

Overview of the Health Single Point of Access

A key area of work in the Inclusion Programme has focused on improving communication and links between the NHS, and the SEND Team at Sheffield City Council. Improving these links should lead to improved EHC Plans, particularly with regards to their quality and timeliness.

One of the outcomes of this work has led to the creation of the Education, Health and Care Plan Single Point of Access (EHCP SPA) Team, at Ryegate Children's Centre. This team is part of Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust, and has been put in place to specifically support communication between the SEND Team in Sheffield City Council and the health professionals working with children and young people, particularly when considering and producing an EHC Plan.

Formal processes are being put in place to ensure that vital information from NHS Services needed for the EHC Plan is shared quickly and efficiently, with the support of this new team. This will contribute to the production of a timely plan for children and young people, which accurately reflects their health needs and the provision put in place to support them in achieving their agreed outcomes. In addition, the EHCP SPA Team will help with the following:

- Providing information and guidance to health professionals involved in an EHC Plan, some of whom may not be very familiar with their role and responsibilities in this respect.
- Similarly the SEND Team will be able to contact the EHCP SPA with queries regarding health provision; the EHCP SPA will aim to answer these or signpost to the correct person
- Support SENCOs in determining which health services are working with a child at MyPlan level
- Coordinate assessments for new to city arrivals

The EHCP SPA is still new and will be developing into its full role over the coming weeks. We will be reviewing its progress to ensure it succeeds in the above responsibilities.