

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessments and Plans



This easy read tells you about Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments and Plans.

What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?



An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is a legal document which looks at the health, education and care needs of a child or young person aged 0 to 25.



This includes information about:



- Education



- Health



- Social Care



Professionals and the family will agree on the goals they would like for the child or young person.



The agreed plan says what support is needed to achieve the goals.

How do I get an EHCP?



Your child might be able to have an EHCP if they have been having a high level of Special Educational Needs (SEN) support and are still not making good progress.



The council may be asked to do an EHC needs assessment.



This is an assessment of a child or young person's education, health and care needs.



The council will use the information from the assessment to decide if an EHC plan is needed.



A plan is made if that is the only way to get the extra support your child or young person needs.



Parents should arrange a meeting with their child's school or educational setting first if they or the school want to ask for an EHC needs assessment.



Parents / carers or a young person over 16 years old can ask for an EHC assessment directly through [the EHC digital hub](#), or the school can do this.



The council have 6 weeks to decide if an assessment is needed or not and will let the family know.



If the council decide not to do an assessment you can appeal this.

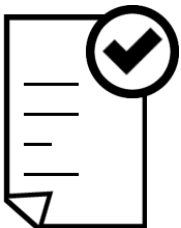
How are decisions made about EHC Assessments?



There will be a meeting to decide if an EHC Plan is needed. This meeting is called a **panel**.



The panel is made up of a chairperson and people from education, health, and social care.



At this meeting the panel will read all the information and reports gathered from the EHC needs assessment.



The panel will decide if an EHC Plan should be put in place for the child or young person's educational support.

What happens if an EHC Plan is not needed?



If it is decided that an EHC Plan is not needed, we will let you know within 16 weeks of the date the request for assessment was made.



Copies of the report will be given to the family and school or college.



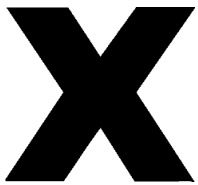
We think it is a good idea to have a meeting with the school or college to talk about the report.



At the meeting, the family can talk about how the child or young person's support matches what the panel think is needed.



They might think that more advice from professionals is needed to support the child or young person.



If you think the council's decision is wrong, you can appeal.



You can [find out how to appeal here.](#)

What if an EHC Plan is needed?



If a Plan is needed, it must be completed within 20 weeks.



The Plan should include information such as:



- The views, interests and hopes of the child or young person and their parent or carer.



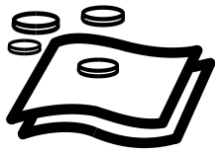
- An outline of the child or young person's special educational needs and the support they need.



- Goals and hopes around education, health and social care.



- Details of the support they already have and the people who are involved.



- Information about their Personal Budget.

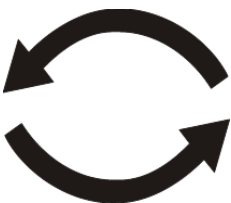
EHC Plan Reviews



EHC Plans must be reviewed every year.



The review is a chance for everyone to talk about what is working and what is not working.



This means everyone can make the right changes to the support.



The review should focus on the child or young person's progress with the goals that were written in their plan.



From school year 9 onwards we should be thinking about preparing for adulthood.

Where can I get help to find out more?



You can search for "EHC Plans" on [the SEND Local Offer website](#).



If you need help to use the website, you can ask:



- [County Council libraries](#)

Telephone: 01623 677200



- [Contact our Customer Service Team](#)



- You can ask people who support you to help.



- You can go to [Ask Us Nottinghamshire](#) which offers free and confidential support for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



You can phone **Ask Us Nottinghamshire**
on: 0800 121 7772



Or email: enquiries@askusnotts.org.uk

How to contact our Customer Service Team



Our Customer Service Centre can answer most of your questions and help with information and form filling.



There are several ways to contact them, including:

Web: [Use our online contact form](#)



Telephone: 0300 500 80 80



Relay UK

Text Relay: 18001 0115 977 4050

People who have hearing or speech difficulties and prefer to communicate via text can use the Text Relay service through the [Relay UK app](#).



SignVideo

Sign Video

People who use British Sign Language to communicate can use [the SignVideo app](#) to speak with us.

Links in this document

EHC Digital Hub

ehchub.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/about/

Appeal an EHC Plan decision

yournottsdirectory.org.uk/send-local-offer/nottinghamshire/education/disagreements-and-complaints-about-education-support

SEND Local Offer website

yournottsdirectory.org.uk/send-local-offer/nottinghamshire

County Council library website

inspireculture.org.uk

Ask Us Nottinghamshire

askusnotts.org.uk

Nottinghamshire County Council: contact us form

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contactform

Relay UK app

relayuk.bt.com/how-to-use-relay-uk/download-app.html

SignVideo app

signvideo.co.uk/download

For the standard web page version of this information, go to:

[Education, health and care \(EHC\) plan - Nottinghamshire SEND](#)

[Local Offer - Your Notts Directory](#)

<https://www.yournottsdirectory.org.uk/send-local-offer/nottinghamshire/education/education-health-and-care-ehc-plan>

This easy read was first published October 2022

This information was last updated 21 September 2026