

## A coordinated approach

For children, young people and their families the assessment process should be person-centred, well coordinated and timely. Education, Health and Care professionals will work together with families to decide key outcomes and to secure appropriate resources in order to deliver those outcomes. Education Health and Care Plans will take into account the use of informal (family and community) support and formal support from statutory agencies in order to achieve agreed outcomes.

## What next?

From September 2014 all existing Statements of SEN will gradually be transferred to EHC Plans over a three year period. We will work in close collaboration with children, young people, parents, carers, and professionals to implement these changes, further details will be forthcoming soon. If you have questions about this process or wish to request an assessment, you can contact the Statutory Assessment and Resources Team (START) and ask to talk with a Casework Officer.

**Phone:** 01480 372600

**Email:** [start@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:start@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## The local offer - online information

The local offer sets out services available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) from birth to age 25 and their families.

We are in the process of updating our website. By September 2014 there will be a specific 'Education, Health and Care Plan' area which will provide more detail about; how to request an assessment; eligibility; personal budgets; support for families; and appeals. **Please visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/send](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/send).**

# Education, Health and Care Plan

Personalised assessment, planning and support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and their families.



# Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

On 1 September 2014 the Children and Families Act becomes law. From this date Statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDA) will be replaced by a single Education Health and Care Plan.

This new way of working will ensure that the child or young person and their parents/carers are placed at the centre of a collaborative planning process and will apply to children and young people with Special Educational Needs from age 0-25. It will deliver a coordinated assessment within 20 weeks from the date the referral is received.

The main difference between the previous method of assessment and the new EHCP is that there will be a more integrated approach which focuses on individual outcomes and which takes place within a shorter timescale. The same right to appeal will remain and parents/carers/young people will also have access to a Disagreement Resolution and Mediation service.

From September 2014 all **existing** Statements of Special Educational Need and Learning Difficulty Assessments will gradually be transferred to EHC Plans over a three year period. The new EHC Plan will provide the same statutory protection as the current Statement of Special Educational Need.

From September 2014 **new referrals** will not be for Statements but for EHC Plans. Parents/carers, the young person (if he/she is over the age of 16), or a professional who identifies the need for further support (with parental consent) can make a request.

## The assessment and planning process is shown in the flow chart below.

