

Headlines on Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for Scrutiny Committee discussion.

1. The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced a new approach to securing the provision needed by Children and Young people with SEND. The 0-25 SEND Code of Practice is statutory guidance on the Act and in the spirit of the Code, Southwark coproduced its policy and processes around the new provisions with all involved agencies, parents and Children and Young people. Parents and Young People have set the vision for SEND in Southwark, '*where children and young people with SEND have the same opportunities as everyone else*'.

The Act and Code introduced new ways of working and statutory duties around:

- The involvement of children, young people and their families in all processes. Coproduction must be at the heart of all we do with all being equal partners in the process
- A full assessment by all agencies leading to an outcome focused EHCP
- A clear, transparent Local Offer of services for children and young people with SEND and their families
- Services to be jointly commissioned between the local authority and health based on the JSNA
- 0-25 provision for children and young people with SEND with statutory protections extended to cover 16-25 year olds
- Extension of the use of personal budgets and short breaks so give families choice and control
- All schools to be brought under the same legislation however constituted.

A key aspect of the reforms was the introduction of EHCPs for all new assessments, and the need to transfer all children with statements of SEN onto a plan by March 2018, as well as move to a 20 week timeline from the beginning of an EHC needs assessment to issue of the final plan.

EHC needs assessments should engage children, young people and parents as equal partners in the process alongside all involved professionals. The aim should be to draw all assessments from all partners together into one plan, agree long term multi-agency outcomes and design provision to meet needs that work towards these shared outcomes.