







From Friday 1st of May temporary changes have been made to the laws about Education, Health and Care plans. We have produced this fact sheet to help you understand how this may impact on your child or young person's Education, Health and Care assessment or provision in their plan.





<p>What has changed about the requirements to deliver provision in an Education, Health and Care plan?</p> 	<p>From 1st May 2020 Somerset County Council and Somerset Clinical Commissioning group must now use their reasonable endeavours to secure the provision in an EHC plan. Due to the coronavirus, they have to look at what needs to be provided during this period. This may mean a child or young person's provision may be different from what is in their plan. An example of this is something being delivered virtually instead of face to face. This is in place until the 31st May but may be extended.</p>
<p>Changes to EHC processes</p> 	<p>The legal timescales for Education, Health and Care plans have been eased. This has been replaced by a requirement on the local authority and clinical commissioning group, to act as soon as reasonably practicable. This applies only when the delay is related to coronavirus. An example: the LA are unable to complete an assessment of a child or young person's needs due to the child or young person being infected. These changes will be in force from 1st May to 25th September 2020 and will be kept under review by the government.</p>

Following conversations with Somerset County Council and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group we have collected responses to questions you may have. These reflect the current situation and may change with any new guidance from central government. Somerset County Council and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group have both stated that all cases will be reviewed on an individual basis and that they will not be applying any blanket policy.

Education, Health and Care - Requests for Assessment

<p>Can requests for an Education, Health and Care assessment be made?</p> 	<p>Yes, changes to the law does not stop a request being made. Changes to the law reflects that the impact of the coronavirus may impact on the timescales for processing a request. Somerset is still processing any new requests.</p>
<p>Will there be delays in processing a request for assessment?</p> 	<p>The Statutory SEN team in Somerset will try to continue to meet the usual timescales. This will depend on the ability of different services to provide the information needed to progress an assessment.</p>
<p>Will there be delays in getting medical advice for my assessment for an EHC plan?</p> 	<p>The timescales for EHC assessments was eased on the 1st of May 2020. In Somerset, the medical professionals are doing their very best to stick to the 6-week process for health contributions but on occasions they accept this may not be possible. The CCG apologise in advance if there is an unavoidable delay.</p>
<p>Can I still access support to help me through the EHC assessment process?</p> 	<p>Yes, SENDIAS are continuing to provide impartial, free, information, advice and support for children, young people and their families. There is a variety of resources available on the website: www.somersetsend.org.uk</p> <p>Advice is available by emailing somersetsendias@somerset.gov.uk or by phone on 01823 355578.</p>

Education, Health and Care – Provision in EHC Plans (Reasonable Endeavours)

<p>How will the provision in my child or young person’s plan be delivered? (Outlined in Section F)</p> 	<p>Your school should have already had a conversation with you about what is best for your child or young person about attending school.</p> <p>They will work <u>with you to decide</u> whether this provision can continue to be delivered or that this provision will need to be different owing to the impact of the coronavirus.</p>
<p>What will happen about my therapy provision? (outlined in section G)</p> 	<p>Due to the social distancing rules and the need to move staff to urgent care, the CCG have made temporary changes to how they deliver therapies. For the majority of families this will be done over a virtual platform or by phone as agreed with you. In exceptional circumstances a therapist may arrange a face to face appointment if needed.</p>
<p>What can I do if there is an element of provision, I feel is best not to receive currently e.g. because someone in my home is shielding or unwell?</p> 	<p>If you are at all worried, then talk to the team that would deliver the provision. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis and they will work with you to find a solution.</p>
<p>What do I do if I am concerned that an element of my child or young person’s plan is not be delivered?</p> 	<p>The first thing to do is contact the organisation that provides what is in the plan e.g. school, therapy service etc and have a conversation. Agencies have emphasised they want to work with you find a solution that works for your family and SENDIAS can help you have those conversations.</p>

	If you still feel the matter has not been resolved, then ring Somerset direct on 0300 123 224 and leave a message for your casework officer.
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Other questions that have been asked by parents locally which you may find helpful.

<p>My child/young person has an EHCp, what should I expect from my school?</p>	<p>Your school should have already had a conversation with you about what is best for your child or young person about attending school.</p> <p>If they are at home, then your school should be regularly in contact with you. They should also be sending home things for your child to do while at home.</p>
<p>My child is really struggling to do the work set for them. What should I do?</p>	<p>This is a challenging time for all of us and it is understandable that some families are finding this hard. Keeping your child happy and safe is the most important job for families. Talk to your child or young person's school if you are struggling, they will help you to find a way forward which is suitable for your family.</p>
<p>What to do if I start to struggle with child at home?</p>	<p>It's okay to say that you are finding things challenging. The first thing to do is contact the school or college and have a conversation. Your school or college will work with you to find the right support for you and your family.</p> <p>If you still feel the matter has not been resolved, then ring Somerset direct on 0300 123 224.</p> <p>If your child or young person has not been attending school for example home educated and you are struggling, please contact Somerset Direct for help and advice.</p>
<p>I'm concerned about attending regular appointments at health settings.</p>	<p>It is understandable that you may have concerns but lots of things are in place to minimise any risks of catching coronavirus. If you want to discuss the arrangements and</p>



Somerset update on the changes to
Education Health and Care plan
duties - effective from 1st May 2020



	talk things through contact the department you will be attending.
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