

## **Assessment of Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

The law about assessment and provision for children and young people with SEND is due to change in September 2014. Wigan has been working with the Department for Education and Department of Health as a Pathfinder Authority in testing some of the latest ideas. The new law will mean that parents, carers and young people will have more opportunities to express their own views and make some choices about what happens.

From September 2013 all Wigan children and young people who have significant special educational needs will undergo an Education Health and Care (EHC) Assessment, unless parents, carers or the young person opt out of the new system. This will lead to an EHC Plan instead of a Statement of SEN. Until September 2014 parents/carers and young people will have the choice to be assessed for an EHC Plan or a Statement of SEN.

This will not apply to children and young people who already have a Statement of SEN. The transfer of Statements into EHC Plans will be a gradual process that will take place at key transition points.

### **What is the difference between an EHC Plan and a Statement of SEN?**

Both the EHC Plan and Statement have protection in law. The education provision set out in both the EHC Plan and the Statement has to be provided. Parents have the right of appeal to a tribunal if they are not happy with the education provision.

The table below compares EHC Plans and Statements:

<b>EHC Assessments and Plans</b>	<b>Statutory Assessment and Statements</b>
EHC Assessment looks at the child or young person's needs in education, health and care.	Statutory Assessment only considers the child or young person's educational needs
Parents/carers have a key worker to help them, if they wish.	
The key worker will help families to give their views of the child or young person's needs and their hopes for the future.	Parents/carers can give their views in writing
Parents/Carers are involved in writing the EHC Plan with the education, health and care staff who have assessed the child or young person	Parents have the right to object to the Statement which is written by a Council Officer
EHC Plans will be personalised. That means that all the child's or young person's individual needs in education, health and care will be considered and the provision required identified.	The statement considers educational needs and describes the provision required.

<b>EHC Assessments and Plans</b>	<b>Statutory Assessment and Statements</b>
The resources that are available will be used flexibly to allow families to make some choices about the provision their child/young person receives.	Resources are provided to school to make the required provision.
A Personal Budget may be available to families to choose how to support the child or young person	There are no personal budgets attached to statements
Parents/carers or the young person can express a preference for a particular school	Parents/carers or the young person can express a preference for a particular school
The time taken to produce an EHC Plan is 20 weeks.	The time taken to produce a Statement is 26 weeks.

### **How do I get an EHC Plan for a child or young person?**

You can request to make a referral for an assessment yourself but if a child or young person is at school you may wish to speak to the child/young person's teacher first. They may be able to make the referral for you.

On the rare occasion that a parent/carer needs to make a referral themselves they should contact the SEND Team on 01942 486145 or 01942 486136.