

EHC needs assessment

This information is about Education, Health and Care needs assessment. It covers children and young people 0-25.

What is an EHC needs assessment?

An EHC needs assessment is a detailed look at the special educational needs or disability (SEND) of a child or young person and the support they may need in order to learn. It is carried out by Brighter Futures for Children (“BFfC”)

The needs assessment looks at:

- what your child can and cannot do
- the special help they need.

It includes information from:

- you
- your child
- the early years’ setting, school or college
- other professionals who work with or support your child.

When is an EHC needs assessment necessary?

The nursery, school or college can often give your child help through SEND support. This means that they put extra support in place that is different from that given to most other pupils to meet their needs. Sometimes other professionals will give advice or support to help your child learn.

Some children need more help than the school or other education provider can give. If your child does not make progress even with everything that has been tried, an EHC needs assessment might be the next step.

The assessment is to see if your child needs an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan).

Brighter Futures for Children will look at:

- your child's progress and how well they are doing
- their special educational needs
- what has already been done
- the difference that support has made
- your child's physical, emotional and social development and health needs.

Who can ask for an EHC needs assessment?

- parents – by writing to BfC
- a young person between 16-25 years old
- the nursery, school or college, but only after talking with you first.

It is always a good idea to talk to the school or nursery before asking for an EHC needs assessment.

Reading IASS for SEND can help you make your request.

What happens when BfC gets a request for an EHC needs assessment?

It must tell you about it. It then has up to six weeks to decide whether to make a needs assessment. During this time, it may ask you, the school and other professionals for information.

It will look at all the information and must then tell you whether it has decided:

to start the EHC needs assessment immediately

OR

that an EHC needs assessment is not necessary.

If you disagree with the decision Reading IASS for SEND can explain your options to you.

What happens if the EHC needs assessment goes ahead?

BfFC will write to you to tell you what will happen. Your views and your child's views are really important. Reading IASS for SEND can give you information, advice and support to help you with this.

BfFC will ask other people for information about your child, including

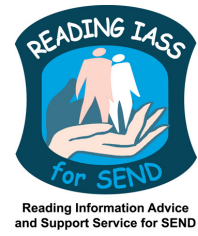
- your child's education, health and care needs
- the desired outcomes for your child (what we want your child to be able to do)
- the special educational, health and care provision (help) that might be needed to meet their needs and achieve the outcomes.

When does the EHC needs assessment end?

Once BfFC has all the information and advice it must decide whether your child needs an Education, Health and Care plan which is a legal document written by BfFC setting out the needs that a child or young person has and the help that they will be given to meet the needs.

BfFC might decide that your child's special educational needs can be met through SEND support. They must tell you this within 16 weeks of getting a request for an EHC needs assessment and must also tell you about your right of appeal.

If BfFC decides an EHC plan is necessary, it must first write a draft plan. It will send you the draft EHC plan and copies of the reports so that you can read it all. You should check that everything you think is important has been included and that you agree with the outcomes and the support they've said is needed (provision). BfFC will also ask you which school you prefer your child to go to.



You have 15 days to make comments, to ask for a meeting or accept the draft plan. It is important to reply within this time if you want any changes.

The last stage is for BfC to send you the final EHC plan. If you are still unhappy with the plan or cannot agree with BfC on a school, you have a right to go to mediation and/or to appeal.

If you need help at any stage, you can contact Reading IASS for SEND.

What if I do not agree with the local authority about the EHC needs assessment or the EHC plan?

At any stage you can ask to talk to a member of BfC's staff. This will usually be the person named in the letter BfC sends to you when it receives a request for an EHC needs assessment; the Case Officer.

You also have a right to request independent disagreement resolution and, in some circumstances, mediation – this means that someone impartial would help you and BfC to talk things through to see if you can come to an agreement that you are both happy with.

Reading IASS for SEND can give you impartial information and advice about your options and support you through the process. Further information about the process can also be found on the Local Offer.