

Education, Health & Care Plans

Information for Children
& Young People



TAMESIDE
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE



We've written this in a way that's easier to understand, so you know what's happening and feel included.

It's important to us that you feel listened to and know what support is available. If you'd prefer to read something with more grown-up language, just choose the version that feels right for you.



What is an EHCP?

EHCP stands for **Education, Health and Care Plan**. It's a special plan that helps adults understand what support you need.

It tells people like your teachers:

- What you're good at
- What you find more difficult
- What kind of help works best for you

It's there to make sure you can learn, feel safe, and enjoy school.

Who is an EHCP for?

Everyone finds some things tricky sometimes — that's normal. Teachers are always there to help you learn and feel safe.

But if you're still finding things hard, even with your teacher's help, you might need some extra support.

An EHCP is a special plan that's just for you. It helps adults understand what you need so you can do the things that matter to you — at school and beyond.

How do I get an EHCP?

If you're still finding things tricky, even with help from your teachers, your school or your parents might ask the council to see if you need an EHCP. To decide this, adults from education, health and social care will work together to understand what kind of help you need.

We'll chat with you about how you're feeling, what you might need help with, and how people around you can help.

This doesn't happen straight away — it can take **up to 20 weeks**. But don't worry — your school will keep helping you while this is happening.



What will I have to do?

An Educational Psychologist might visit you. They're experts in how children and young people learn and feel in school.

They could ask you to play some games or puzzles, and talk with you about your interests, thoughts and hopes.

Sometimes they might visit your classroom to see how things are going. They'll help figure out what kind of support you need.

Other professionals might also get in touch to understand what help you need outside of school.

What happens next?

The Educational Psychologist will meet with your parents or carers and school staff — usually your teacher. They'll write a report using everything you and others have shared, including the help you might need in school.

The local authority (the council) will look at all the information from different people. Then they'll decide if they will write an EHCP for you. If they decide you don't need an EHCP, you'll still get support from the staff in school to help you with your learning and wellbeing.

If you have any questions, please ask your teacher.
We would like to thank Tameside's SEND Youth Council for their helpful feedback when putting this leaflet together.



EHCP Application Timelines

The application process must be completed in 20 weeks

What is an EHCP Referral?

An EHCP referral is when someone asks Tameside Council to think about giving you an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This plan is to help you get the right support at school and in other parts of your life.

What happens next?

Once the referral is sent, the council will: 1) Look at the request carefully 2) Start collecting information from people who know you well—like your teachers, doctors, or family 3) Use this information to decide if an EHCP is the right thing for you.

What happens after the referral?

People who work at the council will meet to talk about your EHCP request.

- This meeting should happen within **6 weeks** after they get the referral - they will decide if they should carry on with the EHCP process.
- Then they will let **you**, your **parents or carers**, and your **school** know what they've decided—and explain **why**.



✗ What if the panel says no?

If the council decides **not** to carry on with your EHCP application:

- The process will **stop** for now.
- They might give your **school** some ideas on how to help you in other ways—even **without an EHCP**.

✓ What if the panel says yes?

If the council decides to carry on with your EHCP application:

- They will collect more detailed information about you.
- An Educational Psychologist might visit you at school to find out what you think would help you.

What happens next?

The council team will meet **again** to talk about your EHCP application.

- This second meeting should happen within **8 weeks** of the first one.
- They will look at all the information they've gathered and decide if you **need an EHCP right now**.
- Then they'll tell **you**, your **parents or carers**, and your **school** what they've decided—and explain **why**.

✗ What if the second panel says no?

If the council decides you **don't need an EHCP right now**:

- The EHCP process will **stop**.
- They might give your **school** some advice on how to support you in the best way they can.

✓ What if the second panel says yes?

If the council decides you do need an EHCP:

- You will be given an Education, Health and Care Plan.
 - The plan will be sent to you and your parents or carers so you can check that you're happy with it.
- Your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will be sent to your school so they know how to support you.
- It explains what help you need to learn, feel safe, and do your best.
 - Every year, the council will review your plan to make sure it still gives you the support you need to learn and thrive.