



To lead, represent, inform and support General Practice

Education Health Care Plans for children and young people with Special Educational Needs

Have you ever wished you could provide a valuable and influential contribution to supporting a young person with additional learning needs in their educational setting?

Well, now you can!

An Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) is a statutory document which draws on the young person's aspirations for their future to delineate a multi-agency plan to help them reach their goals.

Arising from the 2014 Children's and Families Act, it is now a legal requirement for the health needs relating to a young person's special educational needs (SEN) to be included in the statutory assessment and planning for their future education and training.

Person-centred outcomes, which are meaningful and measurable for that young person, are central to the EHC plans.

It is also recognised that many young adults with SEN will continue to make progress towards independent living and employment; and further education or training beyond 18 years is needed to make this happen. The age range for the new EHCPs is 0-25 years.

GPs and other Primary care practitioners are the key health providers with a holistic viewpoint; particularly for young adults over 18 years old who have out-grown their paediatrician or who arrive in Devon too old to ever meet one.

Feedback from young people and their families regarding the content of the new EHC plans and the collaborative multi-agency approach is positive and encouraging.

Devon's SEND Local Offer is the education, health and social care services and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from birth to 25. It is a valuable resource for patients and practitioners alike – please spread the word!

Advice and guidance for Devon Primary care teams on providing EHCP health advice and the Local Offer is available here:

H1 - Health assessment contribution for Education Health and Care Plan

Education Health Care Plans – Info to accompany a request for health advice from the Local Authority

Payment for completion of health guidance on the Local Authority templates is covered by the Collaborative fees agreement with NHS England, and GPs completing these reports are able to send an invoice for their reasonable fee to NHS England.

Finally, this is a new process but one which uses information which is already known to health practitioners in a format which enables progress for vulnerable young children and adults. We would encourage you to embrace it as such.

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