



**Edward Timpson MP**  
Minister of State for Children and Families

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To: Directors of Children's Services and  
Lead Members for Children's Services

*Dear Directors,*

13 July 2015

### **Transfers from Statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments to Education, Health and Care plans**

I am writing to let you know that I announced last Friday, at the Association of Directors of Children's Services Conference, two measures to support the effective transfer of Statements of Special Educational Need and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

Transferring Statements and LDAs to EHC plans is a significant task that needs to be done well. Simply rebadging statements and LDAs as EHC plans isn't an option. We need to ensure that the needs of children and young people are properly identified and met.

I've been keeping in close contact with local authorities as they have been putting the SEN and disability reforms into practice and listening carefully to the feedback received from professionals and families alike.

I have heard that the current timescales are putting a strain on the system that risks undermining the quality of person-centred assessment and EHC plans. We need to ensure that the needs of children and young people are properly identified and met through the provision you put in place; and that the processes enable you to undertake the task efficiently and to a high standard.

That's why I'm putting in place the following measures.

Firstly, I've asked our delivery support partner - a consortium led by Mott MacDonald - to provide further help and support to local areas in managing this transition period; primarily through a series of events with the regional networks. These sessions will be run by our SEN advisers and aim to help local authorities learn from each other, drawing on the most effective practical approaches that local areas are developing to carry out transfer reviews in a timely and person-

centred way.

Secondly, I'll be extending the maximum timescale for transferring individual Statements from 16 to 20 weeks; matching the timescale for new assessments. This will take effect from 1 September 2015.

We will be providing further details over the coming weeks.

I am grateful to you for all the work you are doing to implement the wide-ranging changes in the Children and Families Act 2014 and improve the support for children, young people and families. I hope that these measures will further support your continuing work. We will continue to monitor closely how things are going and the impact of these changes.

It is important that the information in this letter reaches families and organisations involved in delivering services to children and young people with SEN and disabilities. I will therefore be publicising this letter through a range of networks and media. I would be grateful if you also could communicate its contents widely within your local area.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Edward*

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