

SENCO Bulletin Issue 28

Wednesday 20th May 2020



1. **Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus:** new guidance was published on April 29th
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus>

There are 2 changes.

a) We are allowed to make an exception to the statutory timelines for EHC assessments and Plans for a reason related to Covid-19. This can NOT be applied as a blanket policy, but only to individual cases e.g. paediatric assessment not available for a particular child. This is from the 1st May to 25th September

The same applies for annual reviews: an exception can be made to holding it within timescale for an individual child, but it must be held as soon as 'reasonably practical'.

Annual reviews may, need to take a different form.. A review meeting, even if briefer than usual, can be reassuring for parents, children and young people, through ensuring that their EHC plan is up-to-date so that they can receive appropriate provision.

b) The **duty** on the LA and CCG to make the provision in EHCPs has been legally modified to '**reasonable endeavours**' from the period of May 1st – 31st. but likely to be extended. This acknowledges what has been happening since schools largely closed – or in their words: *This means that 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.*

However, the LA, has to **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

We are putting together **a template to provide this information for ALL pupils** with EHCPs which we will be asking you to complete, share with parents and return to us. We are trying to make it as straightforward as possible and will send with updated risk assessment information after half term – assuming there is no change in the guidance between now and then.

2. **Wandsworth Autism Advisory Service (WAAS):** please see attached updated information along with flyers for their Behaviour
3. **AET Guidance and Teaching Tools:** attached
4. **Useful videos about preparing SEN children for returning to school:**
<https://www.schudio.tv/courses/preparing-autistic-send-children-for-going-back-to-school>
5. **Contact Wandsworth:** Newsletter and Updates, Coffee Morning/Drop In information