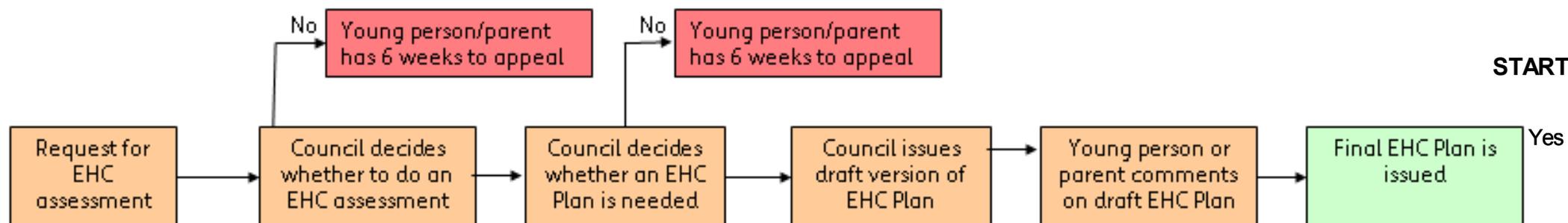


## Getting an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan

The new Education, Health and Care Plans will replace the statements of SEN that currently exist as well as Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs). They can be received by children and young people with SEN from birth potentially until the age of 25. This document shows what to expect when getting an EHC Plan. [For more details about what an EHC Plan is, see our factsheet: 'overview of the reforms'](#), and [for more information about what rights children, young people and parents have under the new EHC Plans, see our factsheet: 'Rights for parents and young people'](#).



Children, young people and parents should be involved throughout

This can be done by request (from a young person, parents, schools or colleges) or by anyone bringing a child or young person to the local authority's attention as maybe having SEN.

A council must do an assessment of EHC needs when it may be necessary for special educational support to be provided to a child or young person through an EHC Plan. This could be where the support they need can't "reasonably" be provided by mainstream schools.

This is based on the council gathering advice from professionals as part of the EHC assessment. Where this shows it is necessary for special educational provision to be made in accordance with an EHC Plan, a plan **must** be prepared.

This must not state a particular setting at which the child or young person to is to be educated in order that a young person or parent is able to state a preference themselves.

They have 15 days to comment and express a preference for a particular school or college. The council must then contact the school or college to see if this is possible and should hear a response from them within 15 calendar days.

The whole process from the initial request to the final EHC Plan should be done within 20 weeks.

The EHC Plan is a legal document and so is legally enforceable.

## What does an EHC Plan look like?

**Section A:**  
The views, interests and aspirations of the child and their parents, or the young person.

**Section B:**  
The child or young person's special educational needs (SEN).

**Section C:**  
The child or young person's health needs if they relate to their SEN.

**Section D:**  
The child or young person's social care needs if they relate to their SEN.

**Section E:**  
The outcomes sought for the child or young person.

**Section F:**  
The special educational support required by the child or young person.

**Section H1:**  
Any social care support received under Section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

**Section H2:**  
Any social care support which has been assessed as being necessary to support them.

**Section I:**  
The name of the school or college to be attended by the child or young person.

**Section J:**  
If there is a personal budget, the details of this (including the support it will pay for).

**Section K:**  
The advice and information gathered during the EHC needs assessment.

## Review and reassessment

In order to ensure the EHC Plan is up to date and reflects the needs of the child or young person, a local authority must review it at least annually. Reviews must focus on:

- how well the child or young person is progressing towards achieving the outcomes set in Section E (*for more information on outcomes, see our factsheet: 'Setting outcomes: a guide'*);
- reviewing whether the support offered is effective;
- considering if a plan is still needed; and
- setting new targets (and potentially new outcomes).

While reviews help to make changes to keep the EHC Plan relevant, if the child or young person's needs change significantly it may be necessary for the plan to be reassessed instead. This can be requested by a parent or initiated by a local authority. The reassessment process is the same as the process for the first EHC Needs assessment, although the overall maximum timescale for reassessment is 14 weeks from the decision to reassess.

A plan can also be ceased if any of the following apply:

- the education and training outcomes have been achieved;
- a young person aged 16 or over takes up paid employment;
- the young person enters higher education (such as university); or
- a young person aged over 18 leaves education and doesn't want to do further learning