

## 5. What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?



An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is a legal document that describes the extra support a child or young person requires if they have complex special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The City of Doncaster Council is responsible for writing the EHCP, but many other professionals, such as Educational Psychologists also contribute to the plan, along with input from parents and the children or young people themselves.

The EHCP combines education, health, and care needs all in one place, and sets out what support will be provided to help your child achieve their goals and prepare them for adulthood. It also states which setting they will attend.

An EHCP isn't about getting a place at a particular setting or accessing extra funding. They are for children and young people with lasting and complex needs, which cannot be met through normal everyday SEND support in the educational setting. The focus is always on meeting your child's individual needs and helping them achieve the best possible outcomes.

### How Do EHCPs Make a Difference?

- EHCPs ensure children and young people get the right support, when all other forms of support have been unsuccessful; for example, SEND support. They are tailored to your child's individual strengths, challenges, and goals, so they can thrive in education and beyond.
- They help schools and professionals work together – creating a joined-up approach where everyone involved understands your child's needs and works as a team to meet them.
- They give you and your child a real voice – allowing you both to actively shape the plan, share your views, and be part of decisions about learning, development, and future aspirations.

The EHCP is part of a step-by-step process called the SEND Graduated Approach (you can read more about this in the [SEND Parent Handbook](#)). This approach is designed to make sure children and young people get the right support at the right time in school, college, or early years provision.

### Need More Support?

If you would like further information on the EHCP process, please contact [Doncaster SENDIAS Service](#) by calling [01302 736920](tel:01302736920) or email [sendias@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:sendias@doncaster.gov.uk).



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