



Dear Schools/Settings

We are writing to you following the recent government announcements regarding temporary amendments to Education Health and Care (EHC) plans. We want to ensure you are kept fully up to date with how Cheshire East Local Authority are responding. Over the past couple of weeks we have worked in co-production with health and social care partners, educational partners and parent carers to design a document to ensure children and young people's provision during this current time can be discussed, recorded and reviewed.

Schools will be requested to contact all families, children and young people to complete the form in co-production to ensure that changes to provision (as outlined in plans) are discussed and agreed. Once completed, the school/setting is required to send copies to the Local Authority, Parent/Carer and young person.

These **will be required to be reviewed** and updated throughout this current time.

All returns must be completed and submitted to the Local Authority by 30th June 2020.

If you require any support regarding the above please email EHCPReturns@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Government guidance outlines:

That local authorities and health bodies must consider for each child and young person with an EHC plan what they can reasonably provide in the circumstances during the notice period. For some individuals, this will mean that the provision specified in their plan can continue to be delivered; but for others (because of the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on local authorities or health commissioning bodies) the provision may need temporarily to be different to that which is set out in their EHC plan.

Once the notice expires or is cancelled, local authorities and health commissioning bodies would in all cases need to secure or arrange the full range of provision, as specified in the EHC plan.

The local authority or health commissioning body should keep a record of the provision it decides it must secure or arrange. It should then:

- *confirm to the parents or young person what it has decided to do and explain why the provision for the time being differs from that in the plan*
- *keep under review whether the provision it is securing or arranging means that it is still complying with the reasonable endeavours duty, recognising that the needs of a child or young person may change over time (particularly in the current circumstances) as may the availability of key staff or provision*

The Secretary of State for Education must review the effectiveness of the changes to the regulations

The changes are for the period 1 May to 25 September 2020 (inclusive)

Link to full guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus/education-health-and->

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Documents to support:

1. Blank template attached - this must be completed for all children with an EHC Plan within your school/setting, this must be completed in co-production with parent/carer and young person and copy sent to Parent/Carer, young person and the Local Authority – email to EHCPReturns@cheshireeast.gov.uk
2. Example completed documents – we have compiled a range of exemplar documents to support understanding of content, but if you require any further support please email EHCPReturns@cheshireeast.gov.uk
3. Flowchart of process and procedure for completion of documents.
4. Letter and Guidance for parents/carers – letters are not being sent directly to parent/carers, therefore we are requesting that these are published on your website to support communication to all parents/carers. We will also be publishing on our local offer page.
5. NHS Health Service changes during Covid 19 – This outlines the details of health services and changes to provision during this time to support Health content.

What changes might be made?

1. The settings will **work with the parent carer / young person** to look for ways to make it work, or alternative ways to deliver provision.
2. There must be **no blanket policies** about what can and can't be done – **each child / young person's provision must be considered individually.**
3. **Changes can only be made for coronavirus-related reasons.**
4. For some people **it may be possible for provision to be unchanged**; for example “small group work” is likely to be a part of the “new normal” for everyone in our schools for the time being, access to equipment or use certain strategies could be unaffected.
5. For some, **there may have to be a temporary change to how provision is delivered**; for example alterations to the frequency and timing of provision in school, like a part time timetable or phased return to build up to full days; temporary placement in another school, attendance at a local hub, video class sessions, home learning reading programme, specialist SEN teachers providing advice and support for parents, SaLT or OT delivering therapy via video link.
6. For others, **it may simply not be possible to deliver some of their provision at this time**; for example, they may be shielding so unable to attend their usual setting, and unable to engage with “school work” at home.
7. The setting, parents / young person can refer to the LA and health commissioning bodies who should always look to see if there are ways to deliver the provision in their EHC plan.

Any changes agreed are not permanent, and are not actual changes to a child / young person's EHC plan - this is not a review (this can be completed during any pre-booked reviews, but a copy must be sent to the dedicated email as per above).

If you wish to share good practise, please use email above to share details of how you are supporting children/young people with EHC plans during this current time.



We would like to thank all schools and settings for their continued support during these difficult and challenging times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Rogerson'.

Laura Rogerson

Head of Service: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Cheshire East Council

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