It is the local authority’s responsibility to identify appropriate provision for children and young people with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans. Consultation is carried out by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Statutory Assessment and Review Service (SENDSARS).

**New EHC Needs Assessments**

* The local authority recommends the type of provision that is appropriate for a child or young person – and who should be consulted with - when deciding to issue an EHC Plan (EHCP). This will be done by the panel agreeing to issue a plan.
* We always consult with the preference named by the child, young person or their parent/carer.
* In most cases we will also consult with the child or young person’s current or allocated school/setting.
* We would not consult the catchment mainstream school if the child, young person or their parent/carer requested a special school placement and the local authority agreed that mainstream school could not meet their needs.
* If a child, young person or their parent/carer requested a mainstream setting, we will consult with it - even if the local authority did not think this type of placement was appropriate.

**Annual Reviews**

* When a change of placement is requested during an annual review, we will always consult with the preference named by the child, young person or their parent/carer.
* The area’s Locality Manager will decide which other types of provision to consult with.
* If the child or parent/carer requests a move to special school from a mainstream setting, and no other request for amendments to the plan are made, and no advice is received from external services that says the child’s needs have changed, we will consult with:
  + The child, young person or their parent/carer’s preference.
  + Their current mainstream setting - unless they have advised that they can no longer meet the child/young person’s needs, as part of the review.
  + Another local mainstream setting.
  + Any other placement identified by the locality manager as being appropriate
* If updated professional advice states that a child or young person’s needs have significantly changed and can no longer be met by a mainstream setting, we will not consult with an alternative mainstream. But the evidence, as part of the review, should identify why their needs can no longer be met in mainstream. It should also identify the type of provision that the child or young person needs.