

Post 16 Series

- Information about Post 16 Alternative Provision

This factsheet is mostly for families of 16–25-year-old Young People (YP) who already have (or who have applied for) an EHCP

What is Alternative Provision (AP)?

- ❖ Alternative Provision (AP) is an educational arrangement if a child or young person cannot (usually temporarily) attend their educational setting.
- ❖ **For over 16s** (known as post-16) the law says that young people must continue in education, employment or training until the age of 18. However, colleges do not have a legal duty to provide alternative provision if 16–18-year-olds cannot attend college due to illness, exclusion or other reasons.
- ❖ **If a YP cannot attend college for any reason**, contact the college's Additional Learning Support department. They can arrange changes (known as 'Reasonable Adjustments') that will hopefully enable your YP to attend their college course. Please see our [factsheet on 'Reasonable Adjustments'](#) for further information.
- ❖ **If reasonable adjustments have been tried and your YP still cannot attend college, for example due to an illness or a disability** it may be appropriate to apply for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA), which may lead to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The process for an EHCNA takes 20 weeks. See our separate [factsheets about EHCPs and EHCNAs](#) to find out more.

If a YP had AP at school, will it continue at college, too?

- ❖ It's very unlikely that school AP arrangements will continue at college. In fact, most YP who needed AP temporarily when they were at school no longer need it at college.
- ❖ For YP in year 11 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), their post-16 placement will be discussed during the EHCP Annual Review meeting.

So, do you need an EHCP to get AP post-16?

- ❖ Most people who need AP already have an EHCP or have applied for an EHCNA.

Where can I find a list of post-16 AP providers?

- ❖ Here is the [list of AP providers](#) currently commissioned by WSCC. Speak to your [SEND Officer](#) if you'd like to discuss this further.

What is EOTAS and how is it different to AP?

- ❖ Alternative Provision (AP) and 'Education Otherwise Than At School' (EOTAS) both provide education outside mainstream settings, but the main difference is their legal permanence. AP is often temporary. EOTAS is for young people who cannot attend any setting. EOTAS is a permanent, bespoke arrangement for complex need, as specified within an EHCP (covered by Section 61 of the Education Act, 1996) Speak to your SEND Officer for further information.



How do I request post-16 AP?

- ❖ As above, try Reasonable Adjustments first. Often changes can be made by the college to avoid needing alternative provision. If your YP cannot attend college, speak to your SENAT SEND Officer as soon as possible. If necessary, they can arrange an early, or 'emergency' EHCP annual review meeting to discuss next steps.



What can I do if the local authority (LA) refuse a request for AP?

- ❖ SENAT will write to you after your YP's EHCP annual review meeting. Their letter will explain the appeal process, too.

If AP is agreed, will transport costs be paid, too?

- ❖ It's very unusual for transport costs to and from an alternative provision placement to be paid by the LA.

Further information:

- ❖ [Other SENDIAS factsheets](#) (Reasonable Adjustments, EHCPs, etc)
- ❖ If your YP has an EHCP you can discuss AP with your [SENAT SEND Officer](#) and the learning support coordinator of your college or sixth form.
- ❖ The annual review meeting of your YP's EHCP is the formal opportunity to talk about their educational placement.
- ❖ West Sussex AP information, including a list of providers: [Alternative Provision](#).
- ❖ When your YP feels ready to leave education and start work, [Access to Work](#) helps people with additional needs to get and stay in work.
- ❖ For over 18s, here's how to [request an adult social care assessment](#)



Any questions? If so, contact us at SENDIAS (cyp.sendias@westsussex.gov.uk) and we will advise you if we can. If we don't know the answer, we will signpost you to another service who can advise you.

Service Statement

The role of the SENDIAS service is to ensure all parents, children and young people have access to impartial information, advice and support so they can make informed decisions related to their situation. Any information that is shared with the service is in confidence unless permission has been obtained to share this with any individuals, services and agencies that may be able to help in the circumstances. For more detail, view our [policies and privacy notice](#) on our website.

How to contact us: Tel: 0330 222 8555 / Email: send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk or cyp.sendias@westsussex.gov.uk (up to age 25) / Website: www.westsussexsendias.org

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