



## What is an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment?

---

An EHC Needs Assessment is a very detailed assessment of your child or young person under the Children and Families Act 2014. It will include reports from a number of people, such as parent carers, the child/young person, teachers, educational practitioners, health practitioners and others who work with or support the child or young person, as appropriate.

---

**Brooke Weston Trust**



## An EHC Needs Assessment

If it has been identified that a child is not making progress, and the gap between them and their peers is significant, the child or young person may be considered to have needs that are complex and long-term. At this stage, the child will typically have a **SEN Support Plan** in place and will likely have had several cycles of the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' process.

The SENDCo may also discuss with you if an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment may be supportive. Where agreed, this assessment may lead to an **Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**.

An EHCP is a legal document which describes a child or young person's Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). An EHCP is written and provided by a Local Authority in order to give children and young people the help and support they need to make progress academically, socially and emotionally. An EHCP replaced a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) when the revised Code of Practice was introduced in 2014.

## Who may request an EHC assessment?

The following people have a specific right to ask the local authority to conduct an education, health and care assessment for a child or young person aged between 0 and 25:

- ✓ the child's parent carer;
- ✓ a young person over the age of 16 but under the age of 25;
- ✓ a person acting on behalf of a school or post-16 institution;
- ✓ Anyone who has had involvement with the family, e.g. foster carers, health and social care practitioners, early years practitioners, youth offending teams or probation services, those responsible for education in custody, school or college staff or a family friend;
- ✓ Children and young people aged 10-18 in youth custodial institutions also have the right to request an assessment for an EHC Plan

Where possible, a request should be done with the knowledge and agreement of the parent or young person. For parent carers requesting an assessment, it is advisable to discuss concerns with the child's school or setting as they will be able to help with gathering information and reports.

## Who gets an EHCP?

The majority of children and young people with special educational needs will have their needs met within local mainstream schools.

Schools have a **SEND register**. Children added to this register will have a SEND support plan using an **ASSESS, PLAN, DO, REVIEW process**. This is not an EHCP.

An EHCP is for children and young people that require **special educational provision** to be made for them because:

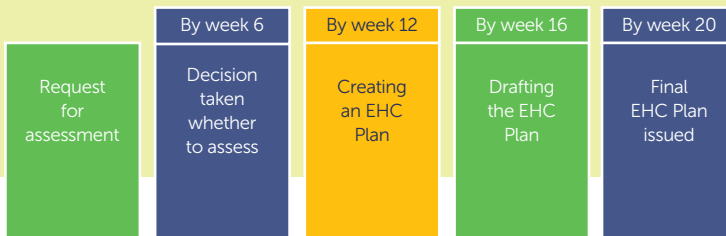
- ✓ They have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the **majority** of others of the same age *and/or*
- ✓ They have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools in England, maintained nurseries in England, mainstream post-16 institutions or places where early years provision is provided.

## The Assessment Process

The SEND Code of Practice states in paragraph 9.13:

“A local authority must conduct an assessment of education, health and care needs when it considers that it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made for the child or young person in accordance with the EHC Plan. This is likely to be where the special educational provision required to meet the child or young person’s needs cannot reasonably be provided from the resources normally available to the school/setting.”

The LA must carry out an EHC needs assessment if the child or young person has, or may have, special educational needs, and it is, or may be, necessary for special educational provision to be made for them. There are 5 stages of statutory assessment. The process should take **20 weeks**.



## What if it is decided that the child or young person does not need an assessment?

If the Local Authority decides not to conduct an EHC needs assessment, it must inform the child's parents or the young person of their right to appeal that decision and the time limit for doing so. They must also be notified of the requirement for them to consider mediation should they wish to appeal, and the availability of information, advice and support and disagreement resolution/mediation services.

## What if it is agreed that an EHC Needs Assessment will be carried out?

This SEN Casework team:

- ✓ Must consult the child and the child's parent or the young person throughout the process of assessment and production of an EHC plan.
- ✓ Should have early discussions with parents or the young person about the process and how the Plan will develop. Discussions will also include the range of options that will be available, such as different types of educational placements.
- ✓ Local Authorities must work with parents, children and young people to understand how best to minimise disruption for them and their family life.

## What will happen once the EHCP is issued?

When an EHCP is issued for a child or young person, the Local Authority must ensure the special educational provision outlined in the plan is put into place. If a Local Authority names an independent school or independent college as special educational provision, then all costs must be met by the LA.

## To learn more, contact the SENDCo in your school

### Beanfield Primary

☎ 01536 262000

Mainstream SEN

✉ SENTeam@beanfieldprimary.org

Provision SEN

✉ SENunit@beanfieldprimary.org

### Compass Primary

☎ 01536 532707

✉ office@compassprimary.org

### Gretton Primary

☎ 01536 770366

✉ office@grettonprimary.org

### Oakley Vale Primary

☎ 01536 461199

✉ Senco@oakleyvaleprimary.org

### Peckover Primary

☎ 01945 584741

✉ office@peckoverprimary.org

### Thrapston Primary

☎ 01832 732512

✉ swebb@thrapston.net