



Self Assessment of our SEND Implementation

May 2016

*A new approach to special
educational needs and disability*



EHCP Assessment and Plan

What was the issue?

Local Authorities need to develop documents and pathways which meet the following expectations:

“EHC plans should be forward-looking documents that help raise aspirations and outline the provision required to meet assessed needs to support the child or young person in achieving their ambitions. EHC plans should specify how services will be delivered as part of a whole package and explain how best to achieve the outcomes sought across education, health and social care for the child or young person.

An EHC needs assessment will not always lead to an EHC plan. The information gathered during an EHC needs assessment may indicate ways in which the school, college or other provider can meet the child or young person’s needs without an EHC plan.”

Ref SEND Code of Practice 9.5, 9.6

Our journey so far....

Creating the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

- A task group featuring multi-agency professionals and parental representation was put in place to create the Torbay EHCP
- The group evaluated exemplars from the DfE, from Hartlepool and Southampton, to determine which elements could be used to meet local requirements in Torbay
- The group also reviewed the existing Torbay statement of Special Educational Needs which feedback showed to be considered as child focused; we wanted to build on this strength
- The Torbay EHCP was drafted and feedback gathered from a range of sources including students at Paignton Community & Sports Academy and Combe Pafford School
- The SEN Team presented the EHCP as part of a workshop organised by the Parent Participation Forum
- The draft plan was made available on www.torbay.gov.uk/sen for feedback and circulated to the Parent Participation Forum membership
- The EHCP was finalised and signed off by the SEND Reforms Steering Group
- The EHCP format was shared with DfE colleagues and approved

Creating the Education, Health and Care Assessment Process

- Professionals from Education, Social Care and Health prepared a draft of the EHCP pathway to focus on co-ordinated working and person centred planning within the challenging new 20 weeks timeframe.
- Development of the Torbay SEN Support Process 1 (TSSP1 – Pre Plan Process) as a reference guide to support educational providers and Torbay SEN Support Process 2 (TSSP2 – RSA Process).
- The Torbay EHCP pathway was made available to view on www.torbay.gov.uk/sen for feedback
- A SEN Officer is allocated to the family at the start of the assessment process. The SEN Officer arranges a home visit with the family to feedback the decision from the SEND Panel, to explain the process and ensure



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their views are gathered alongside collating information regarding all professionals involved with the child/young person.

- A second visit is arranged once the plan is drafted and at that time the SEN Officer will discuss the draft plan with the parents/carers and make any amendments should they be required.

What have we done?

- Families and professionals have been kept up to date of developments by the SEND Reforms newsletters since Nov 13
- 6 Q&A sessions were provided for parents of Children with SEN in the summer term 2014, in Torquay, Paignton and Brixham
- Training was provided to SENCo forums over the course of 2014 to raise awareness of the new EHCP assessment process and forms. The Parent Participation Forum attended these events.
- Supporting literature was created and distributed to young people, parents and professionals and can be viewed at www.torbay.gov.uk/educationhealthcareplan and via the Local Offer
- A freepost feedback questionnaire and online form was made available for all young people and their families who have taken part in the statutory assessment process. The questionnaire is designed to help us improve our service
- A telephone survey has been put in place to collect feedback from families on the EHCP assessment process
- We have consulted with SENCos on how to improve the process and have set up a joint SEN & SENCO task and finish group to collaboratively improve our process
- We have developed a Quality Assurance Scorecard to measure the SEN Team and partners' adherence to timescales. Issues are escalated to the SEND Operational Lead group.

What difference has this made?

- Feedback from families is very positive about the EHCP and supporting process
- A secure graduated approach to School Support and to assessment established
- Assessment and plan approach now increasingly person centred, allocated SEN Officer and home visits ensure better capturing of the voice of the family and put the family central to the plan
- Improved partnership working

Areas for further action

- We need to reach out to more young people to ensure their views are included in developing our service approach
- We aim to increase the feedback we gather from young people on what they feel about their EHCP and how it was put together
- We need to ensure there is representation from Health and Social Care on the SEND Panel. Initially both services were represented; however, of late this has not been the case.
- We need to develop a more robust method of measuring the impact of an EHCP on the young person achieving their identified outcomes



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- We are planning a session at Torbay Hospital to build a shared understanding of responsibilities and to start to address any barriers to the EHCP process with Health colleagues.
- We are developing our Quality Assurance of EHCPs to ensure we have a consistent approach across the SEN Team
- We are working with regional South West partners to identify common issues and develop a quality assurance approach
- We are working jointly with SENCOs to reduce the amount of paperwork for schools

Immediate next steps

- Create links with young people's groups to embed their views into service development
- Investigate the use of technology such as the MOMO app to measure young people's satisfaction with their EHCP
- Work with Schools to measure the impact of EHCPs at Annual Reviews
- Continue to evaluate the quality and consistency of our EHCPs
- Put together a workshop to improve how SEN and Social Care work together to support the EHCP process
- Ensure representation from Health and Social Care at the SEND Panel

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