



My child is having an EHC needs assessment, what can I do to prepare?

Contact your IASS for Information, Advice and Support

Parents/carers and young people are entitled to free and confidential assistance during this process from their IASS. Should you wish to discuss what support is available, please contact Bracknell Forest's Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) on 01344 354011.

Consider the range of information and advice you would like to be part of the assessment

A full list of advice and information that should be sought as part of the EHC needs assessment can be found in section 9.49 of the SEND Code of Practice

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>)

Please note that you can request that the local authority seek advice and information from any other person (not specifically mentioned in the list) and so long as they consider it reasonable, they must seek the advice.

Think about your aspirations for your child's future

Consider what your aspirations (hopes and dreams) are for your child/young person's future and what you think is important to/for them. As part of the EHC needs assessment, you will be asked to submit your views in writing and these will contribute to section A of the Education, Health & Care plan. (Copies of the forms used in Bracknell Forest are available from IASS)

Talk with your child / young person

You may wish to talk with your child/young person about their aspirations (hopes and dreams) as well as what they would like to be able to do in a couple of year's time. As part of the EHC needs assessment, they will be asked to share their views. (Copies of the forms used in Bracknell Forest are available from IASS)

Preparing for the EHC meeting – Parents/Carers

Think about whether you would like someone to attend the meeting with you; partner, friend or IASS.



<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-send/information-advice-and-support-service>

Think about what you would like your child / young person to be able to do in a couple of year's time – what would really make a difference to their life? This may help when you discuss the outcomes section of the EHC plan during the meeting.

Young person

Please note: If you have a young person over 16, the decision making responsibility passes from you as a Parent/Carer to them as a Young person, so long as they have the mental capacity to do so. It is still encouraged that parents be closely involved.

Does your young person require an independent advocate to be present at the meeting?

Child

Think about whether you would like your child to be present for some or all of the meeting. If the meeting is taking place at their school, a teacher can bring your child in for a short time and then return them to class.

Think about ways your child may like to share their views at the meeting; are they comfortable talking, would they like to bring some photos, a video, pictures they have drawn to share their likes and dislikes or aims for the future.

Think about where you would like your child to be educated

After the EHC needs assessment is concluded, the local authority will confirm whether or not they will be issuing an EHC plan (please note should the decision be not to issue a plan, you have the right to appeal and can contact IASS for more information). Should the local authority agree to issue an EHC plan you will be asked to request an educational setting. This may be the same school/college that your child currently attends or you may wish to request a change.

You may want to start thinking about your preferences now and you can request a list of schools from Bracknell Forest's SEN team (also available from the IASS).

You may wish to start researching online and/or visiting schools/colleges. IASS can support you at school visits should you wish.

If you have any questions about the process please contact IASS on 01344 354011 or SEND.support@bracknell-forest.gov.uk