

Transition to post-19 provision for young people with an education, health and care plan



Information for young people

We know that when you move from post 16 provision it can be an anxious time. This information sheet has been put together to help guide young people who have an education, health and care plan (EHCP) through the post-19 transition process.

It includes details on where to find the information about what to do after completing your post-16 education in Solihull and about how to let us know if you need your EHCP to continue.

The majority of young people with an EHCP will have attended a local post-16 school or college and completed their education by age 19 and will now be considering moving into paid employment, apprenticeships or making applications to commence an undergraduate course at university. In these cases, your EHCP will be ceased.

If you are seeking work (vocational) based training or an apprenticeship, information is available on the Local Offer website at: <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/localoffer> giving details of relevant training providers.

If you are considering an application to University you should visit the UCAS website at: www.ucas.com for more information on the process, and help will also be available from you current school or college.

We would advise that you seek support from your current provision's SENCO (Special Education Needs Coordinator and careers adviser to help you make an informed decision about your future options.

If after reading this you need further help or advice then you can contact the 0-25 SEND Team on 0121 704 6690.

Timeline

| When | What happens |
|---------------------|---|
| Autumn Term onwards | You should attend open days at local colleges and other providers and apply directly to them. Colleges and providers need to inform the 0-25 SEND team of all applications received from young people with SEN/EHCP. |

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| <p>Between November and December</p> | <p>Careers adviser arranges a full careers guidance interview and updates your career plan.</p> <p>School/college SENCO arranges the EHCP transition review meeting (in order to complete the transition review form and to update the EHCP).</p> <p>You complete the post-19 preference form and send it to the 0-25 SEND team: edsen@solihull.gov.uk (before the December deadline date) and make direct applications to your preferred colleges</p> <p>Current school/provider sends the updated EHCP, career action plan, up-to-date school reports, transition review and your preference form to the 0-25 SEND team: edsen@solihull.gov.uk</p> |
| <p>Between December, February and March</p> | <p>The 0 - 25 SEND team will consult with post-19 college/provider about your preferences – to find out whether they can meet the needs in the EHCP.</p> <p>If necessary, the SEND team may also consult with other appropriate providers that are in your local community.</p> <p>Notice of Amendment and letter of intent will be sent to you, identifying any proposed amendments to the EHCP and the intended setting to be named in Section I of the EHCP. You will have 15 days to make written representations to the proposals. The 31 March is an important deadline if you have an EHCP and are due to transfer to the post 16/19 phase of your education. This is because we, the Local Authority have to legally issue an amended final plan by 31 March, naming the placement or type of school you will be attending from the September.</p> |

How the post-19 transfer process will work

As you have an EHCP and may move onto a post-19 course (e.g. college) in September, you will need to state your preference(s) using the Solihull preference form.

If your preferences are for a college in another local authority area you still need to complete the form and name the provider(s) and make direct applications to the college.

We are required to ask (consult) the providers and the relevant local authority, if it is not a Solihull setting, before it can be named in your EHCP.

Post 19 places will be allocated in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice.

If you are not happy with the allocated place, you can appeal to the SEN Tribunal Service; the details will be included in the letter sent with your Final Amended EHCP.

Please note:

The Children and Family Act 2014 states that, when amending an EHCP, local authorities must make arrangements to enable you to say where you would prefer to study.

However, the numbers of places in all educational settings are limited, which means that it may not always be possible to allocate you a place at your preferred school or college. Places do get filled up so we recommend a minimum of 2 preferences are given on the preference form.

We must comply with your preference for a local college unless:

- the placement is unsuitable to your age, ability, aptitude or additional needs, or
- the placement would be incompatible with the efficient education of the other young people with whom you would be educated, or
- the placement would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources.

Meeting your needs

We believe in the principle of students being educated or trained in their local community, as close to home as possible.

There are different types of mainstream provisions in Solihull including:

- Local general further education colleges (GFEs) which can offer all kinds of additional support.

In addition there are 3 specialist colleges within 12 miles of Solihull town centre:

- Hereward College
- Queen Alexander College
- Argent College

There are also a number of independent specialist providers meeting a variety of specialist needs. For more information visit <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/localoffer>

Finding out about the options

All providers have their own prospectus that explains what subjects/courses they offer, the facilities they have and what they aim to provide for their students. Contact these providers directly to request a copy. However, many educational establishments will have a copy of the prospectus on their website for you to download. Further information can also be found at <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/localoffer>

Open days

It's a good idea to go along to open days so you can talk to tutors and explore choices before making a decision. Check college websites and social media for dates of open days.

Who should fill in the preference form?

All year 13 students with EHCPs who are resident in Solihull must complete a preference form including

- if you wish to remain in your current provision as you need more time to complete your course.
- You are intending to leave full time education
- You are planning to move to university or higher education
- You wish to change your course and/or provision and would like the Local Authority to continue to maintain your EHCP.

All Solihull students over 19 years of age, with an EHCP where you are completing your current course and any of the conditions above apply.

We need this information so we can cease your plan, or where appropriate, consult with providers to ensure that they can meet the needs in the EHCP, and name the appropriate provision in the EHCP all in good time.

If you do not want to stay in education, or are planning to go to University, your EHCP will be ended but you should still complete the form to let us know.

Send your form to us in the pre-paid envelope or hand it to your provision SENCo by the December deadline date.

Applying for a post-19 placement in another local authority area

If you live in Solihull and any of your preferences are in another area, you still need to state them on the form. We are required to consult with the college/provider and, if applicable, the other local authority regarding your request.

Remember, providers in other local authorities may not be able to offer you a place because the placement is full for example, or they do not feel they could meet your needs. Therefore, it is also advisable to include a Solihull placement in the preferences.

Applying for an Independent Specialist Provider (ISP)

For the majority of young people who have an EHCP their education and training will be delivered in a local mainstream setting. Outcomes for the vast majority of young people, including those with SEND, will be met most effectively when they are able to maintain their connections with their families, their friends and communities.

It is important to note that the local authority is required to take into account funding considerations when making ISP educational placement decisions and can refuse if a placement would 'be incompatible with the efficient education of others, or the efficient use of resources.' (Code of Practice)

The local authority will not confirm funding and commissioning decisions until the full costs and affordability of an educational placement have been considered in the light of the overall budget available. The total costs of the provision include the additional social and health care costs that might be needed.

You will also need to think about how you are going to get to and from college because free travel assistance is not available. Information about travel assistance can be found on the Local Offer website at <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/localoffer>

The local authority will liaise with other agencies/service area to request funding to cover any health and care costs associated with the place.