

Applying for an Education, Health & Care (EHC) Assessment A guide for families

Children & Young People's Services



Introduction

If your child is between the ages of 0-25 and has significant learning difficulties, he or she might need an Education, Health and Care assessment.

The process is centred around the child or young person and you will be involved in making decisions about their support across education, health and care.

Who can request an Education, Health and Care assessment?

- A parent/carer, or their advocate.
- A young person over the age of 16.
- An Early Years setting, school or Further Education college.

In addition, anyone else can inform the Local Authority that a child might have a special educational need.

What does an assessment mean?

- The assessment will cover the educational, health and care needs of your child.
- You and your child will be at the centre of the process and your views on how, when and to what extent you would like to engage, are important and will be taken into account.
- At the end of the assessment, either a SEN Support Plan or an Education, Health and Care Plan will be issued. Each one will detail the needs of your child, the outcomes that we all want your child to achieve and the support arrangements. The SEN Support Plan does not have the same legal status but we want to ensure that the needs of those children are also met in school, from the funding that has been allocated to the school

Local Authority (LA) receives a request for an EHC assessment

The SEN panel will consider at the evidence provided, including your views

The LA decides whether an EHC assessment is needed and informs you of the decision

If Yes

You will be provided with your main point of contact

If No

A SEN Support Plan will be written using the evidence collected

You have the right to independent mediation and tribunal

Your named contact will meet you and discuss the way forward

You will be asked for your views and the views of your child. This can be done using a My Story

Further assessments will be undertaken and advice from other professionals will be requested. These usually includes the school, an Educational Psychologist, a Paediatrician, Therapist, **CAMHS** or Specialist Teacher

An assessment meeting will be held with you and professionals involved

The Local Authority will decide whether an EHC plan is needed and will inform you of the decision

Ψ If Yes

A draft EHC is issued to you and the school to check

You will be asked for your views on your

preferred education setting for your child

You will be asked if you want a personal budget

The draft plan is amended and a final EHC Plan is issued

If you disagree with the Final Plan you can seek mediation and appeal to tribunal

Ψ If No

A SEN Support Plan will be written using the evidence collected

We can discuss any matters

You have the right to appeal

You have the right to independent mediation and tribunal

Useful contacts

SEND, Looked After & Vulnerable Groups Team

Children & Young People's Services

Early Help, Inclusion & Vulnerable Children

County Hall

Durham

DH1 5UJ

Telephone: 03000 265 878

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

Children & Young People's Services

Lee House

Lee Terrace

Easington Village

SR8 3AB

Telephone: 0191 587 3541

Independent Mediation & Disagreement Service

Barnardo's Gateshead Disability & Inclusion Support Service (DAISS)

20 Bewick Road

Gateshead

Tyne & Wear

NE8 4DP

Telephone: 0191 4784 667

Email: daismediationservices@barnardos.org.uk