



Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to you following the recent government announcements regarding temporary amendments to EHC plans. We want to ensure you are kept fully up to date with how Cheshire East Local Authority are responding. Over the past couple of weeks we have worked in co-production with health and social care partners, educational partners and parent carers to design a document to ensure children and young people's provision during this current time can be discussed, recorded and reviewed.

We are requesting that schools contact all families, children and young people to complete the form in co-production to ensure that any changes to provision (as outlined in plans) are discussed and agreed. Once completed copies will be sent by schools/settings to Local Authority and Parent/Carer or young person.

These will be required to be reviewed and updated throughout this current time either at the end of each term or as changes to provision occur.

We have also attached a guidance document from our parent carer forum with this letter. If you require any support please email EHCPReturns@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Government guidance outlines:

Local authorities and health bodies must consider for each child and young person with an EHC plan what they can reasonably provide in the circumstances during the notice period. For some individuals, this will mean that the provision specified in their plan can continue to be delivered; but for others (because of the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on local authorities or health commissioning bodies) the provision may need temporarily to be different to that which is set out in their EHC plan.

Once the notice expires or is cancelled, local authorities and health commissioning bodies would in all cases need to secure or arrange the full range of provision, as specified in the EHC plan.

The local authority or health commissioning body should keep a record of the provision it decides it must secure or arrange. It should then:

- *confirm to the parents or young person what it has decided to do and explain why the provision for the time being differs from that in the plan*
- *keep under review whether the provision it is securing or arranging means that it is still complying with the reasonable endeavours duty, recognising that the needs of a child or young person may change over time (particularly in the current circumstances) as may the availability of key staff or provision*

The Secretary of State for Education must review the effectiveness of the changes to the regulations

The changes are for the period 1 May to 25 September 2020 (inclusive)

Link to full guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus/education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-guidance-on-temporary-legislative-changes-relating-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

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We would like to thank all parents/carers for their continued support during these difficult and challenging times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Rogerson'.

Laura Rogerson

Head of Service: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Cheshire East Council

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