



## **From the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, there is a new Code of Practice for Special Education Needs and Disabilities.**

### **The main changes are:**

1. The Code of Practice (2014) now covers the 0-25 age range (previously 0 – 19)
2. Includes 'disabilities' as well as SEN (now known as 'SEND')
3. There is clearer focus on the views of children and young people and on their role in decision-making
4. The 'Local Offer' website will be published by the LA which provides information and provision available across health, education and social care for children and young people with SEND.
5. Support is framed in terms of outcomes (targets set in line with what the child or young person can or could do with the right support, not what their needs are, labels or diagnosis).
6. School Action and School Action Plus are now merged and will be replaced by 'SEN Support'\* and includes a 4 part cycle of 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review'
7. Assessment process (what was called statutory assessment, now EHC needs assessment) timescale has been cut to 20 weeks (from 26 weeks)
8. Statements and Learning Disability Assessments (LDAs) will be replaced by Education, Health & Care Plans (EHC Plans)
9. Parents and young people are now able to request a personal at the draft EHC Plan stage. The Local Authority will consider whether this is appropriate to meet the outcomes in the plan.
10. There is more emphasis on seeking mediation before going to Tribunal for those parents who disagree with the decisions being made.

### **Four broad areas of SEND are now:**

1. Communication & Interaction
2. Cognition & Learning
3. Social, emotional and mental health (changed from behavioural, emotional, social)
4. Sensory and/or physical

*\*Under 'SEN Support', schools may involve specialists **at any point** to advise them on early identification of SEN and effective support rather than the old system of only doing so at Action Plus.*

**For more information call the Parent Partnership Service on 0845 075 1008**