

Education Health and Care Needs Assessment Guide for Young People, Parents and Carers

Children and young people sometimes need extra help in school, college or training. An education, Health and Care needs assessment will find out what extra support you need. If you need support above what your school or college can provide from their own SEN budget you may need an Education Health and Care Plan. This is often called an EHC plan or EHCP.



What is an EHC needs assessment and why might I need one?

The EHC needs assessment looks at what support you need in school or college. It is about getting information from you and people who support you and understand your strengths and needs.

How can I get an EHC needs assessment?

You can request an EHC needs assessment yourself:

- If you are between age 16 (after you finish Year 11) up until your 25th birthday;
AND
- You or people who know you well think that you have special educational needs;
- Your school or college are not able to give you the support you need, without extra funding from the Local Authority SEND Team.

What do I have to do?

- You can write to the local SEND Team, requesting an assessment;
- Your parents or carers, school or college can ask for you if you agree to this.

The SEND Team must tell you whether they are going to do the assessment within 6 weeks of getting your request. (In Kirklees this team is called SENDACT. In Calderdale it is called SEN Team).

If they do not agree to do an assessment, they must tell you why. You can appeal against this.

What will happen if I have an EHC needs assessment?

So that they can make the right decision about whether you will need an EHC plan the SEND Team will ask the people who help and support you in learning to tell them what support you need and ask them to write a report about it.

These people might include:

- **YOU** – It is very important that you are involved, as your views, hopes and goals for your future life and how you would like to be supported are at the centre of the assessment;
- School or college;
- Parents and carers and other people who support you;
- An Educational Psychologist – you will probably meet this person for the first time during the EHC assessment. They know a lot about how people learn and what might help them to learn better;
- Your doctor or therapist or social worker (only if you have one)
- Anyone that you would like to write reports about your needs and what support works best for you.

If you feel worried about meeting people you do not know you can use video, drawing, signing or any other way to let people know what you think.

What happens when the EHC needs assessment is finished?

When the SEND Team have looked at all the information from the assessment they decide if you need an EHC plan. They may think that school or college can continue to support you, using their own SEN funds, without an EHC plan. If you don't agree you can appeal against this.

They may issue an EHC plan but when you get it you don't agree with what it says. If you don't agree then you can say so.

Whatever you have to say must be listened to a by the SEND Team and everyone who supports you.

You can contact our team for legally based, free, confidential, impartial advice and support including:

- **Advice on SEN support at school/college aged 0 - 25 years;**
- **Explain the EHCP assessment process and your rights;**
- **Support in Annual reviews and meetings;**
- **Support in mediation and appeals;**
- **Advice on school exclusions.**

We would be happy to hear from you:

- **KIAS – (Kirklees enquiries) – Tel: 0300 330 1504**
- **SENDIASS – (Calderdale enquiries) – Tel: 01422 266141**