



Welcome to the **2014 SEND Pathway Newsletter**

What is our Local Offer?

The new Children and Families Act 2014 requires all Local Authorities to publish and keep under review information about services they expect to be available for children and young people with special educational needs aged 0-25. This is the Local Offer.

How far have we got?

We have met with a huge number of people – parents, families, children and young people, people from education, health, social care and voluntary organisations, to co-produce our Local Offer. We are designing a website that will provide the information that people in Essex need and want. Throughout June and July we will be testing and consulting on our Local Offer ready for its launch in September 2014.

The One Planning Environment

One Plan is the Essex approach to ensure the genuine involvement of parents, children and young people in decision-making, through a process of person-centred planning. This approach is characterised by the principle that planning should start with the individual and take account of their wishes and aspirations, the outcomes they seek and the support they need to achieve them (draft SEN Code of Practice, 2013, Section 3.2).

A number of preschool and school settings have been trialling this new way of working across the spectrum of need – right through the stages of the graduated approach (School Action and School Action+) to those children with a statement of SEN – to develop action plans which inform the working of the education setting and wider services where appropriate. Features of One Planning include a ‘tell us once’ approach to assessment, use of ordinary language, a focus on the child/young person as an individual (not their SEN label), highlighting strengths and capacities, and bringing together relevant professionals.

Feedback from practitioners and parents involved in this project work will be informing the Local Authority’s plans for establishing new processes and the development of practice.



Education, Health and Care Plan

An Education Health & Care Plan (EHC plan) is for children and young people (0-25 years old) who have SEN and need a much higher level of support than good education providers can deliver on their own. An EHC plan is led by the needs and aspirations of the young person or child and his or her parents working in partnership with practitioners and other supporters.

The purpose of an EHC plan is to make special educational provision to meet the SEN of the child or young person, to secure improved outcomes for them across education, health and social care and, as they get older, prepare them for adulthood (April draft SEND Code of Practice, p129).

EHC plans will replace Statements of SEN. From September 2014, no more statutory assessments for a statement of SEN will be started. Instead, there will be an Education Health and Care needs assessment. All current statements of SEN will be converted to EHC plans over the next few years, at a time appropriate for the individual child or young person and their school. EHC plans are an improvement on Statements of SEN as they are more focused on the child, young person and family and enable greater coordination between those working with them.

In Essex, EHC plans will fit into the One Planning Environment. Parents wondering whether an EHC plan might be appropriate for their child would do best to talk to someone appropriate at their education provider (such as the SENCo) as a first step.

