

What Are the SEND Reforms?

The new Children and Families Act (2014) introduced major changes to the way children and young people (from birth to 25 years old) with special educational needs and disabilities are supported. These changes came into effect from the 1st of September 2014.

Part 3 Section 19 of the Act states that the Local authority **must have regard to:**

- The wishes and feelings of the child, young person and the child's parents.
- The importance of the child, young person and child's parents being able to fully participate in decision making
- the importance of the child and his or her parent, or the young person, being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions
- The need to support children and young people to achieve the best possible outcomes and prepare them for adulthood

Local authorities **must** work together with health, education and social care to deliver services.

What are the key changes?

1. Education and Health Care (EHC) plans will replace statements of special educational needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments.

- **The transition from a statement to an EHC plan will take 14 weeks to complete**

- **A new EHC plan will take 20 weeks to complete**

2. All local authorities must publish a '**Local Offer**' which provides information on the support available to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from birth to 25 years old.

3. School action and school action plus will be replaced with **SEN Support**.

4. Academies, independent schools and colleges will have to admit pupils **when they are named in the EHC plan**

5. Parents and young people can request a personal budget to deliver the provision set out in the EHC plan. The local authority has a duty to prepare a personal budget when a request is made.

6. Local authorities must make arrangements for parents and young people to receive information about mediation so that they can take part in mediation if they wish. **Mediation must be considered before making an appeal.**

7. The First Tier (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Tribunal can consider appeals up to the age of 25

Please contact Funke Adeloje on 02084660790 or email at is@bromleymencap.org or visit <http://www.bromleyparentvoice.org.uk> for further information