**Question: What does Special Educational Needs (SEN) mean?**

**Answer**: Children with SEN have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age. Children with SEN may need extra or help because of a range of needs. The main Areas of need that are used are;

* Cognition and Learning
* Social and Communication
* Sensory and medical
* Social Emotional and Mental Health

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person with a disability as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

**Question: What should be expected from a mainstream education setting in WIRRAL for a children/ young people with special educational needs and disabilities?**

**Answer**: Early years settings, schools, colleges can help the majority of children and young people to overcome the barriers that learning difficulties present .However some children and young people will need extra or additional help in order to make good educational progress. Children and young people make progress at different rates and have different ways in which they learn best. Teachers in WIRRAL are expected to take account of this with Quality First Teaching and the Graduated Response .This is known as differentiating the curriculum. Children and young people making slower progress or having particular difficulties in one area should be given extra help or different lessons to help them progress towards their Outcomes.

All WIRRAL Schools have access the EQ which is a traded service which runs high quality training event encompassing SPECIAL Educational Needs and co-ordinates regular SENCO cluster meetings which are attended by SEN Managers and EHCP coordinators, so that we keep up to date with the latest thinking around SEN and Disabilities.

**Question; When would a child or Young Person in WIRRAL not be able to attend a mainstream School**

Where a child's difficulties are profound, severe or complex, parents, the early education setting or the school may ask the council as the Local Authority (LA) to carry out a statutory assessment of a child to assess their educational needs.

**Question: Who should I speak to if I have a query or concern about my child and their needs?**

**Answer**: All mainstream schools have a special educational needs coordinator (SENCO)Early Years settings have Area Senco’s and Colleges have additional Resource Managers, these people , along with your child's or young person’s class teacher or tutor, will be able to discuss any queries or concerns. These discussions should look at the provision the educational setting is providing to meet the child's or young person’s needs, and what outcomes for the child. .There should be regular reviews which you and your child or young person are involved in, which allow you to see how well your child or young person is progressing. After a review, the educational setting should be developing a record of on-going information about provision that has worked and progress that has been made.

**Question: Where can I get help and further support regarding special education needs and disabilities?**

**Answer**: The SEND Partnership (Formally known as Parent Partnership) can give you help and advice on all aspects of SEND provision including how to request an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). They can be contacted by visiting their website by clicking here

**Question: Can I home educate my child with special educational needs and disabilities. What help can I access for him/her?**

**Answer**: A few parents with a child or young person with special educational needs and disabilities choose to educate their children at home. By opting to home educate, parents are taking on the full responsibility of meeting a child or young person’s needs including the costs of any tuition or examination fees. It is therefore very important for careful consideration and research to be undertaken before the decision to home educate is made. Further details can be found in Wirral’s Elective Home education policy

**Question: Can a 0-2 year old have an EHC plan?**

**Answer**: Yes. A child under 2 can have an EHC plan. Special educational provision for a child under 2 can be educational provision of any kind. Anyone can bring a child who is under 2 to the attention of the local authority. The local authority will then need to consider whether it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made for them in accordance with a plan.

**Question: What is a Personal Budget?**

**Answer**: A Personal Budget for SEN is money identified to pay for support specified in an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) for a child or young person with special educational needs. It can include funds from the local authority for education and social care and from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for health. There are four ways you can use a personal budget

:1. The local authority, school or college will look after the Personal Budget for you. This is called an Arrangement or a Notional Budget

.2. You can receive money directly to manage all or part of the Personal Budget yourself. This is called a Direct Payment.

3. You can opt to have someone else to manage the Personal Budget for you. This is called a Third Party Arrangement

.4. You can have a mixture of some or all of these arrangements.

**Question: Who can have a Personal Budget?**

**Answer**: Parents of a child with an EHC plan, or a young person with an EHC plan, can request a Personal Budget either during the drafting of an EHC plan or once the plan has been issued and is under review. You do not need to have an EHC plan to get Personal Budgets for social and health care, but once you have an EHC plan, or one is being prepared, you can request budgets for all three areas of support. You must have an EHC plan to get a Personal Budget for special educational provision

Wirral’s Council’s policy on Personal Budgets on the Local Offer website

.Sometimes the local authority or the health authority may not agree to a Personal Budget. If the local authority refuses a personal budget for special educational provision it must tell you why. You cannot appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal over this refusal.

**Question: What is the difference between a Personal Budget and a Direct Payment?**

**Answer**: A Personal Budget shows you what money there is to make some of the provision specified in an EHC plan, and who provides it. The parent or young person does not actually manage the funds directly. With a Direct Payment the parent or young person is given the money for some services and manages the funds themselves. The parent or young person is responsible for buying the service and paying for i.e. Personal Budget can include a Direct Payment if it is agreed that this is the best way to manage part of the Personal Budget. Direct payments can be used for special educational provision in a school or college only if the school or college agrees. Local authorities can refuse a direct payment for special educational provision if it would make things worse for other children and young people with an EHC plan, or if it would be an inefficient way to pay for services. It is also possible to have a Third Party Arrangement to manage a Direct Payment.