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Letter to Parents of Children and Young Persons
Who have SEN statements

7 July 2014

Dear Parent/ Carer

This letter is to tell you about some of the changes that are coming into place nationally to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and to let you know what this means for your child or young person.

From 1 September 2014 statutory assessments will be replaced by Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) assessments. These are designed to provide an integrated understanding of children and young people's special educational needs and/ or disabilities and to take particular account of their views and wishes as well as the views and wishes of their families. Where an EHC assessment takes place, and the level of need is such that additional provision/ support is required, an Education, Health and Care Plan (sometimes called a 'Single Plan') will be drawn up with the child/ young person and their parents/ carers.

EHC Plans are designed to focus on the best possible outcomes for children and young people. The idea is to help support their journey through childhood, adolescence and into young adulthood by preparing them effectively for a healthy and productive adult life. To enable this to happen the Plans can remain in place for some young people up to the age of 25 years should this be warranted by the level and complexity of their special educational needs and/ or disability.

Under the new arrangements a child is defined as an individual who is under the age of 16 years. A young person is defined as being over 16 and under 25 years of age. In future young people will have the right to request assessment and intervention, or to refuse assessment and intervention, and also have the right to say what provision or choice of school, college or other type of placement they would like to attend. Where there is a difference of opinion between a young person and their parents/ carers about choice of placement or provision, the wishes of the young person will carry greatest weight (subject to the Mental Capacity Act).

Over the next four years Peterborough Local Authority will gradually transfer children and young people with statements over to EHC Plans. We anticipate starting this process in January 2015. This means that statements will continue and the usual cycle of annual reviews will take place as expected.

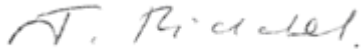
The children and young people most likely to move over to EHC Plans first will be those for whom a special school place is being requested, those making the transition into post 16 provision and those whose needs have changed significantly.

As we go through this process we will, wherever possible, try to carry out the transfer of these statements to EHC Plans to fit with the expected timings of annual reviews. Where assessment information is out of date, we will undertake updated assessments, as appropriate, to ensure that the EHC Plan is accurate and reflects the needs and aspirations of the child or young person.

Further details about the arrangements for transitioning statements over to EHC Plans will be available on the Council Website on 1 September 2014.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about what this means for your child/ young person you might like to discuss it with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator at your child's school or contact Marion Deeley, the Parent Partnership Officer who can be contacted on 01733 863979.

Yours sincerely



Joan Riddel
Interim Head of SEN and Inclusion/ Acting Principal Educational Psychologist

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To all Head Teachers, SENCOs and Chairs of Governors