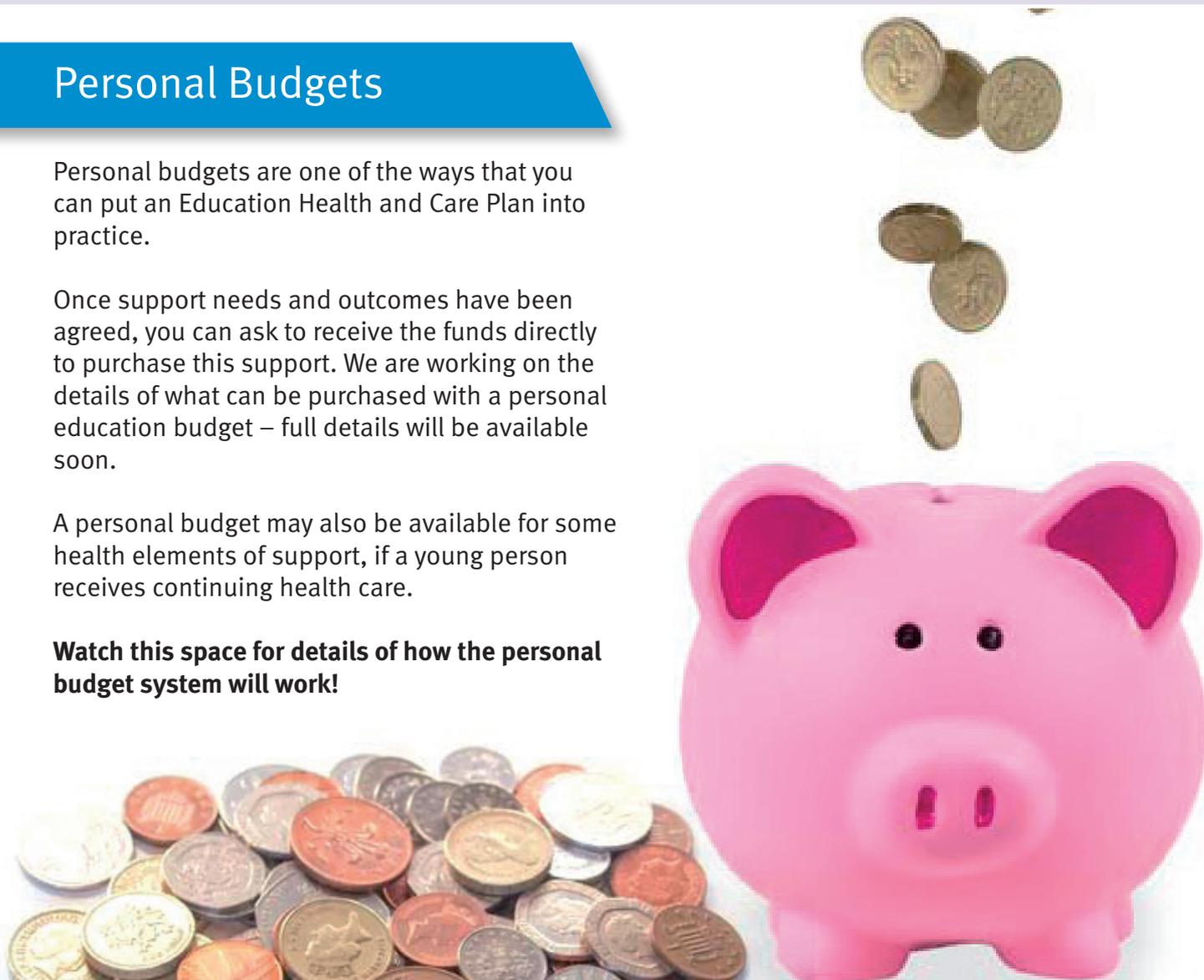
Personal Budgets

Personal budgets are one of the ways that you can put an Education Health and Care Plan into practice.

Once support needs and outcomes have been agreed, you can ask to receive the funds directly to purchase this support. We are working on the details of what can be purchased with a personal education budget – full details will be available soon.

A personal budget may also be available for some health elements of support, if a young person receives continuing health care.

Watch this space for details of how the personal budget system will work!



Post 16 – preparing for adulthood

Planning Live Event

On 21st March 2014 the Essex County Council Transition Pathway Service hosted a Planning Live event to pilot the Post 16 aspect of the One Plan. Representatives from a variety of agencies attended to support six families as they plan for the next step along the journey to adulthood. Both families and professionals found the day to be informative and enjoyed the opportunity to learn from one another.

Read the full story at www.echo-news.co.uk/news/11136942.Glenwood_kids_chance_to_plan_for_the_future/

Children with Disabilities/Transition Pathway Service Review

Whilst there have been significant improvements in children's social care in recent years, the development have not been so far reaching for children and young people with disabilities. To address this, and in readiness for the SEND reforms, a service restructure has been proposed with a view to develop a single, joined up service for people with SEND aged 0-25.

The proposal will integrate and co-locate staff in a quadrant basis, e.g. services in mid, north, south and west Essex with each quadrant comprising:

- ◆ 0-15 social care team
- ◆ 15-25 social care team (sensory staff will be integrated into these two teams)
- ◆ Family and Child Support team
- ◆ Occupational Therapy support
- ◆ Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) team.

There will also be a central team including Communication & Engagement, Service Development, High Needs Student funding along with IAG and OT management that will span the 0-25 service.

This proposal received a positive response from a public consultation held in November/December 2013 and is now undergoing consultation with staff.

School Offer

An Essex school offer steering group was created in September 2013. The group decided to create an evaluation tool to support schools to gather their information together prior to developing a format for communicating with parents/carers and children and young people. This was then to be presented to Head Teachers, Senior Leaders and SENCOs through a series of half day conferences across the county. The key speaker was a Bromford's student with a statement for ASD describing the school offer from his perspective.

A series of questions were devised to support creation of a school offer and then facilitators were able to trial the tool with schools and subsequent amendments were then made.

