

Education for Children who cannot attend school because of their health needs.

The Local Authority has a duty set out in Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 and in the statutory guidance 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' (DfE, 2013).

<https://www.education.gov/g00219676/special-health-needs-education>

The Equality Act 2010 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>) is also an important part of the legal framework around children and young people with significant medical needs.

Local Authorities must:

Arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. This duty applies to all children and young people who would normally attend mainstream schools, including Academies, Free Schools, independent schools and special schools, or where a child is not on the roll of a school. It applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently.

The law does not define full-time education but children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school. If they receive one-to-one tuition the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated.

Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, LA's should provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Maths and Science.

The LA must not withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.

There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the LA – for example where the child can still attend school with some support or where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child. (See 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions', Statutory Guidance, (DfE; 2014)).

Provision in Herefordshire

The named LA Officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs is Mr Les Knight, Head of Additional Needs Children's Well-being Directorate. Lknight1@herefordshire.gov.uk or 01432-261724.

In this local authority, educational provision for children with additional health needs will be organised through St. David's Centre, which is a Pupil Referral Unit. Within its staffing structure is a full time teacher who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team of the Pupil Referral Unit. They are responsible for organising suitable educational provision for these pupils. The service operates as the Hospital and Home Teaching Team (HHTT) with teaching facilities at:-

- St David's Centre, Hereford
- The Children's Ward of Hereford Hospital

Teaching staff within the service will receive appropriate continuing professional development on curriculum and the impact of medical/mental health conditions on engagement with education.

In order to address some students' particular needs, they will be offered elements of alternative provision brokered and quality assured by St David's Centre.

The service also offers a home tuition service for pupils whose health needs require it.

Ensuring children in Herefordshire have a good education

The LA seeks to provide the same opportunities for children with health needs as their peers, including a broad and balanced curriculum, which is of good quality (as defined in Alternative Provision Guidance 2013). The education will be flexible and appropriate to their health needs, and regularly reviewed to reflect their changing health status. All children who are supported will have an individual learning plan.

The Hospital and Home Teaching Team will maintain good links with all schools, academies and free schools in their area through effective communication and clear processes of referral. They will also ensure that schools are aware of their key role in supporting their pupils with additional health needs, so the child can be reintegrated back to school when appropriate. Schools will be encouraged to maintain their links with parents/carers who also have a vital role to play e.g. keeping in touch through school newsletters, e mails, invites to school events etc.

Schools must have a policy for pupils with additional health needs as part of their SEN policy, which sets out how they provide support. Some schools

may choose not to make use of the Hospital and Home Teaching Team, but they must monitor the education provided to ensure the child has access to appropriate education.

Identification and intervention

The LA provides education for pupils who are unable to attend school for more than 15 school days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.

Some children may have long term illnesses which may recur or conditions which may need further treatment. Education is provided, as far as possible from day one to minimise disruption to education. To ensure that tuition is resumed promptly in these circumstances, files may be kept open so that re-referral is not required.

Referrals are accepted in writing from an appropriate CAMHS or Medical Consultant. All pupils should be receiving on-going medical intervention. Close liaison is maintained with the referring consultant to ensure that the tuition offered remains appropriate;

An 'Information Passport' is sent to the pupil's host school to collect relevant educational information relating to the individual pupil. Reports are requested from other relevant agencies relating to the individual pupil. Information is shared under the principle of informed consent of parents and carers.

The Head teacher of St David's Centre, in discussion with other professionals, use this information to identify the most appropriate provision for the individual. When a number of agencies are involved and the provision needs are unclear, an initial multi-agency meeting will be held to identify the most suitable provision.

Detailed information regarding the referral procedure is available on the St David's Centre website (www.stdavidscentre.co.uk).

PROVISION

The LA provides a variety of educational options tailored to meet the individual needs of the pupil. The LA must not withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.

