
The Children and Families Act (2014)

The Children and Families Act (2014) aims to ensure that all children, young people and their families are able to access the right support and provision to meet their needs. The Act outlines a new Code of Practice for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Below is a summary of key changes.

- Statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) will be replaced by Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans
- EHC Plans will provide statutory protection comparable to that in Statements of SEN for young people who are in education or training up to the age of 25 instead of ending at 16
- Parents and young people with autism have the option of a personal budget to buy specialist support when a Plan is issued
- Local Authorities will be required to publish a 'Local Offer' outlining the support they and other local authorities nearby will normally provide for children with SEN
- School Action/School Action Plus and IEPs will no longer exist and school based provision will be replaced by a single category called SEN Support
- Health services and local authorities will be required to jointly commission and plan services for children, young people and families

Role of the AET 'Working together with your child's school' document

The new system aims to put each young person and their family at the centre of discussions about the support they are offered. The Government recognises that parents know their children best and schools should ask parents to share knowledge about their child and work together to meet their needs. The 'Working together with your child's school' document will support you in this process and enable you to identify current educational priorities for your child that can be shared with their school. These priorities can be used to support the writing of pupil profiles and goals. The completed document can also be used for transition planning, to contribute to an Education, Health and Care Plan or for review meetings to share useful information with new staff.

For more information about the Act and how it may support your child you should contact your school or education services in your local authority.

Further information

Further information and a free downloadable copy of the 'Working together with your child's school' interactive document can be found on the Autism Education Trust (AET) website at www.aetraininghubs.org.uk/parent-guide. The Autism Education Trust (AET) is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and is dedicated to coordinating, supporting and promoting effective education practice for all children and young people on the autism spectrum.

Additional resource

[Special educational needs and disability - A guide for parents and carers](#)

Excerpts from [How to navigate the changes in special educational needs and disability \(SEND\) provision](#) by Dyslexia Action.