

Guidance notes for Social Care advice for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment

Social Care may receive a request for advice from the SEND Integrated Assessment Team for the following:

1. A request for an EHC needs assessment from a parent/young person or other professional (not the post 16 setting)
2. A decision being made to carry out an EHC needs assessment, this could be following a request made directly from the post 16 setting, or following a parental/young persons or other professionals request for an EHC needs assessment

It is essential that the social worker responds to the request within the timescale stated in the correspondence, ideally completing the return by email.

The social worker should contact the SEND team on the numbers below if they require any further guidance.

North Team	01524 581 200
East Team	01254 220 553
South Team	01772 531 597

When completing the advice form it is important that all of the child/young person's details are checked and any information that differs is highlighted in the return. The information should be pre-populated when you receive the request.

If the child or young person is not known to social care then an 'x' should be put in the corresponding box at the end of the first page and then the document can be returned to the email address within the request letter.

Section A: My Social Care Needs

The advice **must** specify any social care needs identified through the EHC needs assessment which relate to the child or young person's SEN or which require provision for a child or young person under 18 under section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

This may also specify other social care needs which are not linked to the child or young person's SEN or to a disability. This could include reference to any child in need, child protection plan, Child Looked After care plan or Pathway plan which a child may have relating to other family issues such as neglect. This will help the child and their parents manage the different plans and bring greater co-ordination of services. Inclusion **must** only be with the consent of the child and their parents

The following points should be considered:

- Professionals should limit their advice to areas in which they have expertise.
- Bullet points should be used to help keep writing succinct.
- All of the young person's social care needs must be specified and should set out needs that are easy to identify.
- Care should be taken not to confuse needs with provision.

Section B1: Social Care Provision

Within this section you should be specifying the social care provision which must be made resulting from section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and the outcomes that it aims to achieve.

Provision can include the following:

- practical assistance in the home
- provision or assistance in obtaining recreational and educational facilities at home and outside the home
- assistance in travelling to facilities
- adaptations to the home
- facilitating the taking of holidays
- provision of meals at home or elsewhere
- provision or assistance in obtaining a telephone and any special equipment necessary
- non-residential short breaks (included in Section B1 on the basis that the child as well as his or her parent will benefit from the short break)

When considering appropriate outcomes for this section you should consider that outcomes should:

- Be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-Limited);
- Be person-centred rather than service-led;
- Link clearly to the identified needs and Provision.
- Focus on preparing the young person for adulthood.

In addition to this you should specify how often and by whom the outcomes would be reviewed.

Section B2: Social Care Provision

Within this section you should set out any other social care provision reasonably required by the learning difficulties or disabilities which would result in the child/young person having SEN.

Services provided under the Children Act 1989 may be provided for the family of a particular child in need or for any member of the family and are provided to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.

Social care provision reasonably required may include provision identified through early help and children in need assessments and safeguarding assessments for children. This section **must** only include services which are not provided under Section 2 of the CSDPA. For children and young people under 18 this includes residential short breaks and services provided to children arising from their SEN but unrelated to a disability. This should include any provision secured through a social care direct payment.

Social care provision reasonably required will include any adult social care provision to meet eligible needs for young people over 18 (set out in an adult care and support plan) under the Care Act 2014.

In addition to this you should specify how often and by whom the outcomes would be reviewed.

Section C: Personal Budget

It is a statutory requirement to include within the Education, Health and Care plans any personal budgets that are provided for the child or young person.

For social care this may be provided in the form of a direct payments package. Direct payments allow users to purchase social care from providers of their choice, rather than local authority provided services or third-party providers nominated by the local authority.

If a personal budget has been requested from social care but not agreed this should be specified so that it can be reviewed alongside any future Education, Health and Care plan reviews.

If a personal budget has been agreed the total cost of the package should be provided alongside reference to any outcomes that will be achieved through the package.

If the personal budget is to be reviewed more frequently than the EHC annual review then this should be specified otherwise it can state 'personal budget to be reviewed in line with the Education, Health and Care review'.

Advice Givers Details

When completing the advice you should ensure that your name and details are fully provided within this section alongside the date of completion.