



2. REQUESTING AN EHCP NEEDS ASSESSMENT



An EHCP can be requested by parent, young person, teacher or anyone else concerned about the child's SEN

WHERE, DESPITE THE SCHOOL HAVING TAKEN RELEVANT AND PURPOSEFUL ACTION TO IDENTIFY, ASSESS AND MEET THE SEN OF THE CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON, THE CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON HAS NOT MADE EXPECTED PROGRESS, THE SCHOOL OR PARENTS SHOULD CONSIDER REQUESTING AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

A full diagram of the process can be found in the SEND Code of Practice

Contact your local authority's SEND department and ask to start the Statutory Assessment process. They must reply within six weeks of your initial enquiry (make a note of the date)

When your initial request has been received, think about what help you might need with your application. The government funds impartial advice from trained advisors called SENDIASS who can help you through the process. They are available in every area and offer free information, advice and support to children, young people and parents on a range of SEND issues. This includes EHCP applications.

There is then a six-week period during which the LA should gather evidence of your child's SEND e.g. school reports, Assess/Plan/Do/Review documents, speech & language/Ed Psych/ Occupational Therapy or other reports.
If possible, parents themselves may want to gather together relevant reports and information as well, to ensure everything is considered by the LA. This will also assist as a timeline reminder when you are writing your child's story as part of the application.

You will need to explain why your child needs an EHCP assessment. It can be useful to write your child's story from birth, including any relevant information from any previous reports, assessments or diagnoses. Include how your child's difficulties impact upon your whole family and what support your child already has that really helps.
Remember to think about their strengths as well! Make sure you number the reports and include them in your application (only ever send copies). Any medical and social care needs should be included.

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY DECIDES WHETHER OR NOT TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF SEND.

If an assessment is agreed, move to part 3 "Conducting an assessment"

If your assessment request is refused, the LA should advise you of other options short of statutory assessment that can support your child. You can find services listed on your area's Local Offer website that your school may be able to access to support the Assess, Plan, Do, Review process. Your LA should never just say 'No' without looking at what else can be done to better help your child.

If you are not satisfied with this decision or any other help sourced from the Local Offer help you can seek mediation and/or appeal to the First Tier SEND Tribunal

Move to part 4, "Disagreements"