

**Myth** An EHC plan automatically continues until a young person is 25 years old

**Truth** The LA may maintain a EHC plan until a YP's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, however this is not an absolute right, and most YP will stop having an EHC plan at a much earlier age. There are several circumstances where an EHC plan may cease to continue, which include:

- A YP moves into paid employment (an EHC plan on rare occasions may continue throughout an apprenticeship but only applies to the college / qualification and not the employment)
- When a YP enters higher education (EHC plans do not apply to university students, as there is a different system of support and they can apply for [Disabled Students Allowance](#) )
- When a YP over 18 leaves education or training and does not wish to return
- A YP comes to the end of their programme and is unable to make any further progress
- The YP no longer requires the special educational provision specified in the EHC plan

**Myth** A young person is entitled to their first choice (preference) for post 16 provision, such as Queen Alexandra College, if the provision say can meet their needs and the LA should not consult (asking if a provision can meet a YP's needs as written in their EHC plan) and propose to name another provision such as South & City College or a special school

**Truth** The LA must consult with YP preferences but will also consult with other post 16 providers. Here is an example (information from QAC July 2021):

- QAC receive around 240 applications/preferences/consultations per year
- Out of the 240 applications/preferences/consultations, they say 'no' they cannot meet the needs of about 40 YP, and that they can meet the needs of about 200 YP.
- QAC have 120 places per year, but 50 of these are for existing students continuing their education at QAC, which leaves 70 new places per year
- Of the 200 YP for whom QAC can meet their needs, QAC do not make the decision which YP are offered places. It is the LA who decide which YP they will fund to have one of the limited places
- How do the LA decide which YP to fund? In addition to consulting with a YP post 16 preferences, the LA also consult with other post 16 providers (such as mainstream, special schools) that may not be included in the YP preferences. If one of these providers state that they can meet a YP's needs, the LA are likely to name this provision. The LA only fund QAC which is an independent specialist provision, if other provision cannot meet a YP needs

**Myth** All YP who attend a special school for KS4 with an EHC plan are entitled to continue in specialist provision (both S and ISP)

**Truth** Most YP with an EHC plan move onto mainstream provision including school sixth forms, sixth form colleges, mainstream colleges, and training providers. The LA make their decision about the type of post 16 provision offered based on need written in the Year 10 EHC plan which needs to be reviewed in the spring term of year 10

**Myth** All specialist provision is the same

**Truth** There are two types of special / specialist post 16 provision:

- Independent Specialist Providers (ISP): such as Queen Alexandra College, Riverside Education, Birmingham Independent College and Ruskinmill College
- Special: Special schools with sixth forms such as Oscott Manor School, Baskerville School and Selly Oak Trust school

**Myth** If a YP moves onto independent specialist provision at the age of 16, such as Queen Alexandra College, they can stay there until they are 25

**Truth** Most YP stay at QAC for 3 years. The LA will only fund additional years if QAC can evidence vertical progression. Most YP from James Brindley who start QAC at the age of 16, leave when they are age 19

**Myth** If a YP starts at an ISP that has residential provision as a day student such as QAC, when they are older, they can move into QAC's residential provision

**Truth** Residential provision is largely for YP whose home is not local and that also have a social care need, so most Birmingham children remain day students

**Myth** Mainstream colleges cannot support a YP with an EHC plan, do not have a SENCO or learning support department

**Truth** all mainstream providers offer places to YP with an EHC plan if they can meet their needs

Most have SENCO's and an additional support department

Common support that a mainstream provision may be able to offer include:

- Mentoring
- Key worker – trusted adults

- Quiet area for break and unstructured times
- One to one support (if stated in the EHC plan)

**Myth** A direct application to post 16 providers does not need to be made if it has been submitted as a post 16 preference to SENAR

**Truth** YP need to apply directly to a post 16 provider in addition to including them as a post 16 preference submitted to SENAR

**Myth** Post 16 provision doesn't need to be explored until during year 11

**Truth** Applications to post 16 providers can be made from the summer term of year 10 to ISP and then autumn term of year 11 to mainstream provision, SENAR require YP and their parents/carers to submit their preferences to SENAR at the end of the summer term of year 10. This is so that SENAR have time to complete the consultation process and to propose to name post 16 provision by the end of February of year 11

**Myth** If a young person has an EHC plan they are entitled to education transport post 16, particularly if they already receive transport to James Brindley

**Truth** The LA don't generally offer YP aged 16- to 18-year-old help with their travel. However, they do offer some support for post-16 students who have an EHC plan if the CURRENT need is exceptional. It also needs to be stated in the **Education Health and Care Plan** about what transport assistance may be required

Education Transport Post 16

Travel Assist Application Post 16

Where the travel assistance consists of a taxi, parents or carers will be required to contribute towards the cost of this. The amount required is £780 per academic year or £390 if the YP is from a low-income family. (This works out around £4 or £2 respectively, per school / college day based on 195 learning days per year)