



June 2022

**Information about our work to give better support to children who need extra support at school.**



Dear parent or carer,

This letter is from South Gloucestershire Council.

It is about our work to help schools give better support to children and young people who need extra support.

Schools also means nursery schools and other schools for very young children.

Children who need extra support at school are called **children with special educational needs or disabilities**. Or **SEND** for short.



But we will call them **children who need extra support** in this letter.



We want these children to get the best support all through their lives.

The support should start when they are very young.

That will help them to do well when they are older.

This letter is about our work over the next few years.



We are doing this work with lots of people. Like schools, parents and carers.

We have already done lots of work to give better support to children who need extra support at school.



For example, we made a plan about that. It is called our **SEND Strategy**.

The plan will help children to get the right support more quickly.

## Changing the way that we give money and support for children who need extra support



We need to spend the money for support in a better way.



That is for children who have a plan about their support. It is called an Education, Health and Care plan.

Or an EHC plan for short.



The changes are part of a bigger plan about better support for children who need extra support at school.

We are spending more money in general on primary and secondary schools.



But some money that we spend on children who need extra support will be moved.



It will be spent on very young children who need extra support instead.

Like children in nursery schools.



The money will be spent on giving staff in those schools better skills and training.

That will help children and their families to get better support when children are very young.

That is important. It can help to stop problems when children are older.



We will make sure that we spend money on children who need extra support in a fair way across all of South Gloucestershire.



There will be different levels of money to pay for support based on the child's need.

That means the money will be spent fairly on all children who need extra support.

It will depend on what support each child needs.



We also want local schools to be easier for children to go to, including children who need extra support.

That means more children who need extra support will be able to go to local schools with their friends.

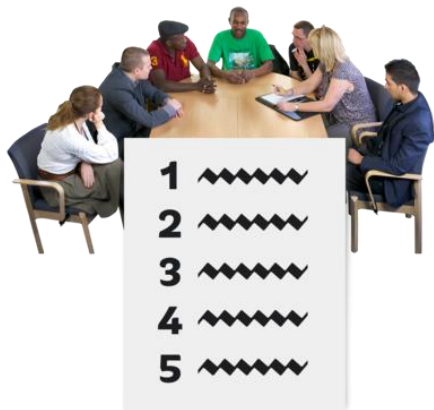


We want more children to get the right support near where they live.

That will stop children going far away from their families to get support.



We want schools to keep working together to get the best support for children who need it.



That will help schools to share information about what works best.

It will also help them to buy support for children in the best way.

We will change some ways that we give money to schools to pay for support.

But children with an Education, Health and Care Plan will still get all the support they need.

The school might just need to change how they sort out the support.





## When the changes will happen

The changes will start in September 2022.

The changes will carry on over the next 3 years.



## Where to get more information and support

Schools should give you more information about the changes when the information is ready.

## If you have a child who needs extra support at school

You can get information and advice from the people below:



### 1. South Glos Parent Carers.

They support parents and carers.

Their website is:

[www.sglospc.org.uk](http://www.sglospc.org.uk)



Their email is:

[team@sglospc.org.uk](mailto:team@sglospc.org.uk)

## 2. SEND And You (SAY)



They give information and advice about children who need extra support at school.

Their website is:

[www.sendandyou.org.uk](http://www.sendandyou.org.uk)



We are also planning some events and meetings that you can come to.

They will help you to find out more.



Information about the events and meetings will be on this website:

[www.southglos.gov.uk/improving-send-support](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/improving-send-support)

The Parent Carer Forum are hosting an on-line information meeting on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 10-12. Here is the link if you want to join. Do not worry if you cannot join as we are recording the session so you can look at it whenever you can.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ehcp-banding-qa-session-tickets-368237958647>



Following this information session, we will be holding online 1 to1 surgeries. These are being held on the following dates and you can book a 15 minute slot by emailing

[ISENDSupport@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:ISENDSupport@southglos.gov.uk)

**Monday 11th July 10:00 - 12:00 pm**

**Tuesday 12th July 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Thursday 14th July 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Thursday 14th July 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

Thank you,

Hilary Smith

My job is Head of Education,  
Learning and Skills for  
South Gloucestershire Council.