

MAKING DECISIONS

ABOUT YOUR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY SUPPORT

Under a new law introduced by the government, you and your family will be able to have more say in the way you receive support. This support will be written in an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, which will focus on what a child or young person* wants to achieve and what support they need to do this. Right from the beginning, the views, wishes and feelings of the child or young person and their family will be at the centre of the EHC plan.



EHC plans will be for children and young people who have a special educational need that cannot be met by support that is usually available in a school or college.

Children and young people may continue to have support workers and keyworkers to help them make decisions right through their school and college careers. When you finish the school year in which you turn 16 your views and opinions will carry more weight. This means that, what you think will be most important and it is what the local authority will think about most - this is part of preparing for adulthood. If you want them to, your family and the people who support you will still be involved in helping you to make decisions.

* A child is a person under compulsory school age. A young person is a person over compulsory school age but under 25. A person is no longer of compulsory school age after the last day of summer term during the year in which they become 16.

Getting impartial advice

Sometimes the information given to children, young people and parents can be confusing. Local authorities must arrange for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities to be provided with impartial information and advice about support for their special educational need or disability. This will also include information about health and social care to help you make decisions. You can get in touch with the information service in your local area and talk with them face to face, by e-mail and over the phone. Find out how to contact your information, advice and support service at www.parentpartnership.org.uk/find-your-pps/

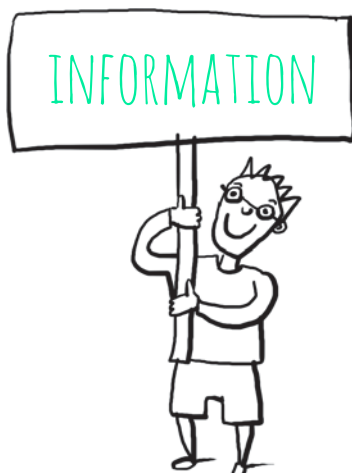


Appeals and the SEND tribunal

If your local authority makes a decision about the educational support you get and you don't agree with this decision you may have the choice to make an appeal. This means you can ask a special court, called a tribunal, to look at the decision that has been made and see if it is fair. You or your family will get the chance to talk to the tribunal and give your views and opinions. For children who are under 16 their parents will make an appeal for them, but from the time you have finished the school year in which you turn 16 you can choose to make the appeal yourself. Both young people and their families will be able to get information, advice and support from impartial information services if they want to make an appeal.

You can find out more about the changes to your special educational needs or disability support by:

- talking to an impartial information, advice and support service. You can find contact information for one of these here: www.parentpartnership.org.uk/find-your-pps/
- talking to your family, teachers, tutors and support workers.
- getting in touch with your local authority. You can find their contact information on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council>



To help you understand the changes to the law we have created a video, leaflet and poster each for four main areas of your SEN and disability support.

These four areas are:

Education, Health and Care plans
The Local Offer
Post-16 support
Making decisions

