**The Children and Families Act 2014 changes the way Bradford Council and Health Providers support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities from 1st September 2014.**

A new SEN Code of Practice (2014) reflects the changes introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014. The main changes are:

* The Code of Practice (2014) covers the **0-25 age range** and includes guidance relating to disabled children and young people as well as those with SEN
* A strong emphasis on the involvement of children, young people and parents
* High aspirations on improving outcomes for children and young people
* The end of School Action and School Action Plus. These are replaced by 3 Ranges of Provision within the Bradford District
* Statements and Learning Difficulties Assessments will be replaced by Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

**If you are a parent or carer and you believe your child has special educational needs (SEN)**

1. Every school or setting has a member of staff responsible for children and young people with special educational needs usually referred to as the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). School SENCos have to be teachers. **The SENCo is your first point of contact.**
2. The SENCo understands how to assess and make provision for children with SEN and schools receive formula funding to provide this.
3. If the provision required to meet your child’s needs are beyond what can be reasonably expected of a school or setting, then the school can refer to Bradford Metropolitan District Council’s Children’s Services for additional resources. This is called a ‘Statutory Assessment of SEND’.
4. If the evidence from yourselves, your child, the school and other involved professionals supports the need for additional provision beyond what can be reasonably expected of a school or setting, then a Education Health and Care Plan will be written. This will detail and fund the additional provision.
5. The statutory timescale for producing an EHCP is 20 weeks from the date of agreeing to carry out an assessment.
6. **This provision could be made in a local school, a school with additional specialist resources or a special school.** This will depend on your child’s needs and will be fully discussed with you. We endeavour to meet parental preferences wherever possible within the available resources.
7. It is possible that you may disagree with your SENCo about the level of your child’s needs. If this is the case then you can contact the independent [‘Parent Partnership Service’](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/parentpartnershipservice.htm) or you can contact an [SEN Casework Officer](https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/CMSPage.aspx?mid=2101#Contacts). It is possible to request a Statutory Assessment independently of the school or setting. Statutory Assessments can be undertaken for children aged 0 to 25. It is very unusual to carry out an assessment for a child aged under two years old.