



North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum cc

Welcome to our Myth Busting Month!

Every day in January we will provide
a common myth and the fact(s)
busting that myth.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Myth: My child needs to receive DLA to join the Tim Lamb Centre

Fact: No, they don't. Tim Lamb ask for evidence that the child has additional needs. This can be a medical letter, or school/health visitor can provide supporting evidence.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Myth: My child has a diagnosis
so they need an EHCP

Fact: An EHCP is for children and young people who require special educational provision that cannot reasonably be provided from within the resources normally available to mainstream nurseries, schools and post-16 settings, and is not dependent on a diagnosis.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: You need a diagnosis to apply for DLA

Fact: DLA is awarded depending on the need of the child. A diagnosis is not required.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Myth: It's quicker/gets taken more seriously if parents submit the request for an EHC needs assessment

Fact: Timescales and thresholds are no different, no matter who submits the request. If a parent submits a request, the Local Authority will (if applicable) approach the school for evidence regarding SEN and levels of support being provided.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Myth: My child/young person will grow out of their autism/ADHD

Fact: Autism and ADHD are not illnesses. They are part of who a person is, like their eye colour, and not something that can be grown out of. Each day, neurodivergent people navigate the world they experience – its challenges and positives. Some develop strategies and skills to do this on their own and some need support.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: Everyone is a little bit autistic

Fact: Lots of people have autistic traits and people may present with autistic traits at different times to a certain extent, but you're only autistic if your brain is built in that way.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: My child has learning needs and mental health needs, so I need an Educational Psychology ('EP') to undertake a cognitive assessment

Fact: Parents cannot request EP involvement. EP's do not routinely carry out cognitive assessment; they would only offer this at school's request if it was felt it would potentially yield 'additional' information which could inform the school's SEND offer for a child

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: Young people who have an Education, Health and Care plan ('EHCP') will have a plan until they are 25

Fact: An EHCP can continue as long as the young person stays in education or training (not higher education), and it is still necessary for the local authority to arrange the extra support they need in order to achieve the educational outcomes set out in their EHCP.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: Maintained mainstream schools can refuse to admit my child if they choose

Fact: No, they can't, unless admission of your child would be incompatible with the efficient education of other children AND there are no reasonable steps that can be taken to overcome that incompatibility.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: My child needs to see an educational psychologist before being referred to CAMHS

Fact: Not true. See our earlier post (8 January) for more information about Education Psychologists and their role.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Myth: Supported internships are only for EHCP students

Fact: North Tyneside are piloting a non EHCP Supported internship this academic year with the hope this will continue next year.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Myth: Long waiting times for access to Speech and Language Therapy services

Fact: North Tyneside have some of the shortest waiting times in the country for access to a first appointment and advice and treatment. On average, families wait 3-6 weeks from referral to receive their first appointment, which is usually a telephone call with a Speech and Language Therapist to discuss concerns and offer advice and support. Some children/young people may go on to need further assessment, or direct intervention and this is arranged within a few weeks of the first appointment.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: I am thinking about home educating my child/young person. I will get the same support that school get.

Fact: parents have the right to educate their children at home. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice says Local Authorities ('LAs') should fund the SEN needs of home-educated children where it is appropriate to do so. However, there is no legal duty on LAs to fund any element of the child's education. You need to consider this carefully before withdrawing a child from school.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: My child needs a diagnosis to access any additional support within school.

Fact: Not true. Your child's school should provide support based on your child's needs. No diagnosis is required to access additional support. School should look to implement the graduated approach and make reasonable adjustments based on your child and their needs. Parents and school can request a statutory assessment if they think a child 'may' have SEND and 'may' require something additional to that which is ordinarily available through the school's local offer.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: My child needs/will get 1:1 support in school.

Fact: There is research to say 1:1 support does not necessarily lead to greater progress; it distances a child from their peer group and can limit the development of a child's independent learning skills. A child may become overly reliant on their 1:1. In most cases, children benefit more from working in paired/small group learning arrangements with a skilled adult. Some children/young people will still require a 1:1 despite the above, but this is a small number.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: Autism is a mental health condition

Fact: Autism is a cognitive difference between people. It's not something that should be viewed as flawed or problematic or wrong or something that needs treated. It's just how one person views the world and how others view the world.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: My child is not allowed transport because the school named in the EHCP is my preference.

Fact: If the child is eligible for school transport, then the LA must provide it (Education Act 1996). When there is disagreement over a placement, LAs and parents can agree whereby the LA names the parents' choice of school if the parent agrees to provide transport.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: My child will only be eligible for an EHCP if they have been through 2 cycles of assess/plan/do/review at SEN support/are 2 years behind/have spent £x amount

Fact: The legal test for assessment under the Children and Families Act 2014 is whether the **child/YP has or may have SEN** and it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made for the child or young person in an EHCP.

Any criteria that an LA set must not impose a higher threshold than the legal test. The LA can reasonably expect the education provider to be able to evidence that they have taken 'relevant and purposeful action' (although a lack of this will not necessarily be enough to prove that an EHCP is not necessary).

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: Annual reviews only happen every 12 months

Fact: Education, Health and Care Plans must be reviewed by the local authority as a minimum every 12 months (of the date of the review).

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: I cannot access help from an Occupational Therapist because I live in North Tyneside

Fact: We know that a lot of NHS services are stretched, but all residents within North Tyneside are able to access (if appropriate) the Occupational Therapy service. Criteria and links are included in our post.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: If you have an EHCP your child will go to a special school

Fact: A child will not be offered a place in a special school unless they have an EHCP, however most children with an EHCP attend mainstream school or school with ARP (additionally resourced provision).

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: If a child gets an EHCP, all the difficulties they are having in school will go away

Fact: This is not true. Whilst the EHCP might help to support the child, the difficulties will not all disappear.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: Early Years Inclusion Funding (EYIF) must be used for 1:1 with their child

Fact: EYIF can be used to support staff training, provide targeted group interventions and give additional adult support where needed. It is not always best spent on a 1:1 for the child.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: My child struggled in school so they will struggle in college

Fact: College is very different to school. There are a number of reasons why the struggles will not always remain the same in college: your young person is at college studying something they (hopefully) want to study so they (hopefully) want to be there, your young person may have learnt coping strategies that they can now use, and/or your young person may be able to advocate for themselves

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: The school can send my child home to 'cool off' or ask me to collect my child from school early to prevent exclusion.

Fact: No – this is likely to amount to an unlawful exclusion

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: Provision can be extended in a school setting for those aged 19 and over

Fact: This is true, but approval must be given by the Secretary of State and it will only be given in “exceptional circumstances”.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: I will need my EHCP at university as I will be taking exams

Fact: If you are planning to go to university you'll still be able to get support for your SEN. This will be through the university disability support service, and not through the SEN support or an EHCP.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: SEN support post-16 is the same as pre-16 support.

Fact: Young people should be supported to participate in discussions about their aspirations, their needs, and the support that they think will help them best. Support should be aimed at promoting student independence and enabling the young person to make good progress towards employment and/or higher education, independent living, good health and participating in the community.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: Is it the responsibility of the nursery, school or college to arrange the provision specified in an EHC plan?

Fact: The legal responsibility for securing the provision specified in Section F of an EHC plan falls upon the local authority ("LA"). This is an absolute obligation.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



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Myth: A child cannot get any support without an EHC Plan

Fact: If a child or young person has SEN but does not have an EHC plan, they are still entitled to the support necessary to meet their needs. All mainstream nurseries, schools or colleges should provide support through SEN Support. They must also use their best endeavours to ensure the child or young person receives the support they need

**DID YOU
KNOW?**