



## SEND REFORMS

The Government is making big changes to the system for children and young people, with Special Educational Needs and / or disabilities.

“The biggest reform for Special Education Needs and disabilities in 30 years” is likely in The Children and Families Bill which is due to be enacted in September 2014, will extend the SEN system from birth to 25 years of age, giving children, young people and their parents/carers greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met.

### New Changes

- The introduction of a Single Education, Health and Care Plan (0-25 years old ) EHC Plan: Statements of SEN (0-16/19 years old) and Learning Disability Assessments (16-25 years old) will be replaced by a single EHC Plan covering ages 0-25.
- New duties requiring local authorities and health services to jointly plan and commission services for children, young people and their families. Social Care is included in the new duties.
- The requirement for Local Authorities to produce and publish, in one place, a Local Offer, providing accurate and easy to understand information for Parents, Carers and young people with SEND from 0 to 25 and how they can access them. Schools / Colleges etc. will also be required to have their own Local Offer on their websites.
- Improved information and support for smoother transitions to adulthood.
- ‘School Action’ and ‘School Action Plus’ will be replaced by a new single school based category called ‘Additional SEN Support’ (Mainstream Schools)
- A new SEN Code of Practice which will apply to all places of education and training.
- New wider opportunities for Parents or young people who have a single plan to negotiate personal budgets.
- A requirement for children, young people and Parents / Carers to be directly involved in developing and reviewing Single Plans, Local Offers and commissioned services.