

Position Statement: Quality Assurance of EHCPs (December 2025)

Bath & North East Somerset Council is dedicated to providing high-quality Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) offers a thorough and structured method for managers, leaders, partners, and stakeholders to oversee and continually enhance the quality of assessment, planning, and support provided. This framework guarantees adherence to statutory duties and national guidance, such as the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice. Furthermore, it promotes collaborative working and encourages ongoing professional development among all involved parties.

Progress Since Implementation of the Quality Assurance Framework

Since the introduction of the QAF in March 2025, there has been considerable progress. A total of 114 new EHC plans have undergone quality assurance, supported by a robust programme of practitioner training that encompasses both face-to-face and online sessions, including those delivered by the RIIA. The effectiveness of these initiatives is evident in the increase in the average QA score for plans, which rose from 42 in May to 52 by November 2025, demonstrating significant improvement in overall quality.

Key Areas of Progress and Impact

- **Social Care Contributions (Section D):** Section D, while still the lowest scoring area, has shown notable improvement since March 2025. There is a growing number of plans that now include social care advice rated at 5 out of 5, a development supported by the introduction of new templates and targeted workforce development for both social care and SEND practitioners.
- **Health Contributions (Sections C and G):** Health advice for the majority of plans is consistently both timely and of high quality. Robust procedures are in place to ensure that any missing advice is quickly identified and addressed, maintaining the integrity of the process.
- **Quality of Outcomes and Provision (Sections E and F):** Work to improve Section E is ongoing. In November 2025, comprehensive training was delivered to all practitioners as a joint effort between the Educational Psychology team and the QA manager. The impact of this training will be

reviewed in March 2026, and a team session is scheduled to develop a bank of outcomes and provision, drawing on examples from high-quality EHC Needs Assessments (EHCNAs).

Multi-Agency Quality Assurance

The Multi-Agency Quality Assurance group has met four times since the QAF was launched, reviewing eleven EHCPs that span a variety of key stages and SEND needs. This group plays a crucial role in fostering joint learning and moderation between the local authority and its partner agencies. Direct feedback from parents and the Parent Carer Forum is actively incorporated, helping to inform and shape ongoing improvements. The feedback from the group has been overwhelmingly positive, noting the value of robust challenge, insightful discussion, and shared learning. As a result of the group's recommendations, several process changes have been implemented. Moving forward, the group will broaden its remit to include randomly selected EHCPs and those amended through the Annual Review process. Efforts are also underway to enhance youth representation within the group.

Commitment to Continuous Improvement

Bath & North East Somerset Council remains firmly committed to improving outcomes for children, young people, and their families. The Quality Assurance Framework is built on the principles of participation, accountability, professional development, and strong governance. It provides a dynamic feedback loop that informs ongoing training and development. The service will continue to track progress, act on feedback, and refine its processes to uphold the highest standards in EHCPs for all.