Arrangements are flexible and reviewed regularly to ensure that they remain appropriate. Teachers work in partnership with pupils, parents/ carers, schools, medical and educational professionals to ensure the best possible outcome for each pupil.

Examples of some arrangements that may be appropriate:

- Full or part time education at a Key Stage 3 or Key Stage 4 PRU
- Tuition in the Hospital Classroom for some pupils who are living at home but whose health issues preclude them from attending their host school.
- Tuition, when appropriate, for children and young people who are resident on the Children's Ward. This may take place at the bedside or in the hospital classroom.
- Home Tuition is only provided for pupils who are unable to engage with any group provision within the educational sector. Tutor/tutors from the Hospital and Home Teaching Team is/are assigned to the pupil. If children receive one-to-one tuition, the hours of face-to-face provision are reduced as the provision is more concentrated.
- Some children receiving Home Tuition have regular admissions to hospital for treatment, such as chemotherapy. If consent is given by the consultant the tutor will deliver sessions during their hospital stay.
- Some children will receive a variety of styles of tuition to enable them to access specialist learning facilities and prepare them for reintegration into a PRU setting or a return to their host school.

Public examinations

Arrangements are made for children to sit public examinations, at an appropriate level, if a consultant feels this is in the child's best interest. Appropriate access arrangements will be organised in agreement with the host school.

The education of children with life limiting and terminal illness

The LA will continue to provide education for as long as the pupil's parents and the medical staff wish it.

If the pupil and parents wish to withdraw from education their wishes will be respected if the decision is supported by medical advice.

Working together – with parents/carers, children, health services and schools

Any educational provision for a child with additional health needs will be discussed with parents/carers first. Parents/carers have a key role to play in their child's education and can provide helpful information to ensure that the teaching approach is successful. In the case of a looked after child, local authority representatives and primary carers would fulfil this role. Children will also be involved in decisions, their engagement dependent on their age and maturity. This supports the Service and the school in providing the right educational provision with which the child is able to engage.

The Service will act on behalf of the local authority to remind schools that they cannot remove pupils from their roll because of an additional health need without parental consent and certification from the school medical officer, even if they are being supported by the Hospital and Home Tuition Service (Education (Pupil Registration) England Regulations 2006)

Term dates are those set down by Herefordshire Council.

Reintegration into School

When reintegration into school is anticipated, the Hospital and Home Teaching Team will work with the school to ensure that pupils receive the necessary support they need to facilitate this process. A member of the Team will hold a meeting with the appropriate teacher from the school and the pupil's parent. In many cases a gradual reintegration will take place with a reduced timetable. Members of the Hospital and Home Teaching Team may work alongside a pupil when they are returning to school so a good handover takes place and the pupil feels confident in their return.

Provision for siblings where a child has to remain in a hospital outside of Herefordshire

When treatment of a child's condition means that his or her family have to move nearer to a hospital, and there is a sibling of compulsory school age, the local authority into whose area the family has moved will ensure that the sibling is offered a place, where provision is available, for example, in a local mainstream school or other appropriate setting.

Teaching

All contracted teachers are subject to performance management and receive annual appraisal and lesson observation.

All sessional staff receive informal lesson observations

All staff receive safeguarding training

During a home teaching session it is essential that a parent or another responsible adult nominated by the parent is on the premises and immediately available if required.

Teachers follow the guidelines set out in the Local Authority Lone Working Policy.

When arranging the timing of the home teaching sessions, the teachers should be prepared to take a flexible approach to fit in with medical appointments and other essential family arrangements. However, there is an

expectation that the pupil is available for tuition throughout the normal working school day.

Provision for education of children under and over compulsory school age

The Hospital and Home Tuition Service provide for pupils aged 5-16 (and to age 19 for those with learning difficulties).

For post-16 students attending mainstream provision, it is not possible for the service to cover the range of expertise required and the service would seek that the host school, college or training provider would be able to make reasonable adjustment for students who are unwell over a prolonged period.

DRAFT