**What is an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)?**  
An EHCP is a legal document created by the local authority. It outlines a child or young person’s special educational needs (SEN), the support required, and any relevant health and social care provision. EHCPs replaced Statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments in September 2014.  
They are for children and young people (0–25) who need more support than a school or college can provide on its own.

A child in a white shirt and black pants

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**Who Needs an EHCP?**  
EHCPs are for those with significant or complex needs that cannot be met through standard SEN support.  
Most children with SEN receive help without an EHCP. However, if progress is limited despite this, a request can be made for an **EHC needs assessment**—by you or the school. If agreed, the local authority decides whether to issue an EHCP.

**What Should an EHCP Include?**  
According to the **SEND Code of Practice**, EHCPs must:

* Be developed with parents, carers and young people
* Focus on what the child can do and what outcomes are expected
* Be clear, accessible and based on assessment evidence
* Set out specific support and coordinated services (education, health, and care)
* Plan for future transitions and life beyond school
* Include both formal and informal support
* Have a review date

Read more in **section 9.61** of the [SEND Code of Practice](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25).

**What’s in an EHCP?**  
An EHCP includes 12 key sections:

* **A** – Views and aspirations of the child/young person and their family
* **B** – Special educational needs
* **C** – Health needs
* **D** – Social care needs
* **E** – Outcomes
* **F** – Educational provision
* **G** – Health provision
* **H1** – Statutory social care (under 18)
* **H2** – Other social care provision
* **I** – Placement (school or setting)
* **J** – Personal budget details
* **K** – Supporting assessment information

For Year 9 and above, the plan must also include support for **preparing for adulthood**.

More detail is in **sections 9.62 and 9.63** of the [SEND Code of Practice](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25).

**Your Involvement**  
You must be involved throughout the EHCP process.  
“Local authorities must consult the child and the child’s parent or the young person throughout the process of assessment and production of an EHCP.” *(SEND Code of Practice 9.21*

A child wearing glasses and a backpack

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