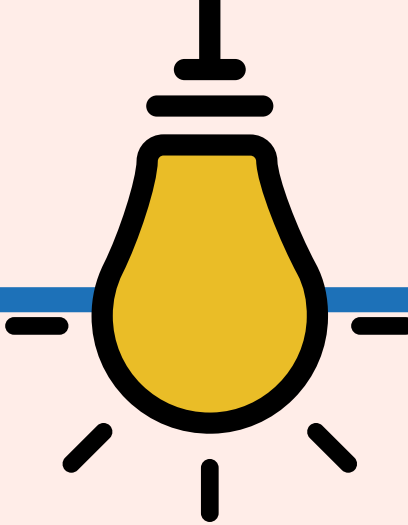





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ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

Education staff have a legal duty to use their 'best endeavours' to meet the needs of children. They should track progress & set goals with input from families & children or young people. The goal of the support is to help the child or young person achieve good outcomes - when this doesn't happen, an EHCP might be needed 

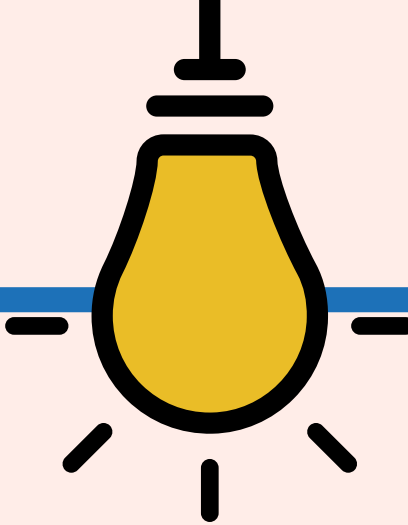


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ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

Education settings support children and young people through a Plan, Do & Review process. Plan support, do the support, then review the support - with the family & child or young person.

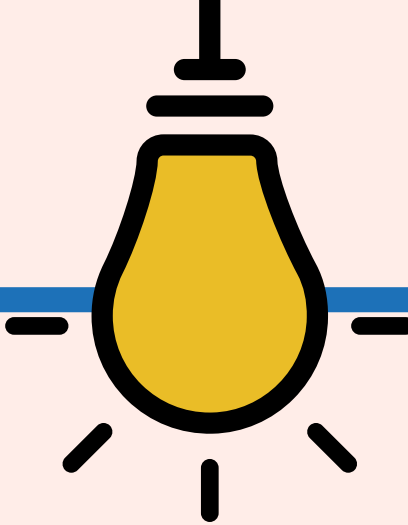
The support can be planned by setting staff, EPs, speech & language therapists & anyone else the school thinks is needed.

Parents should always be involved in this process & talk with everyone involved 




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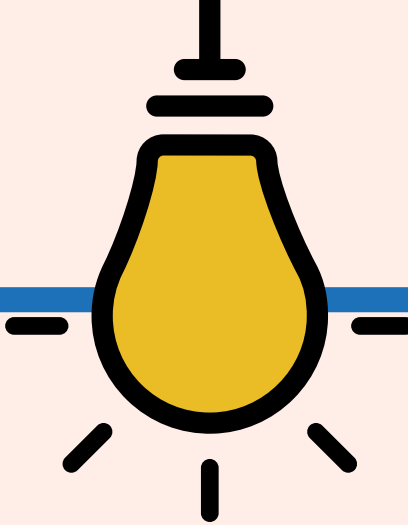


ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

Parents often ask what areas of need schools can offer support with. There are 4 areas of need, cognition & learning, communication & interaction, social-emotional & mental health and physical or sensory. If your child has needs in one or more of these areas, whether at home or at school, they should be supported via the Plan, Do, Review, process 



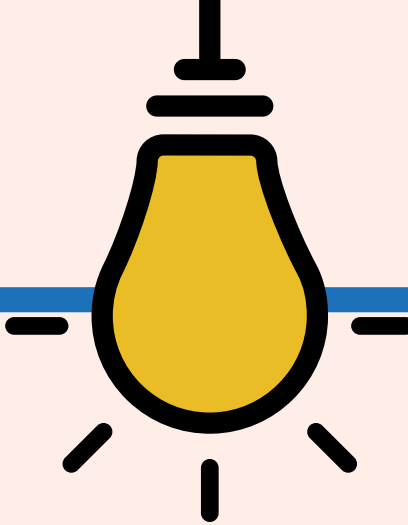
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ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

Families sometimes express uncertainty about their child's progress. It's important for parents and carers to be involved in reviewing their child's support and staying informed of their progress. You can find out how this should work in your child's setting by searching their website for their SEND information report or SEN policy or by speaking with their class teacher



