

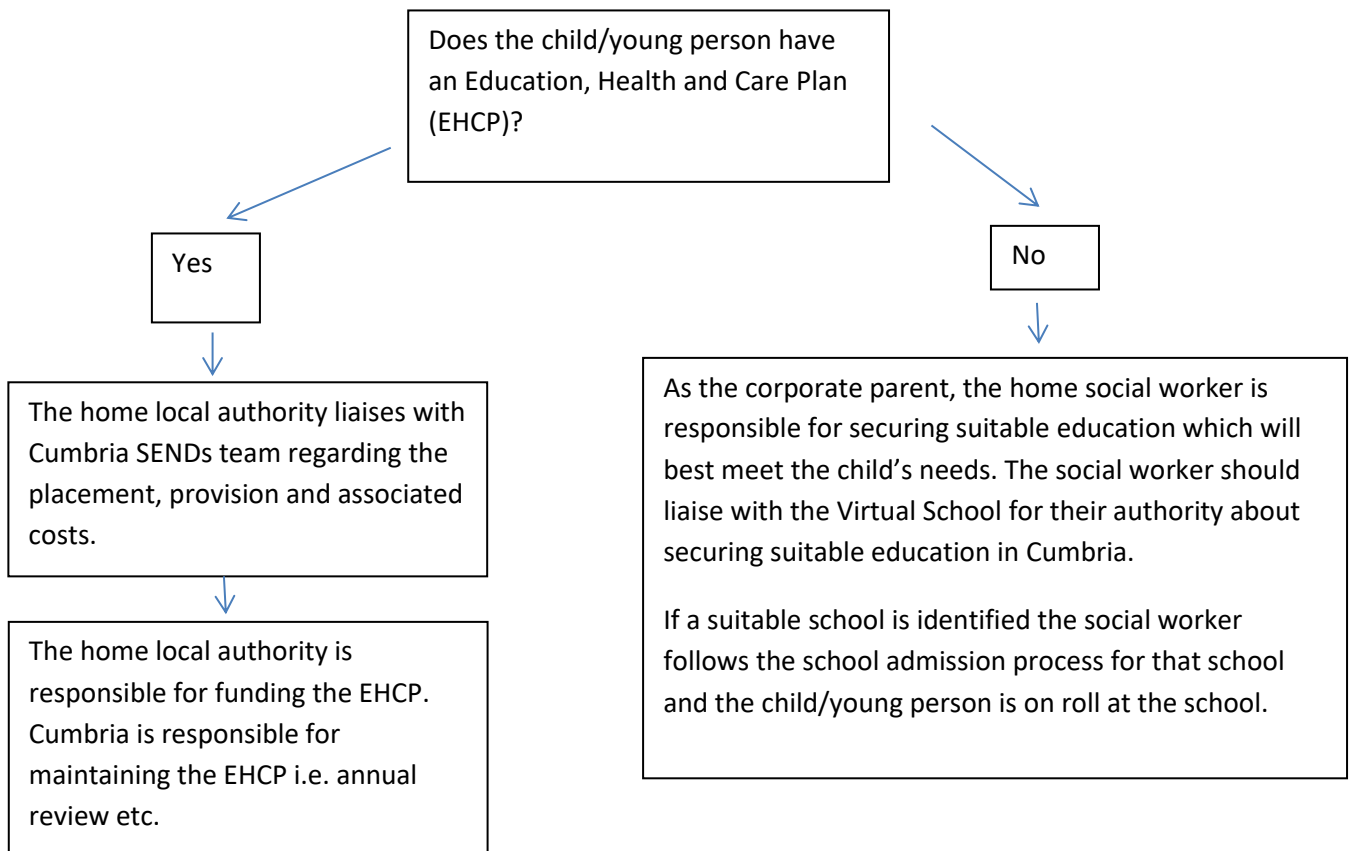
CHILD LOOKED AFTER FROM OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE PLACED IN CUMBRIA AND WHO REQUIRE A SCHOOL PLACE.

This is advice and information for social workers from other local authorities who place a child looked after in Cumbria who requires a school place. Please read the guidance below and read the flow chart on page 2.

Statutory guidance states that:

- Social workers, Virtual School Heads (VSHs), IROs, school admission officers, and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) departments should work together to ensure that, except in an emergency, appropriate education provision for a child is arranged at the same time as a care placement.
- Looked-after children, as defined in the School Admission Code, have the highest priority within all mainstream schools' admission arrangements. The admission requirements for looked-after children are set out in the School Admissions Code. This Code applies to maintained schools and academies, including free schools.
- Fair Access Protocols do not apply to looked-after children. In relation to infant class size regulations they are 'excepted pupils' if they are admitted outside the normal admission round (see 2.15(b) of the School Admissions Code)
- If social workers are unsure of how school admissions work in relation to looked-after children, they should urgently discuss this with their VSH or someone else – e.g. the local authority's school admissions officer, who can provide the correct information. If the appropriate placement is at a mainstream academy or maintained school, the corporate parent must apply through the same process as other parents. Please note that the national closing dates for applications are: 31 October for secondary schools, and 15 January for primary schools.

FLOW CHART for when a CLA FROM ANOTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY MOVES INTO CUMBRIA AND NEEDS A SCHOOL PLACE.



If the CLA has been on roll at a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in their home authority, then a PRU place should be considered in Cumbria. The home social worker and home Virtual School should contact the PRU Headteacher.

If a school cannot be identified, the Virtual School in Cumbria, can offer advice and information, which will include the home authority completing a 'CLA from OLA' form. The form is available from the Cumbria Virtual School. Email: VirtualSchoolBusinessSupport@cumbria.gov.uk

If a suitable school is identified but refuses a place, the Virtual School Head from the home authority can direct the admission authority for the school to take the CLA.

If the pupil has not been accessing a mainstream school prior to moving into Cumbria, the home social worker must contact their Virtual School for advice. The home Virtual School may look at funding education through 1:1 tuition or using an alternative provider.

If the CLA does not have a school place then the home social worker should refer them to their home Child Missing Education (CME) team who will inform Cumbria that they have a CME. Cumbria CME team and the Cumbria Virtual School team will work with the home authority to secure a school place for the CLA.