

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

PARENTAL INFORMATION

Does my child need extra support?

Central
Bedfordshire

Does my child need an EHCP (Educational Health Care plan)?

WHAT IS AN EHC NEEDS ASSESSMENT?

An Education, Health and Care (“EHC”) needs assessment is part of the wider SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) support available to young people. It is an assessment of a child or young person’s (0-25years) education, health and care needs related to SEN. It can identify where support is needed to help them

make progress and achieve their outcomes. If additional support is indicated, an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) might be produced. The EHC plan describes the child or young persons special education needs, the support that must be provided and the outcomes they wish to achieve.

HOW DO I REQUEST AN EHC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

To request an EHC needs assessment, you will need to e-mail the STATAS e-mail (statass@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) – This is the e-mail for the statutory team who carry out duties in respect of processes linked to EHCP’s. You can also write to the statutory SEND team at:
Central Bedfordshire Council Offices
Watling House,
High St N,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire
LU6 1LF

A young person over the age of 16 will need to give their consent in order for a needs assessment request to be made.

Apply to: Statass@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

HOW MIGHT I IDENTIFY THAT MY CHILD HAS AN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEED?

There are lots of things which may indicate your child has a special educational need. These might include:

- education setting might have discussed with you the need to collect evidence in respect of challenges your child faces
- removal from class to have additional tuition
- ability to understand things
- frequent exclusions from school
- behaviour or ability to socialise, for example they struggle to make friends
- concentration levels, for example because they have ADHD
- physical difficulties in doing things such as writing, kicking a ball or riding a bike.
- falling behind the expected rate of progress/School reports
- emotional difficulties or anxiety
 - ie reluctance to go to school
- reading and writing difficulties, for example because they have dyslexia

This may or may not be evidenced through:

- academic attainment in school (School reports)
- a young persons/parents view point
- reading tests/attendance record
- regular emotional or social development support
- evidence from clinicians or school
- examples of special support being provided by your child's school
 - SEND Support plan, Individual Education Plan, Exclusion letters
- other specialist reports

Support is available through SENDIASS

You may obtain support from the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) or Early Help Team if you are uncertain whether your child is progressing at a rate which is different from their peers.

WHO CAN REQUEST AN EHC NEEDS ASSESSMENT?

The following people can make a request for an EHC needs assessment:

- The child's parent/carer
- A young person over the age of 16 but under the age of 25, and
- A person acting on behalf of a school or post-16 institution (this should ideally be with the knowledge and agreement of the parent/carer or young person where possible)

The LA will consider requests that:

Are recommended by a relevant practitioner
(Teacher, Doctor, Social Worker etc)



and include one or more of the following, where they relate to the children or young person's special education need or disability (SEND)



A school report or letter



A doctor's, consultant's or other health professional's letter



A report or letter from other external therapists or a professionally recognised individual



Team around the Child plan/Child in Need plan



Parents/carers can request an EHC needs assessment themselves. If parents/carers are unable to provide a letter or report they will need to explain "WHY" they think their child has SEND and why their nursery, school or college is not able to provide the help and support needed. If possible any request should describe what special provision is being made to support a young person and include any reports or documents which may be relevant.

Where a professional recommendation cannot be provided the evidence will need to be reviewed to determine whether a child or young person may have SEND and may need additional support through an EHC plan.

It is important to note that at the end of this process a plan may still not be issued. Parents/carers and the nursery/school/college will however have more information which will help to develop robust support for a child or young person.



If possible, you should describe what special provision is being made to support your child currently and also include any reports or documents which may be relevant to your child's SEN as evidence of need

WHAT IF MY SCHOOL DECLINES MY REQUEST FOR AN EHC NEEDS ASSESSMENT?

If you are concerned about your child's progress and are thinking about making an EHC needs assessment request we strongly advise you to speak to your child's keyworker, class teacher or the School SENDCO first if possible. It may be that positive next steps can be agreed together without the need for an EHC needs assessment.

There may be occasions where school feels that your child is making appropriate progress and cannot see evidence of parental concerns. It is reasonable in these circumstances for them to decline any request to pursue an EHC needs assessment. This does not prevent a parent/carer or young person over 16 from applying themselves for an EHC needs assessment. A school should not decline a needs assessment for any of the following reasons:

- inability or lack of knowledge which hinders an ability to support any further
- cost
- prioritisation of other pupils with greater need
- lack of external specialist advise.
- no diagnosis
- recent transfer from or to a new school
- location of the school outside of the CBC authority
- absence from school
- dual registration, commissioned placement or between placements

WHERE CAN I OBTAIN HELP AND SUPPORT?

If you feel you need additional support you may be able to obtain this from:

- The Early Help Team, can support your family to make an early assessment of your child/ children's needs. This is not required in order to apply for a needs assessment but it may be just what your family needs to identify appropriate support.
- SENDIASS (support@sendiass.co.uk) who can provide information, advice and support to children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers

Whilst we develop our parent/carers web link please find the information on the process as it currently stands

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/8/support_for_professionals/518/information_for_practitioners_-_eha/3

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