

The SEND reforms: what YOU need to know about changes in how you are supported

A guide for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs



The Government is changing the law on special educational needs and disability (SEND) support.

This document is to help you find out key information about what's changing and how it might affect you.

What's new?

From September 2014 the way local authorities, teachers, social workers and health professionals work out what support you need will change.

The changes are designed to give you more say in decisions about what support and services are available where you live. The changes will also give you more of a say in how you are supported.

The Local Offer

The Local Offer is a new way of giving you and your family information about what support is available where you live. This includes information on services in education, health, social care and to help you prepare for adulthood. Local authorities will have to make the local offer accessible to everyone, including putting it on a website.



You might be asked what information you want about what is available in your local area. You might also be asked what services you think there should be.

Education, Health and Care plans

At the moment if you need extra support in education you get a Learning Difficulty Assessment or a document called Statement of SEN. A Statement has information and instructions that must be followed. Statements normally only cover educational support and what happens at school.

Statements of SEN are going to be replaced with Education, Health and Care plans. Education, Health and Care plans will still say what support you need to get the most out of your education. They may also include support you need from health services or social care.

Education, Health and Care plans will be available to children and young people aged 0-25 who are in schools and colleges and other training such as supported internships, traineeships and apprenticeships.

Education, Health and Care plans will help education, health and social care workers work together to support you to achieve goals.

Decision making

From September 2014 you and your parents will have new rights in education to be involved in decisions about your support. People who support you should ask you and your parents what you think about the support you get and what you want for the future.



Your views are very important, and after the age of 16 you will have more control over what support you need. You can still choose to involve your parents and others in this, and you are able to ask your parents or others to act on your behalf.

The final decisions about your support will still be made by the local authority/area that is responsible for making sure you get support.

Tribunal

If you or your parents disagree with a decision made about your support, you can challenge that decision. Challenging a decision is known as the appeals process and in this process experts who are not involved in what has already been decided are asked to decide if the decision the local authority has made is the right one. They will ask all the people involved in the disagreement, including you, what you think.

For more information on the changes to SEN support please visit the **EPIC** web pages

<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/epic>

For information about events, opportunities and what other young disabled people are up to why not read My Future Choices Magazine

<http://www.transitionfonetwork.org.uk/1104>