All events were very well attended and 400+ representatives attended. Participation in the workshops session was excellent but no amendments were made to the Evaluation Tool.

Analysis of the feedback evaluations showed that out of the 372 returns, only 3 people did not feel this supported their next steps in preparing for the School Offer – however they did not indicate why not. The Evaluation Tool and examples are available on the Directors Page – please see the link below:

<http://schools.essex.gov.uk/General%20Information/Director%20for%20Education%20and%20Learning%20s%20Area/Pages/DirectorForEducationAndLearningsArea.aspx>

Up and coming events

Briefing with Colleges

Following on from the success of the Planning Live event the Transition Pathway Service is now looking forward to the scheduled briefing with colleges on 11th June 2014. The purpose of this session is to provide an update on the SEND reforms and the implications for colleges.

It will also be an opportunity to engage with colleges regarding the Local Offer. We plan to confirm Essex County Council's statutory obligations and share our vision for the Local Offer which will lead into a discussion around recommendations for college involvement.

Heath Workshops – for all health professionals

9th June, 9:30am – 12:30pm – Stansted Centre

11th June, 9:30am – 12:30pm – Chelmsford County Hotel

3rd July, 9:30am – 12:30pm – Basildon Holiday Inn

9th July, 9:30am – 12:30pm – Colchester Stadium

Social Care Workshops – for all social care professionals

20th June, 9:30am – 12:30pm – Chelmsford Football Club

24th July, 9:30am – 12:30pm – Colchester Stadium

If you would like to book a place for one of these events, please email Vanessa.hockley@essex.gov.uk



Provision Guidance

In line with the greater focus on improving outcomes for children and young people in the new SEN legislation Essex will be replacing the current SEN Banding Descriptors with new Provision Guidance. The guidance is based on good practice in schools and current evidence based research. It is not an exhaustive set of guidelines and the focus is more on producing an accessible resource for teachers than on a research paper. It reflects best practice in working with children with any special educational or additional needs.

The Provision Guidance will ultimately be available electronically and will have links to the Local Offer. The purpose of the guidance is to support school staff in the process of building on current good practice and to help schools to develop systems, skills and structures for responding to pupils' needs. The Senior Specialist EPs have produced the draft guidance with colleagues in the Specialist Teacher Team. It has already been shared with special school headteachers for comment and feedback and will be shared with mainstream schools in May 2014

Parents



Families Acting for Change in Essex (FACE) is a parent led organisation funded by DFE and ECC to engage with parent carers and seek their issues, views and ideas. FACE works strategically with ECC to implement the SEND reforms and on all services for children/young people and their families who have additional needs/ disability.

FACE representatives have been involved in the majority of working groups for the reforms and this work continues.

FACE strives to give voluntary and paid employment to parent carers and young people in Essex so constantly hearing feedback, as well as travelling around the county to hear parent carers views, connecting by social media and through schools, clubs, organisations within Essex. FACE is currently working on a FACE 'SEND' newsletter for families which will be sent to all schools. For more info see website, Facebook page & twitter feed. <http://www.face-essex.org/>

Essex Parent Partnership Service



If you are a parent or carer to a child or young person with special educational needs/disabilities, the Essex Parent Partnership Service can help. We offer information and support over the telephone or in person.

To make a referral call **01245 436036** or email parentpartnership@essex.gov.uk

We can help by:

- ◆ explaining how schools and early years settings can support children and young people with special educational needs
- ◆ listening to your concerns and explaining what options are available
- ◆ working with schools, local authority staff and other agencies to develop positive relationships with parents
- ◆ supporting you at meetings and visits to schools
- ◆ establishing links with voluntary organisations and support groups
- ◆ guiding you through the statutory assessment process
- ◆ enabling you to be included in discussions with schools and the local authority should your child be excluded

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BS_tAdv00yc

<http://www.parentpartnership.org.uk/>

Useful Information

Draft Code of Practice:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/319071/SEND_code_of_practice_0_to_25_years_response.pdf

Send Pathfinder information:

<http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/>
Legislation <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/part/3/enacted>

Guidance for schools about children with medical conditions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions>

Council for Disabled children:

<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/>

Draft code of practice – young peoples views:

http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/media/528850/draft-0-25-special-educational-needs-sen-draft-code-of-practice-participation_young-peoples-views.pdf

Preparing for adulthood:

<http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/>