



An 'at a glance' and best practice guide to Post 16+ Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans for Social Workers of Children in Care (CiC) to Northamptonshire

Preparing for adulthood from the earliest years and how practitioners should best support young people in care with EHC Plans

- **What to consider;**

Local Authorities **must place children and young people at the centre of their planning**, and work with them to develop co-ordinated approaches to securing better outcomes. They should develop a **shared vision and strategy which focuses on aspirations and outcomes, using information from EHC Plans, Personal Education Plans (PEP)'s** and other planning to anticipate the needs of children and young people, and ensure that there are pathways into employment, independent living, participation in society and good health

The EHC Plan review at Year 9, and every review thereafter, **must include a focus on preparing for adulthood**. It can be helpful for EHC Plan reviews before Year 9 to have this focus too. Young people should be supported to exercise choice and control over their lives, including the 4 'preparing for adulthood' outcomes;

- Moving into paid employment and higher education
- Independent living
- Having friends and relationships being part of their communities
- Being as healthy as possible

Young people **must be invited to every PEP and Annual Review** in order to provide their views and aspirations when planning their transition to adulthood

After statutory school age (the end of the academic year in which the young person turns 16), the right to make requests and decisions under the Children and Families Act 2014 applies to the young person directly.

Consideration should be given to the abilities of the young person in expressing their own views and aspirations regarding their Post 16 setting, and as such, these should be sensitively managed and elicited. Such specific decision making rights about EHC Plans include;

- The right to request a statutory EHC needs assessment (any time up to their 25th birthday)
- The right to make representations about the content of their EHC Plan
- The right to request that a particular institution is named in their EHC Plan
- The right to request a Personal Budget for elements of the EHC Plan
- The right to appeal to the First Tier SEN Tribunal service

Young people have a choice about how they continue in education or training post 16, which could be through;

- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider
- Full-time work or volunteering (20 hours or more) combined with regulated part-time education or training (about one day per week)
- An apprenticeship or traineeship

All young people should follow a **coherent study programme which is meaningful and provides adequate stretch and progression**, enabling them to achieve the best possible outcomes in adult life.





The do not's...

- Please **do not presume that a young person wants to remain in education**, ensure that they are fully informed of the broad range of options available to them and that they are in a position whereby they are able to make an informed choice regarding their next steps in education, work, training or an apprenticeship
- Do not **fail to notify the Virtual School or EHC Team** of a placement move for the young person

****Tip:** Please see associated at a glance guidance document for 'out of county' CiC with EHC Plans

The do's...

- Notify the **EHC Team and Virtual School at the very earliest opportunity** regarding any move of **placement for a young person with an EHC Plan** along with any information relating to their views in respect of attending an education setting
- Support the young person by **attending their PEP's and Annual Review meetings** with a clear and concise understanding of outcomes for the young person
- Seek advice and guidance from the **Virtual School** when considering and supporting the young person in their choice of Post 16 setting

The EHC process in preparation for adulthood and what it means for you as a social worker

What can I expect as the corporate parent?

The young person's **EHC Plan will be amended at the end of Year 8 / beginning of Year 9**, following the Annual Review in order to indicate a greater focus on preparing for adulthood.

The **young person's EHC Plan will be further amended at the start of Year 11** in order to incorporate the most recent Annual Review information, in preparation for the young person's move to Post 16 setting. **You will receive a copy of the amended EHC Plan for your consideration, along with your opportunity to state a preference for setting for the young person. This must be submitted to the EHC Team in 15 days from receipt**

Following receipt of your preference for placement, the Local Authority **will consult with the Post 16 setting** with a copy of the EHC Plan to determine if the setting can meet the young person's special educational needs. It is the expectation that the **young person will also apply directly to the college or Post 16 setting themselves**. The young person **must** be appropriately supported to apply to a college and course of their choosing.

Following consultation, the Local Authority are **required to name a Post 16 setting for the young person by no later than March 31st**

If you are **made aware that a young person has changed their preference for Post 16 setting**, this should be shared with the **EHC Team** at the earliest opportunity, in order for the setting to be appropriately consulted with, and to make sure that they are able to meet the young person's special educational needs

When making a suggestion for a setting as the corporate parent, please be mindful that, **in order for a setting to be named in an EHC Plan, this must be registered with the Department for Education (DfE)**. If you are unsure about this, please seek guidance

****Tip:** advice and guidance regarding Post 16 settings should be sought from the **Virtual School** if you are unclear regarding what might be an appropriate setting for the young person

