EDUCATION, HEALTH AND caRE hUB

INTRODUCTION Document FOR SEncos

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Introduction

Since the introduction of The Children & Families Act 2014 and the SEN Code of Practice (2014), local authorities across England have been implementing new processes and pathways to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). In place of Statements and Learning Disability Assessments, local authorities have a duty to provide an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is already available.

At the heart of the new legislation is a vision of collaborative working across Health, Education and Social Care and an engaging person-centred approach to the whole EHC pathway. However, the administrative processes currently in place to facilitate such an approach is a significant barrier that has left many local authorities struggling to sustain the volume of work, as well as to meet the statutory timeframes set by the Code (SEND Code of Practice 2014).

For many local authorities, the years since the introduction of the reforms has been a challenging period of significant change set against the backdrop of increased demand and ever-challenging budgets. A new way of working is needed, that not only supports local authorities to meet their statutory obligations more efficiently, but that achieves the SEND Code’s core principle of the child or young person being at the heart of everything we do.

Idox’s EHC Hub is an innovative digital platform for families, professionals and education settings to engage, contribute and collaborate on EHC assessments, plans and reviews. It provides an end-to-end solution for the two core statutory pathways: The twenty-week assessment and planning process and subsequently, the review of those EHC Plans. It puts the child or young person and their family at the heart of these processes and provides easy, secure access for all other case stakeholders to actively contribute and view information.

Putting children, young people and their families at the heart of the EHC process

For children, young people and their families, SENCos, education settings and professionals across education, health and social care, the Hub can be a one-stop digital resource for them to access and contribute information throughout their EHC journeys.

It can be accessed 24 hours a day on a smartphone, tablet or computer and is designed to be easy and intuitive to use without any need for formal training.

One of its most powerful features is the opportunity that it provides to truly capture the child or young person’s voice. The *About Me* and *My Parent/Carer’s Views* areas are unique multimedia spaces for uploading short video clips, photographs and scanned documents alongside written text to capture a dynamic narrative about their aspirations at the assessment stage, and later for Section A of the EHC Plan.

The EHC Hub offers:

* Online EHC assessment request pathway, including uploading/sharing reports and or documents
* EHC case tracker with clear, contextual information advice and guidance as well as complete visibility of the statutory timeframes that relate to their case (review and assessment)
* Multimedia spaces to capture the child, young person & families views
* Secure 24/7 online access to all key information, documentation and reports
* Draft EHC plan consultation with ability to submit comments and feedback
* EHCP Review meeting information and invitations
* Ability to provide views/ feedback ahead of the EHC Review meeting
* Automated email alerts and notifications of case updates
* Access for advocates or independent support workers
* Access to multiple child/ Young person’s cases via the one login
* Download and save/ print all online case information
* Visibility of the Case Timeline to see all recent case activity

In order to help guide SENCOs through the process, Idox, the provider of the Hub, has produced guidance material for SENCOs, which has been split into the following topics:

1. How to Register for an Account
2. Viewing the My Cases work tray
3. Viewing a Case File
4. Completing a Needs Assessment Request
5. How to contribute to a request
6. Progress to Decision
7. Decision
8. How to contribute to an assessment
9. Decision to Issue Plan
10. Viewing the Draft Plan
11. EHC Plan Consultations
12. Consultation for Education Settings
13. Finalised and Issued EHCP
14. EHC Plan Review
15. Arranging the EHC Plan Review Meeting
16. Progress to Meeting
17. EHC Plan Review Meeting
18. Progress to Draft Report
19. Decision
20. Help Using Forms

There is a separate guidance document for each of these topics, for ease of reference by SENCOs.