

18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

***This is an important letter that requires your action***

**EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS DURING COVID-19**

To our children and young adults, their parents and carers,

We trust you and your family are keeping well.

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government made some changes to the rules around Education, Health and Care Plans. There are links to the details at the bottom of the page and also on the [Cambridgeshire](#) and [Peterborough](#) Local Offer websites.

These changes will now allow local authorities and health to:

- use 'reasonable endeavours' to deliver what is in Education Health and Care Plans, accepting that it may not be possible to deliver some aspects of the provision or that it may be delivered differently
- introduce flexibility to the time it takes to carry out an assessment or do an annual review where it is not practical to keep within the usual number of weeks.

These are short-term changes and only in place because of the difficulty COVID-19 causes.

These changes mean that the local authority and health have to consider how they can reasonably provide what is written in an Education Health and Care Plan. We want to work with you to do this and are writing to make sure that you are involved in the process.

Please tell us if your child's needs are being met during the pandemic. You may wish to continue with the arrangements as they are at the moment? There is no pressure to ask for, or to have, something else delivered. You may feel there are things that could be better?

Please complete the following questionnaire so that we can understand your views. Your views are important and your reply will be kept as a formal record with your Education, Health and Care Plan. A copy of this questionnaire will be available on the Local Offer COVID-19 website page. A version for completion by young adults will also be available.

Please return the questionnaire within 5 days of receipt of this letter.

**If you need immediate support for your family's health and well being**

**Please phone 0300 029 5050**

Once we have received your reply, we will share the information with your child's school or setting so that they are aware of your views. If you have indicated that you would like to think about additional support, the local authority will follow this up with the school/setting or appropriate service. The school/setting or service will then get in touch with you to arrange a discussion.

At the moment, our focus is on the current situation and keeping you safe and supported. The priority remains that children and young adults should stay at home if it is safer for them to do so. We are confident that by working together we can agree how your child can be supported as well as possible during this crisis.

If you would like to speak with someone about this letter and the completion of the questionnaire please call 01733 863979 for Peterborough and 01353 612812 for Cambridgeshire.

Many thanks,

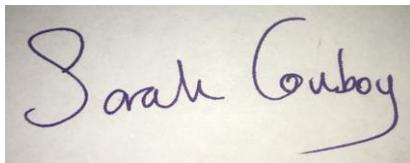
Yours sincerely,



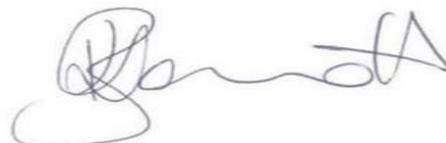
Jonathan Lewis, Cambridgeshire and  
Peterborough Local Authorities



Siobhan Weaver, Cambridgeshire and  
Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group



Sarah Conboy, Pinpoint



Katie Barnett, Family Voice, Peterborough

[Link to ministerial letter 30/4/20:](#)

[https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/peterborough/fsd/files/joint\\_dhsc\\_dfe\\_ministerial\\_letter.pdf](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/peterborough/fsd/files/joint_dhsc_dfe_ministerial_letter.pdf)

Link to the Department for Education Announcement 30/4/20:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus/education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-guidance-on-temporary-legislative-changes-relating-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

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## Questionnaire

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Group (health services) want to work with you to consider what and how we can reasonably provide what is set out in your child’s Education, Health and Care Plan.

Please can you complete the following questionnaire, this will provide a record of your views and help us to understand if anything else needs to be put into place to support your child during the COVID-19 crisis.

Our preference would be for you to complete this questionnaire via the online questionnaire at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/QZU4FV/> However please record your responses on this paper questionnaire if you would prefer. If you would like help to complete the questionnaire please call 01733 863979 for Peterborough and 01353 612812 for Cambridgeshire (10.00 – 16.00 hours)

*The information you are providing will assist informing Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and local health providers in provision of services and will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.*

### Child/young adult details

1. First name	
Surname	
2. Date of birth	DD/MM/YY

### Contact details of parent carer/young adult completing the questionnaire

3. First name	
Surname	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone No.	
4. Email address	

5. Name of school, college or setting child/young adult attends		
6. Which Local Authority processed your child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)? <i>Please tick</i>	Cambridgeshire County Council	
	Peterborough City Council	

7. Have you had any support for your child’s <u>education</u> needs as set out in their education, health and care plan (EHCP) during the lockdown period?	Yes / No
8. If yes, are you happy with that support?	Yes / No

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9. Have you had any support for your child's <u>health</u> needs as set out in their education, health and care plan (EHCP) during the lockdown period?	Yes / No /Not applicable
10. If yes, are you happy with that support?	Yes / No

11. Have you had any support for your child's <u>care</u> needs as set out in their education, health and care plan (EHCP) during the lockdown period?	Yes /No / Not applicable
12. If yes, are you happy with that support?	Yes / No

13. Are you happy with arrangements as they are, given the circumstances?	Yes / No	
14. Do you have access to:	Yes	No
Home computer		
Tablet		
Broadband		

15. What support listed in your child's EHCP do you think is most important to try and provide at the moment?
16. What do you think might be the best way to deliver it?

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire.**

Please return this by post to the following address

For Cambridgeshire to: SEND Services, Cambridgeshire County Council, BH1 101, Babbage House, Cambridge, CB3 0AT

For Peterborough to: SEND Partnership, Peterborough City Council, Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY

By email to: [EHCPCovid@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:EHCPCovid@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

[EHCPCovid@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:EHCPCovid@peterborough.gov.uk)

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