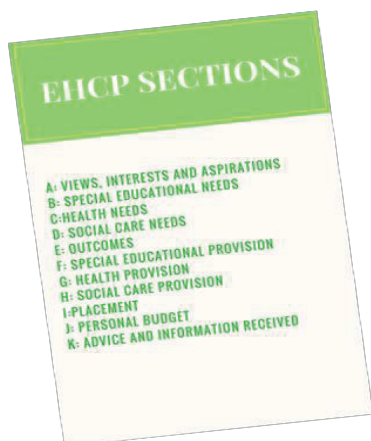


Getting extra help with learning: a fact-sheet for young people.



**I need extra help with learning
because of my needs.**

What can I do?



If you have special educational needs (SEN) you might need some extra support to help you in the next stage of your education, or for moving into adulthood.



Schools, colleges and sixth forms are able to provide something known as SEN Support.



This means they will do everything they can to find out what your needs are and to support you to achieve your goals.



The school, college or sixth form will put in place the help you need, such as assigning a key adult that will work to support you during lessons.



This extra support should focus on helping young people over 16 prepare for their future. Each college and sixth form should have a named person in charge of support for students with SEN. If you need help you should contact that person.

What is an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan?



An **EHC Plan** is a legal document that describes your special educational, health and social care needs.

It explains the extra help you will be given to meet your needs and how your school, college or sixth form will support you to reach your goals.



Your Local Authority (the council) **must** provide the support described in an **EHC Plan**. If your school or college can't give you all of the support that you need, then you should ask for an **EHC Plan**.

How can I get an EHC Plan?



You will first need to ask for an **EHC needs assessment**.

This is a careful look at what you might need help with in your education, with your health, and with your social care needs.



Lots of people will talk to you, think about what you might need and then write reports. This is called an 'EHC needs assessment'.

When and how can I apply for an EHC needs assessment?



You can apply up until your 25th birthday.

You will need to write a letter to the council to request an EHC needs assessment, explaining why you need extra support in your education.

If you need help doing this, you could ask your parents or carers for some support with writing it.



You can also ask your council for an Independent Supporter, which is a person who knows all about EHC Plans and will be able to help you.

How long will it take?



The local authority must decide whether they will assess you within 6 weeks.

If they agree to carry out an assessment and provide you with an **EHC Plan** this should be completed within 20 weeks of your request.

What will happen when the council agrees to assess?



You and your parents or carers will be asked about the support you need.

The council will also talk to other people who support you, such as your school or college, your doctor, and social services.

What will happen if the council does not agree to assess?



If the council does not agree to assess then you can appeal against this decision. You can ask for an Independent Supporter to help you do this. You can also ask IPSEA for advice.