for a child
- publish an SEN information report and their arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps being taken to prevent disabled children from being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to enable access to the school for disabled children and their accessibility plan showing how they plan to improve access progressively over time.

(Section 6.2)

Early Identification and Support

Timely Identification

Early intervention allows for the timely identification of any developmental delays or disabilities.

Appropriate Support

This early diagnosis means that the appropriate support, whether it's therapeutic, educational, or behavioral, can be put in place as soon as possible.

Better Outcomes

The sooner a child starts receiving the right support, the better their outcomes in both the short and long term.



A graduated approach

The SEND Code of Practice says:

Where a pupil is identified as having SEN, schools should take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place.

When your child is identified has having SEN, the school should use a graduated approach based on four steps.

(section 6.44)

Torbay's Graduated Response



What is an EHCP?

An EHCP is designed to ensure that all the educational, health, and care needs of a child or young person are identified and supported through a single coordinated plan. It is more detailed than the support typically provided through SEN support at school and is used when the child's needs cannot be met by the support that is usually available at their educational institution.

Eligibility Criteria

1

Special Educational Needs

The child or young person must have special educational needs that cannot be met by the support that schools or other educational settings normally provide.

2

Significant Impact on Learning

They must have a condition or difficulty that significantly impacts their ability to learn, including behavior or health need that affect their education.

3

Requesting an Assessment

Parents, teachers, or the young person themselves (if over the age of 16) can request an assessment for an EHCP from their local authority. Additionally, health and social care professionals can also recommend that an assessment is necessary.



Requesting an Assessment

The SEND Code of Practice says:

In considering whether an EHC needs assessment is necessary, the local authority should consider whether there is evidence that despite the early years provider, school or post-16 institution having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the special educational needs of the child or young person, the child or young person has not made expected progress.

(section 9.14)

The 'legal test' for an EHC needs assessment is as follows

The Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 36) (8), the local authority must secure an EHC needs assessment for the child or young person if, after having regard to any views expressed and evidence submitted under subsection (7), the authority is of the opinion that,

(a) the child or young person has or may have special educational needs, and

(b) it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made for the child or young person in accordance with an EHC plan

SEND Code of Practice section 9.14 which helps the local authority to make their decision. This is guidance though, so advisory, not compulsory - **it is not the legal test.**

When can the LA cease to maintain an EHC plan?

An LA can cease to maintain an EHC plan if one of two grounds applies

1) The LA is no longer responsible for the child or young person

An LA would no longer be responsible if:

- the young person has taken up paid employment (excluding apprenticeships)
- the young person has started a higher educational course (or other level 4 course)
- a young person aged 18 or over has left education and no longer wishes to engage in further learning
- the young person has turned 25, or
- the child or young person has moved to a different LA (although remember, they will not lose their EHC plan just because you have moved, the plan will be transferred to the new LA).

2) It is no longer necessary to maintain the EHC plan

Process of Ceasing an EHCP: Review and Decision

The decision to cease an EHCP typically follows an annual review or reassessment of the child's needs, where the LA might conclude that the educational or training outcomes have been met, or that the child no longer requires the special educational provision specified in their EHCP. The LA must inform you of their decision and provide their reasons in writing.



Your Rights and How to Appeal

1 Mediation

Before you can lodge an appeal with the SEND Tribunal, you must consider mediation. You'll receive a mediation certificate from the mediation adviser, which is necessary if you decide to proceed with an appeal. Mediation is a less formal, often quicker way to resolve disputes and may lead to a reinstatement or revision of the EHCP without needing to go to tribunal.

3 Preparing for Tribunal

The appeal process involves preparing evidence. This evidence can include reports from educational and health professionals, evidence of the child's progress.

2 SEND Tribunal

If mediation does not resolve the issue, or you choose not to mediate, you can appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Tribunal. You must file your appeal within two months of the decision to cease the EHCP or within one month of receiving the mediation certificate, whichever is the later.

4 Tribunal Decision

The SEND Tribunal will hear the case and make a decision. The tribunal can order many things e.g. maintain, amend, or reinstate the EHCP if they find in your favor.

Conclusion

Summary of key points

The key points covered in this guide include the process of ceasing an EHCP, your rights and options for appeal, and the importance of advocating for your child's needs.

Encouragement for parents and carers

As a parent or carer, you are your child's best advocate. It's essential to stay informed, communicate your child's needs, and work collaboratively with educators and service providers to ensure your child receives the support they need to thrive.

Q&A

If you have any further questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school, the local authority, or support organizations for guidance and assistance.



Seeing a SENCO and Getting the Best out of Meetings

1

Who is a SENCO?

A SENCO, or Special Educational Needs Coordinator, is a key figure in the school who coordinates support for students with special educational needs and disabilities. They play a crucial role in identifying, planning, and monitoring support interventions for students.

2

Importance of regular communication

Regular communication with the SENCO and other school staff is essential for ensuring your child's needs are being met effectively. Schedule regular meetings to discuss your child's progress, concerns, and any adjustments needed to support their learning.

3

Tips for effective meetings

Prepare for meetings by outlining your child's strengths, needs, and any specific goals or concerns you have. Listen actively, ask questions, and collaborate with school staff to develop tailored support plans that meet your child's individual needs and goals.