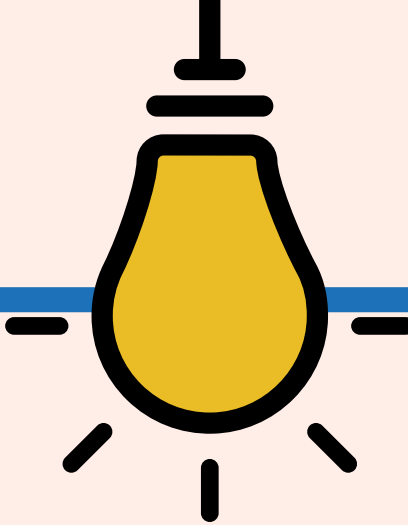


ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

We are often asked, "how do I know if my child needs an EHCP?". Most children do not need an EHCP to have their needs met. Some reasons to think about an EHCP include, needing extra support, like frequent speech therapy, or regular TA support or where not enough progress is being made across the four areas of need 



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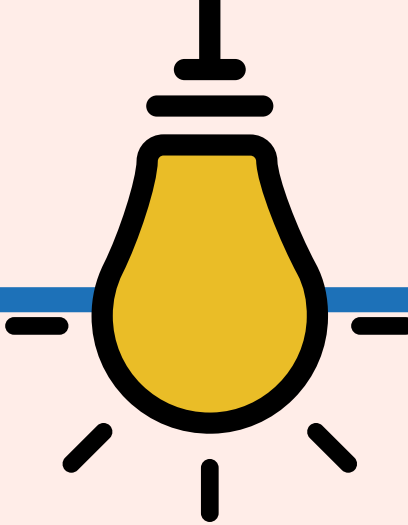


ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)


A common question we hear is "Do I need a support plan before an EHCP?" The short answer is no. But the local authority will only assess needs if they believe the child or young person may require additional support beyond what's typically offered. To demonstrate this, one of the things they will look at, is what support is already in place 🤝💡



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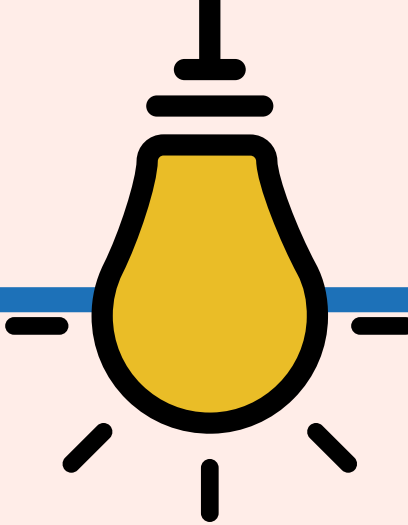


ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

So what is an EHCP & how is it different to other support? An EHCP is a legal document outlining the support the local authority & health services must provide to the child or young person in the Plan. The plan must detail the needs & necessary provisions as well as provide outcomes for measuring progress, it must be reviewed every year. Parents have an input into the school named in the Plan 



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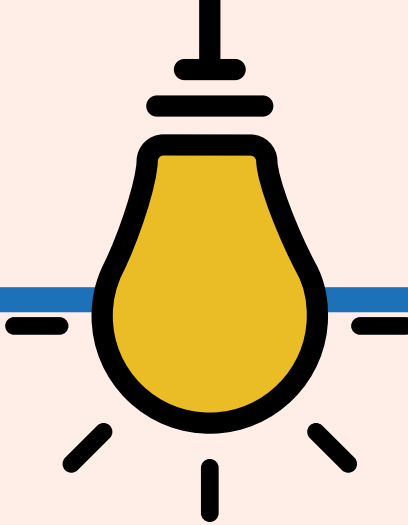


ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)


The first part of the EHC process is called a needs assessment. This is a process where the family or a school write to the Local Authority and ask them to assess the needs of your child. The local authority will only do this assessment if your child has or might have SEND and if your child may need provision beyond what is ordinarily available 🤝💖🤝



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ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

Transition years (nursery into school, year 2 into year 3, year 6 into year 7 and secondary school to a post-16 institution) can be very challenging for children with special educational needs (SEN), many families worry their child will struggle during these times. When a transfer is due in the near future, a needs assessment may be needed due to anticipated differences in SEN support between transition years 

