A Brief Guide for Parents

Royal Greenwich has a wide range of services available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Recently, there have been changes in the way we work with these children their families. This will result in wider parental involvement and a stronger focus on achieving positive life outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Royal Greenwich is committed to ensuring parents understand these changes and how the new system works.

This leaflet should give you an understanding of Education Health and Care Plans – one of the main changes to the way we work with children and young people with SEND.
**What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?**

From September 2014 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plans) will start to replace Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN). The government has introduced a new act – the Children and Families Act - which will change the way children and young people from 0-25 with SEND are supported. Learning Difficulties Assessments (LDAs) will also be replaced by EHC Plans. Royal Greenwich has been working with the Department for Education and Department of Health as a Pathfinder since 2011 testing some of the latest ideas to help the government decide how to put them into practice. Children and young people who already have a Statement of SEN will, where appropriate, gradually transfer over to EHC Plans during a three year period until September 2017, and those with LDAs, where appropriate, will transfer before September 2016.

**What are the benefits of EHC Plans?**

- Children, young people and their parents are at the centre of planning and should be seen as partners in the process
- There is a focus on the child or young person’s aspirations for the future
- There is a focus on life outcomes – not just educational outcomes
- The process looks at each child and young person as an individual
- EHC Plans bring together education, health and care services into one plan
- Children, young people and their parents should only have to tell their story once
- EHC Plans may support young people up to 25 years, depending on educational needs

**Will my child receive an EHC Plan?**

- On the rare occasion that a parent wishes to make a request themselves, they should contact the Royal Greenwich SEN Team on: tel: 020 8921 8029/ email. special-needs@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

**What if my child already has a Statement of SEN?**

- In most cases the Statement of SEN will be transferred to an EHC Plan by September 2017.
- A timetable has been produced that sets out when different year groups will have their Statement of SEN transferred to an EHC Plan.
- From 1 September 2014 any new statutory assessments will be for an EHC Plan.

**How do I get an EHC Plan?**

- In the majority of cases it will be the nursery, school or college that requests a statutory assessment.
- Parents or the young person can express a preference for a particular school.
- Parents and young people have the right of appeal to a tribunal if they are not happy with the educational provision described in the Statement of SEN.
- The maximum time allowed to complete an EHC Plan is 20 weeks.

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**What is the difference between an EHC Plan and a Statement of SEN?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EHC Plan</th>
<th>Statement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is a legal right to the education, health and care provision as set out in the EHC Plan.</td>
<td>There is a legal right to the education provision set out in a Statement of SEN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHC Plans cover the child or young person’s needs in education, health and care.</td>
<td>Statements of SEN cover the child or young person’s educational needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EHC Plans will be personalised. That means the child’s or young person’s individual needs in education, health and care will be outlined and the provision required described.</td>
<td>The Statement of SEN sets out educational needs and describes the provision required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents of a child with an EHC Plan, or a young person with an EHC Plan have the right to request a personal budget.</td>
<td>There is no right to a personal budget with a Statement of SEN.</td>
</tr>
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<td>The maximum time allowed to complete an EHC Plan is 20 weeks.</td>
<td>The maximum time allowed to complete a Statement of SEN is 26 weeks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**I felt listened to. People asked me what I wanted and actually listened to what I said.**

- 17 year old with EHC Plan
Who do I talk to if I think my child has special educational needs?

If you think your child may have special educational needs, contact the person in your child’s school or nursery responsible for special educational needs.

This person is called the “SEN Coordinator” or “SENCo”.

Contact the SEN team on
Tel: 020 8921 8029
Email: special-needs@royalgreenwich.gov.uk
or your doctor if your child isn’t in a school or nursery.

You could also contact the Parent Partnership service on
Tel: 020 8921 2549 for impartial advice.

“He is really a people person and this profile brings that across. I can see his strengths much more than all his difficulties now. This way of working has given me hope.”
- Mother of child with EHC Plan

“Going through the process of an EHCP has been a breath of fresh air. For the first time my son’s personality was brought to the table.”
- Mother of young person with EHC Plan

“I had never thought of what my daughter may like to do. It had always been professionals telling us what to expect or do but now we can think about what my daughter wants to do in her life.”
- Father of 4 year old with EHC Plan

Special Education Needs
The Woolwich Centre
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London SE18 6HQ
020 8921 8029
www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk