

Medical Education Service (MES)

Post-16

Post 16 Providers Responsibilities

Post 16 providers have an obligation and a duty to provide study programmes that typically combine qualifications and other activities and are tailored to students' prior attainment and their future career goals. All students aged 16-19 (and students up to the age of 25 where they have an EHCP) should follow a relevant study programme.

All study programmes must have a 'core aim'. This will be tailored to the needs of the individual and will typically include a substantial qualification (academic or technical), or preparation for employment. They should also include work experience and non-qualification activities. These should complement other elements of the study programme and support the student to progress to further or higher education or employment.

Typical elements of a study programme are:

- Substantial qualifications such as A levels or T levels, etc.
- English and Maths where students have not achieved grade 4 at GCSE. Students who achieve grade 2 may wish to consider Functional Skills level 2. Students who achieve grade 3 must study GCSE only.
- Work experience
- Other non-qualification activities to develop character, broader skills, attitude and confidence.

The study programmes are designed to be full time with a minimum of 540 hours per year. Part time study programmes can be considered for students who have a health issue that prevents them from being in education for more than a few hours.

Post 16 providers should take particular care to ensure that study programmes are tailored to the needs of students with SEND, either with or without an EHCP, in discussion with the student. Post 16 providers have a statutory duty to make arrangements to support students with medical needs. All Post 16 providers must have a policy which sets out how they support students with medical needs. For further information on this including an example policy please visit [Medical education service | CYPInfo \(northyorks.gov.uk\)](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/cypsinfo/medical-education-service)

Medical Education Service (MES)

As outlined above Post-16 providers have a statutory duty to make the necessary arrangements to provide ongoing education for students who, due to their medical condition, are unable to attend school for a period of time.

There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of NYCC – for example, where the student can still attend school with some support; where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the student; or where arrangements have been made for the student to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school. NYCC would not expect to become involved in such arrangements unless it had reason to think that the education being provided to the student was not suitable or, while otherwise suitable, was not full-time or for the number of hours the student could benefit from without adversely affecting their health. This might be the case where, for example, the student can attend school but only intermittently.

NYCC aims to maintain good links with all Post-16 providers in North Yorkshire and promotes co-operation between them when children cannot attend education because of ill health. Providers can do a lot to support the education of students with health needs and the sharing of information between providers, health services and NYCC is important. Providers can also play a big part in making sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully.

If a Post-16 provider is unable to make the arrangements necessary for a student to have full-access to education, based on the best interests of the student's health needs, they can make a request to the MES. The MES provide short-term education to help Post-16 providers and settings to provide continuity in education when a child or young people has been absent from school for 15 days or more due to a physical or mental health need. Providers must notify the MES if a CYP has 15 days of absence, consecutive or accumulative, due to a medical need and school are unable to offer an education the CYP can access.

Post-16 providers must satisfy the MES that they have complied with the statutory guidance by sharing their policy on supporting pupils with medical needs and by detailing in the MES request form how they have implemented the policy for each individual student and that all arrangements have been put in place to ensure the student has 'full-access to education' ([Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)) If a provider is unable to satisfy the MES this will be taken up with the Governing Body.

The MES is not an Alternative Provision nor a long term solution. If it is likely that a student will be out of education for a long period due to a medical need further discussions will take place between the school and the Local Authority regarding a longer term plan.

The MES is also able to provide advice and support to providers to fulfil their responsibility towards medical students on their roll. This may include education plans whilst off school and advice towards supporting reintegration back to school. If a school notices signs that a student is at risk of not attending school due to medical reasons measures will need to be put in place to prevent this from happening. The MES can offer advice to providers around what these measures should look like.

Young People referred for support from the MES will be assessed on the following criteria:

- A resident in North Yorkshire
- Aged 5-18 years or up to 25 years if they have an EHC Plan
- A health condition which is the reason they are unable to attend school
- Currently receiving specialist help and support from a recognised health professional.
- Evidence from the health specialist, delivering the help and support which describes what the child or young person can do from an educational perspective.
- Children must have been absent from school for 15 days or more (one off or cumulatively) due to their medical condition
- The request has been discussed with parents/carers and signed consent has been obtained from those with parental responsibility or from a young person themselves, where they are considered to be competent and are over 16 years of age.

MES Provision

The Medical Education Service may support providers through the process of reintegrating the student back into the setting by providing:

- Maths and English teaching to achieve at least grade 4 in GCSE or level 2 Functional Skills
- Maths and English teaching at level 3 if the student is taking those subjects as part of their study programme

This may be 1:1 or small group teaching and may take place in the school, home or another public setting such as a library. This can be provided alongside a clear offer of education from the 16-19 provider, while the student's medical needs prevent them from attending the setting.

If the student requires teaching in other subjects then 16-19 providers may wish to use Academy 21 as an online alternative provision of education. Use of an AV1 is also an option to consider.

The Medical Education Service is also able to provide advice and support to schools to fulfil their responsibility towards students with medical needs on their roll.

For further information on the MES including how to submit a request please visit: [Medical education service | CYPInfo \(northyorks.gov.uk\)](#)

Sources of Information:

16-19 Study Programmes Guidance (gov.uk) [16 to 19 study programmes: guide for providers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

SEND Code of Practice (gov.uk) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>