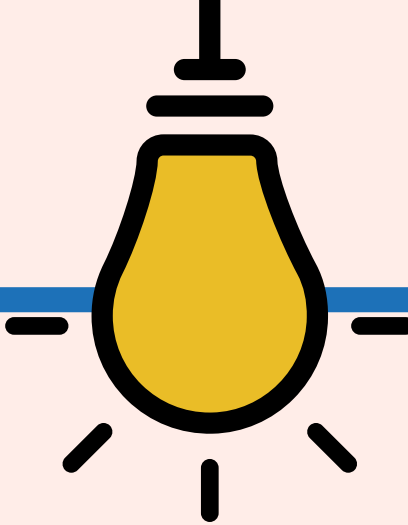


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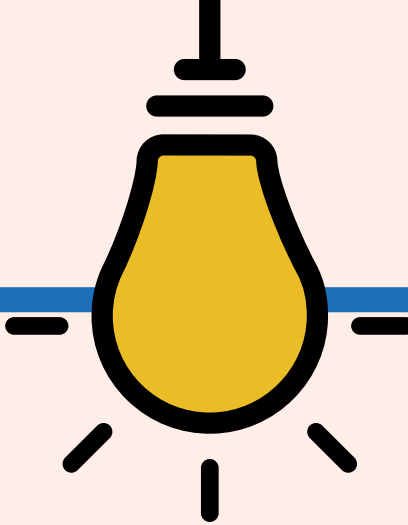


ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)


To request a needs assessment from the local authority, work with your child's setting to request this, if possible. If not, use the IPSEA template letter [here](#). Remember, it's a 2-part test & you need to show additional provisions **may** be needed and that your child **may** have special needs. If you need help, reach out to one of the SEND organisations on our leaflet [here](#) 

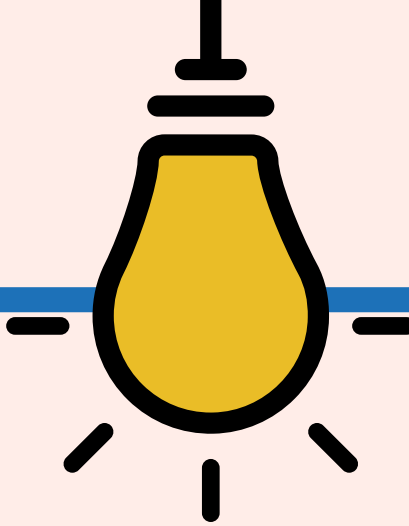


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ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

When you request a needs assessment, the legal timeline starts. The Local Authority must let you know within 6 weeks if they will proceed with the assessment. If they refuse, you can appeal or mediate. If they agree to assess, they must inform you if they will issue an EHC Plan by week 16. If they decide not to issue, you can appeal or mediate. If they decide to issue, you must usually receive the Plan within week 20 of the request 




ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

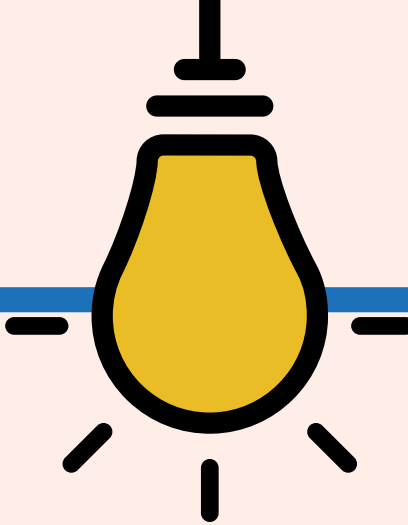
Parents often tell us they are confused about some of the words they hear during the EHCP process, such as:

Panel 1: decision on whether a needs assessment will begin

Panel 2: decision on whether an EHC Plan will be issued

Placement Panel: decision on which school will be named in the plan

Top up Panel: where schools apply for extra funding from the local authority for EHCPs and non-statutory plans 



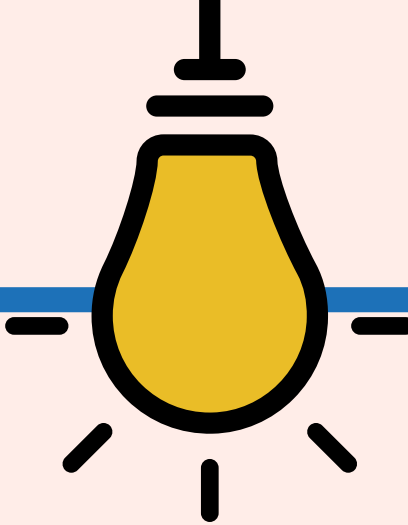
ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

In Bristol, around 70% of EHC Plans are not issued within the 20-week legal timescale. If this happens to you, you will be contacted about the delay. The education setting must continue to support your child. The local authority must ensure your child receives a full-time education. If you need support during this time, see our [support flyer](#) for organisations that can help





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ALL ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPORT & EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLANS (EHCP)

What to do when things go wrong?

We all know, understand and sympathise with services that are stretched and underfunded. However, when we have a child at home from school or when we are not receiving an answer to email it can feel very frustrating to families. Our support flyer can help you find the organisations that can support you and IPSEA have model letter here that will help 