

Does your child have a  
Statement of Special  
Educational Needs (SEN)?

Did you know  
Statements of SEN are  
changing to Education, Health and  
Care plans (EHCPs)?

# independent support

Would you like to know more  
about the changes and how they  
will affect you?

Your views are central  
to the changes. We can  
support you to have  
your say

# Independent Support Information Pack

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## **Why you need this pack and what's in it?**

This pack contains useful information if you have a child or young person aged 0-25 years, with Special Educational Needs (SEN). It contains information about recent changes; what you can expect and how you can get support.

## **What is changing?**

The Children and Families Act 2014, which came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, changed the way in which children and young people with SEN receive support.

## **Did you know..?**

The government has funded a new impartial **Independent Support** service to support you through the changes.

**For more information contact us on 0118 402 7177 or at [independentsupport@adviza.org.uk](mailto:independentsupport@adviza.org.uk)**

**Alternatively you can contact your local SEND Information, Advice and Support Service**

# Key Changes

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## **Statements, Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) and Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs).**

- As you may know **Statements of Special Educational Needs/LDAs** will change to **Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)**. An EHCP brings together a child or young person's education, health and social care needs into a single, legal document.
- **Putting Families First** - your local authority must listen to you and your child/young person's views, wishes and feelings and ensure that you are involved as fully as possible in decisions that affect your child/young person's support.

The Children & Families Act gives new rights directly to young people once they reach the end of the school year in which they turn 16 (usually year 11). At that point, they can ask for the help of an Independent Supporter in their own right, whether or not they wish their parent/carer to help them.

# What is new?

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## ● **0 to 25**

The SEN system has been extended from birth to 25, which may mean your child/young person can be supported for a longer time.

## ● **Local Offer**

Every local authority has published a detailed directory of local education, health and social care services that are available for children and young people with SEN – called the Local Offer. The Local Offer provides clear and accurate information about these services and should make it easier to choose and access the services your family needs.

**For more information on your Local Offer, please contact our Independent Support service.**

## **Personal Budgets**

- You have a right to request a personal budget for your child/young person's support. A personal budget is an amount of money your local authority has identified to meet some of the needs in the EHCP. You/your young person can be involved in deciding how this money is spent. Your local authority should have a policy about which education, health and social care services are available using a personal budget.

**For more information on personal budgets, please contact our Independent Support service.**

# How can our Independent Supporters help you?

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Our Independent Supporters can help you at any point throughout the process of transferring your child/young person's statement to an EHC plan.

## **This may include support to:**

- Ensure your views and your child/young person's views, wishes and feelings are central to the process
- Help you complete paperwork, including your contribution or your child/young person's contribution to the EHCP
- Understand the process and timelines
- Attend and participate in meetings
- Help you understand professional reports and their recommendations and feed back on the draft plan
- Understand the Local Offer and personal budgets
- Understand your local authority procedures
- Find out about other local Information Advice and Support Services.

# New EHC process

- The process for transferring a statement to an EHCP should be completed within 18 weeks (+2 weeks notice). This process is called the "Transfer Review"
- Your local authority should provide you with information about the transfer review process before it starts

Wk 2	Wk 1	Week 1-13	Wk 14	Wk 15	Wk 16	Wk 17	Wk 18
Your Local Authority must give you a minimum of 2 weeks notice of the Transfer Review		<p>You should be offered a meeting with your local authority during this period.</p> <p>If you think your child needs any new assessments, you can ask for them now.</p>	<p><b>By the end of Week 14 your local authority must have issued a draft plan or inform you if they do not intend to issue a plan</b></p>	<p><b>(15 calendar days)</b></p> <p>You can comment on the draft plan</p> <p>You can request a particular school/college to be named in the plan</p> <p>You can meet with your local authority to discuss the draft plan</p>		<p><b>(15 calendar days)</b></p> <p>You local authority will consult with the school or college you have named in your child's plan</p> <p><b>At the end of Week 18 your child's EHC plan must be finalised</b></p>	

**NB For new assessments and LDA transfers the timeline also covers 20 weeks – for more information contact our Independent Support Service**

# How to get support

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Contact our highly trained Independent Supporters to see how best we can help:

**0845 408 5060/0118 402 7177**

[independentsupport@adviza.org.uk](mailto:independentsupport@adviza.org.uk)

Our Independent Supporters can arrange to meet with you or may be able to give you the information you need over the phone or by email if you prefer.

Our Independent Supporters are here for you throughout the whole process - for as little or as much support as you need.

NB Young people who are 16 years old or over and have finished Year 11 can ask for the help of an Independent Supporter in their own right, whether or not they wish their parent/carer to help them. For younger children, the Independent Supporter would work with the parent/carer but would always seek to involve the child/young person as much as possible.

# Useful Websites

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Department for Education- SEND guide for parents and carers [www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers)

Mencap Easy Read Guide to SEND reforms  
[www.mencap.org.uk/EasyReadGuides](http://www.mencap.org.uk/EasyReadGuides)

Kids- Personalisation & Personal Budgets guides  
[www.kids.org.uk/mip2](http://www.kids.org.uk/mip2)

Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA)  
[www.ipsea.org.uk/](http://www.ipsea.org.uk/)

Parent-led information, resources, and informed opinion about children and young people with SEN  
[www.specialneedsjungle.com/](http://www.specialneedsjungle.com/)

Help to find the right support, services and information for your family [www.sendirect.org.uk/](http://www.sendirect.org.uk/)

Information, advice and support for families with disabled children [www.cafamily.org.uk/](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/)

