



Education in Newcastle

A booklet for parents/carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Education

All children have a right to an education that enables them to make progress so that they:

- achieve their best
- become confident individuals and live fulfilling lives
- make a successful transition into becoming an adult – whether that is into further and higher education, training or work

Additional Funding

All mainstream schools have additional funding to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. From this additional funding an individual pupil can receive up to £6,000 of support within a year if required.

If necessary, the school can apply for top up funding from the Local Authority above this £6,000. However, schools must be able to provide evidence of how the £6,000 has been spent before they can apply for any additional funding.

Special Provision

If your child's needs cannot be met within mainstream provision there is Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) and Special School provision available in Newcastle.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Most children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will attend mainstream schools. If the school thinks they need additional support this will be met through **SEN support**. They must tell you if they are making special educational provision for your child. If you are worried about your child's learning then ask for a meeting with the class teacher.



The Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice says that schools should use a four part cycle (Assess, Plan, Do and Review). This means that the school and teaching staff should identify extra support your child needs in order to make progress, put this support in place and regularly check how well it is working so that they can change the amount or kind of support if they need to.

The school should draw up a plan, involving you and your child, focusing on outcomes your child needs and wants to achieve and detailing how the school will support them to achieve these. They should also meet with you three times a year to review how your child is progressing.

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

Most children's needs can be met by their school. A small number of children or young people will need an EHCP if they need more support than is normally available in mainstream education. The plan is drawn up by the Local Authority after a formal assessment process called an EHC Needs Assessment of a child's educational needs based on specialist advice. An EHCP Co-ordinator will be responsible for gathering all the reports and information for the assessment. It is a legal document which describes:



- A child or young person's special educational, health and social care needs
- The help that will be given to meet those needs
- What the young person will be able to achieve as a result of the support (outcomes)

Any child or young person who currently has a Statement of Special Educational Needs will be transferred to an EHCP by 2018. Contact Independent Support at Skills for People to get help with the EHCP Process and the Annual Review.

Meetings In School

You are likely to be invited to meetings in school to discuss and review your child's progress.



- Think about what you want to say before you go
- Make a list and submit your parental views before the meeting
- Listen to what other people say, tick off the things they cover
- Ask questions about the things they haven't covered

Take someone with you - a friend, relative, someone from the Newcastle SEND Information, Advice & Support Service or one of our Family Advice Workers.

SENCO

Every educational setting has to have a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). Their role is to:

- Be responsible for co-ordinating the additional help your child receives
- Help to set targets for your child's plan
- Monitor the progress of each child with special educational needs
- Liaise with and refer to other professionals for support

Early Education Additional Support Team (EEAST)

They are a small team of specialist teachers and nursery nurses who work with pre-school children who have special educational needs. The team:

- Visit children in their own homes to provide teaching advice and support
- Plan a range of opportunities to develop each child's play and learning
- Give specialist support and advice to help parents make informed choices about the education of their children
- Provide support to help children access and make progress in their local Early Years Setting

Tel: 0191 277 4625

Any professional working with the family can refer to this service and parents can self refer.

Special Educational Needs Teaching and Support Service (SENTASS)

This is a team of local authority specialist teachers and support staff who assess and work with children and young people who have a range of special educational needs. They accept referrals from schools and health colleagues. Their role is to :



- Work in partnership with parents and professionals to provide a co-ordinated programme of intervention
- Work with children at school who have dyslexia, dyspraxia, specific learning disabilities, visual and hearing impairments and communication difficulties
- Offer support to children with a wide range of Special Educational Needs from pre-school up to school leaving age

Tel: 0191 277 4608

Speech and Language Therapist (SALT)

- Encourages the development of social and language skills of children
- Gives advice on the use of alternative methods of communication including symbols and Makaton
- Can assist with oral motor problems and offer advice on swallowing and chewing difficulties

Tel: 0191 282 3085

They have an open referral system – anyone can refer to their service as long as they have permission of the child's parents. Parents/carers can refer directly if they wish.

Educational Psychologist

- Works with children in schools and early years settings and home visits for pre-school children
- Works with teachers, parents and other professionals to assess, give advice on management and teaching of the child to make the best possible progress
- Contributes to the EHCP process

Referrals to this service are made by schools.

Occupational Therapist

- Advises parents and schools about aids and adaptations at home and school
- Runs programmes to assist with fine and gross motor skills
- Gives advice about mobility and co-ordination skills

Referrals to this service are made by schools or health care professionals.

Physiotherapist

Works to support the child and their family to reach their greatest physical potential. This includes giving support and advice to school.

Referrals to this service can be made by health care professionals.

EHCP Year 9 Annual Review

At the year 9 EHCP review all young people with a statement or EHCP need to plan what the options are post 16 and prepare for adulthood.



They will be given a Connexions Adviser whose role is to guide them through the choices available for their future with regard to education, training and employment. The Year 9 EHCP review should include everyone involved with the young person's life e.g. Connexions Adviser, teachers, social worker and health professionals and should cover all areas of their life, not just education.

It is important that your young person's views are included in the reviews as the EHCP should address post 16 education, work, independence, friendships and leisure. It should help them work towards what they hope to achieve in the future and the skills and support they need for this.



Moving on

Our Family Advice Workers can also help by attending meetings and visiting post 16 education with you. We can research alternative provision and recommend or liaise with other agencies who can support you and your young person with transition.

Independent Support



Our Independent Supporters, here at Skills for People, can work with parents going through assessment for an EHCP or transferring from a statement to an EHCP.

Tel: 0191 281 8737

Email: info@skillsforpeople.org.uk

Other Organisations

IPSEA - Independent Parental Special Education Advice



They offer free and independent legally based information, advice and support to help get the right education for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Web: www.ipsea.org.uk

Parent Carer Participation & Families United

Families United is a support network for parents, carers and families of children with disabilities in Newcastle.



Web: www.newcastlefamiliesunited.com

Tel: 0191 277 4700

Email: Sharon.Hand@newcastle.gov.uk

Newcastle Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service

This service provides information specialising in education matters and includes information and signposting on social care and health issues.



Contact: Judith Lane

Tel: 0191 284 0480

Local Offer

The Local Offer describes the services available for children/young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) aged 0 - 25 and their families.



Email: localoffer@newcastle.gov.uk

Web: www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk

Select SEND Local Offer

Contact



(New name for Contact a Family)

Helping families in the North East who care for disabled children.

Tel: 0191 213 6300

Email: northeast.office@contact.org.uk

Web: www.contact.org.uk

Look for advice in your area - select North East

Skills for People

This booklet is produced by the Skills for People, a charity run by disabled people. We are based in Newcastle upon Tyne and for over 25 years we have been helping disabled people to speak up for themselves and make their own choices about their lives. Our work is led by disabled people and their experiences are at the heart of all we do.

Our Family Advice Workers support families with disabled children/young people up to the age of 25. They help families by giving practical advice, appropriate to their needs and working across all agencies such as education, social care, health, benefits, leisure and voluntary services. Their services are free to parents/carers.

We produce a range of information booklets, factsheets and "How To" guides. Visit our website to see the full range: www.nsn.org.uk/resources

How to get in touch

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Twitter: [@skillsforpeople](https://twitter.com/skillsforpeople)



Facebook: on.fb.me/1istYKg



Newcastle parents of children with disabilities
and special needs working together

Facebook: Pass it on Parents Newcastle

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