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Your Ref  
Our Ref IDSS/SJR/CL  
Date

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Changes to the way your child receives support for special educational needs and/or disability**

Following two years of consultation, debates and local authority testing, the Children and Families Act has now received Royal Assent and the new Act will introduce a number of changes to the way children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) receive support in the future.

The key changes include:

- the introduction of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans replacing Statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments. This will take place over a period of 3 years and you will be informed in due course when the conversion process will commence for your child. We estimate that we need to complete around 8,000 EHC plans for children and young people with SEND across Lancashire so we shall need to plan carefully a priority order for this process.
- the option of personal budgets for parents and young people to carry out their EHC plans
- the introduction of a Local Offer of education, health and care services for children and young people with SEND and their families
- giving parents and young people greater control over the decisions about the support they are given.

This letter is intended to inform you of the plans we have already made to implement these reforms which commence from 1 September 2014 and to invite you to actively participate in making a positive difference for your child in partnership with your child's school/setting and the Local Authority.

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**Sally Riley, Head of Inclusion and Disability Support Service**  
**Directorate for Children and Young People**  
PO Box 61, County Hall, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 8RJ

Following advice and support from the SEND Reforms Governance Board (which includes three parent/carer representatives nominated by the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum), officers have been conducting a series of briefings for schools and early years settings across the county to inform them of their roles and responsibilities to implement these very significant changes. We have shared the enclosed documents:

- the **Local Offer** of SEND provision which has to be completed by the school or setting although you may wish to contribute to this process, and
- the **'All About Me Profile'** which forms the first section of the new Education Health and Care plans. You and your child are at the centre of this process.

Your school may have already contacted you or will be about to contact you to ask you to consider what you may wish to include in the 'All About Me Profile' about your child. Each school or setting has been given some resources to enable them to arrange a meeting with you and your child to complete the 'All About Me Profile'. This process should **be done together with your child and key school/setting staff** who support your child. The 'All About Me' profile is expected to:

- enable your child, wherever possible, to set out what is important to them and for them and how they wish to be supported to manage their special educational needs and/or disability as well as their hopes and ambitions for the future;
- enable you as parent/carer(s) to put forward your views on your child's needs and how they may be met and your aspirations for the future for your child;
- enable the child/young person and you as parent/carer(s) to tell your story once.

It is important that you consent to the content of the 'All About Me Profile' and that you are aware that the content may be shared by yourself and by the Local Authority with a wider audience as part of the new Education Health and Care Plan process and pathway.

If you have any queries, please contact your school's/setting's SEN Co-ordinator (SENCO) in the first instance. Alternatively, Parent/Carer Liaison Officers or Parent Partnership Officers can assist you with general advice:

### **Managers**

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I trust you will take this opportunity to play an active role in shaping your child's future.

Yours sincerely

Sally Riley

Head of Inclusion and Disability Support Service