****Tip:** if a college or post 16 setting indicates that they feel that they cannot meet a young person's special educational needs, this should be discussed with the **Virtual School and EHC Team**



A Virtual School resource



- **What to consider;**

Colleges have similar responsibilities to schools to provide reasonable support to young people with special educational needs, including when they don't have an EHC Plan. For example;

- Access to a specialist tutor
- Independence and life skills
- Making technology accessible by adapting it
- Supporting young people with emotional, social and mental health needs

If the young person has an EHC Plan, it will stay with them until whichever of the following happens first;

- They go into paid employment
- They go into higher education (university or further education college offering degrees)
- They reach age 19 and no longer want to continue in education or there is not a requirement for the young person to remain in education

The young person will no longer be entitled to transport as per the home to school transport policy. However, they may be entitled to Post 16 travel assistance and further information regarding this can be found on the

[Northamptonshire Post-16 travel assistance website](#)

[Prospects](#) could be contacted in order to provide careers information, advice and guidance for young people

Key targets and times in transition, along with important dates to remember!

- **Expectations about what should happen in school; (Gatsby Benchmarks)**

All young people **in Years 7 – 13** should have at least one encounter with an employer a year (this can be both inside and outside of the school, but does not include work experience placements)

By the age of 14, every student has had the opportunity to learn how the different science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects help people to gain entry in a wide range of careers

By the age of 14, all students should have accessed and used information about career paths and the labour market to inform their own decisions on study options

By the age of 16, every student should have had at least one experience of a workplace, additional to any part time jobs that they may have

By the age of 16, every student should have had a meaningful encounter with a provider (i.e. college or apprenticeship) of the full range of learning opportunities

By the age of 18, every student should have had one further such experience in work, additional to any part-time jobs they may have

Every student should have opportunities for guidance interviews with a career adviser, who could be internal (a member of setting staff) or external, provided they are trained to an appropriate level. These should be available whenever significant study or career choices are being made.

****Tip:** the **Virtual School** will support you and the school to discuss these benchmarks and targets when considering a young person's Post 16 options and the PEP should also adequately reflect these



- **The expectations;**

Young people should receive support tailored to their circumstances at any time and to understand the full range of opportunities available to them, to learn from employers about work and the skills that are valued in the workplace and to have first-hand experience of the workplace

In addition to information gathered by other means, young people should be **supported to visit as broad a range of Post 16 education and training settings** as possible in order to gather information that will enable them to make an informed decision in regard to their Post 16 choices. Such examples of this include;

- Working collaboratively with young people to review their progress and to jointly plan their pathways through employment or training
- Constructively challenging young people and inspire them to make progress in their learning. Make sure that the course they are applying for provides adequate academic stretch and progression for the young person
- Support in scheduling and attending college, further education open evenings or careers events, and enabling the young person to get the best out of their experiences
- Help in identifying apprenticeship or training pathways and providing the means to help young people access further information

***Tip: Dates and information regarding the above will be able to be accessed via the college or further education setting contained within the 'useful contact information' section at the end of this document*



- **Dates and key times that you need to know and act upon;**

Following the **Annual Review of the EHC Plan at the end of Year 8 / start of Year 9**, you will receive an updated copy of the young person's EHC Plan in a 'preparing for adulthood' format for your consideration and comment. This will also request your preference for school placement

It is following this review meeting that you should be **focussing upon preparing the young person in their transition to Post 16 education, employment or training** and this discussion and target mapping will form a significant part of the PEP

In the second term of Year 11, you will be sent a further amended EHC Plan for your consideration and you will be asked to share your preference for the young person's Post 16 setting – the Local Authority are required to name a setting by 31st March

Throughout Year 11, you should be supporting the young person to attend college open evenings and make relevant applications to the colleges for courses of their interest. Please also note, **it is expected that the young person themselves will make an application to the college, irrespective of the EHC Team consulting with the setting to secure a place**

***Tip: You will be required to respond to respond to the EHC Team within 15 calendar days from receipt of the Draft EHC Plan, and therefore it would prove to be beneficial to have discussed the young person's preference for setting or career pathway well in advance of receipt. The **Virtual School** can also support you with this*



Useful contact information

[Virtual School website](#)

[EHC Team website](#)

[EHC Team Kettering and Corby](#)

[EHC Team Wellingborough and East Northants](#)

[EHC Team Northampton](#)

[EHC Team Daventry and South Northants](#)

[Northampton College](#)

[Moulton College](#)

[Tresham College](#)

[Stamford College](#)

[Canto](#)

[Young Northants - Finding a job](#)

[Apprenticeships guidance and search](#)