

## **EHC Plan and Covid-19 – changes everyone should know**

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 the Government announced temporary changes to some parts of the law and regulations around EHCPs (called The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020) These regulations will be in place until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 but could continue until 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020, they will be reviewed regularly by the Government. This factsheet will help you to understand these changes and what they mean for you/your child. The changes are broken down into each area part of the EHCP process.

**EHC Needs Assessments:** The Local Authority will still have to consider new assessments and carry them out. However, if the Local Authority cannot get all of the professional information in time, they might go over the deadline of 20 weeks. The Local Authority will keep you informed if this is going to happen and will make a decision as soon as possible.

**Annual reviews:** These must still take place, but when and how may need to change. If the review cannot be held within 12 months of the last review due to Covid-19 they can be arranged when it is possible to hold them. The reviews might also need to be held in a different format from how they are usually done, for example a ‘virtual’ meeting held over a video call.

**Delivering what is in the EHCP:** The Local Authority and health body is still expected to put in place what is written in the EHCP. However, where Covid-19 makes this difficult they must make ‘reasonable endeavours’ to put it in place. This will be different for each child or young person and will involve a discussion with the school/college. To do this the Local Authority and the school/college will need to think about:

What	Where	How	When	Whom
Putting in place things that might be different to what is written in the EHCP.	It might be that this may change to the home, a community setting or a different school or college.	How often and for how long may change because of staff shortages or risks around Covid-19	Different ways to doing it. This could be a virtual instead of face to face meeting, smaller group rather than large group, etc.	Changes to the person that would usually help. This could be a learning assistant instead of therapist or teacher.

**What is a reasonable endeavour?** This means that the Local Authority have to consider for each child and young person that has an EHCP what they can reasonably provide now. This will be different for every children or young people. The Local Authority will work with nurseries, schools and colleges to look at what can be offered, and this will be reviewed as the Covid-19 situation changes.