Fact Sheet -4

**What is a Resource Allocation System?**

**Social Care Resource Allocation System**, (RAS) is a way for the Local Authority to work out how much money a child or young person needs to meet their identified social care needs. A professional form the local authority social care team will work through the RAS tool alongside the family, child or young person to identify a score that will equate to the child or young person’s indicative budget. The RAS is only a tool and will be considered alongside the child or young person’s assessment. The system allocates money based on the child or young person’s current level of identified need. This creates a fairer and more transparent system. A change in need or circumstance may lead to an increase or decrease in budget allocation, subject to review.

**Education Resource Allocation System**, (ERAS) works in a similar way to the (RAS). The tool is designed to help work out how much money is needed to support a child or young person who has been assessed as having a special educational need. This may be the provision of highly specialist learning materials such as Braille, access to regular specialist interventions very different to those available in the classroom. It will not only contribute to the provision of an indicative amount of money that can be taken by the parent/carer as an individual budget but will also help to clarify for parents how the money allocated to their child’s school for their needs is being spent.

**What is continuing care?**

A continuing care package will be required when a child or young person has needs arising from disability, accident or illness that cannot be met by existing universal or specialist services alone. Continuing care does not cover children and young people with care needs that may be met appropriately through existing universal or specialist health services. In this instance, their needs should be addressed using a case management approach. Continuing care is organised differently for children and young people than for adults.
There is currently a different panel for each process and this is why assessments need to be carried out separately.

As part of the EHC assessment process the aim will be to capture as much of the information required to complete the Resource Allocation Systems as possible in order to limit the amount of time families will be required to work through assessments.

Useful Links and Documents:-