

A new approach to
Special Educational
Needs and Disability

A guide for families: Applying for an Education Health Care Assessment



Children and Young People's Services
SEND and Inclusion Service

Durham
County Council



Introduction

This guidance has been written following changes to the statutory assessment process for children and young people with special educational needs. If your child is between the ages of 0 – 25 and has significant learning difficulties, he or she might need an Education, Health and Care assessment.

The process is now centred around the child or young person and you will be involved in making decisions about their support across education, health and care.

This guidance outlines the new system.

Who can request an Education, Health and Care assessment?

- A parent, or their advocate.
- A young person over the age of 16
- An Early Years setting, school or Further Education College

In addition, anyone else can inform the Local Authority that a child might have a special educational need.

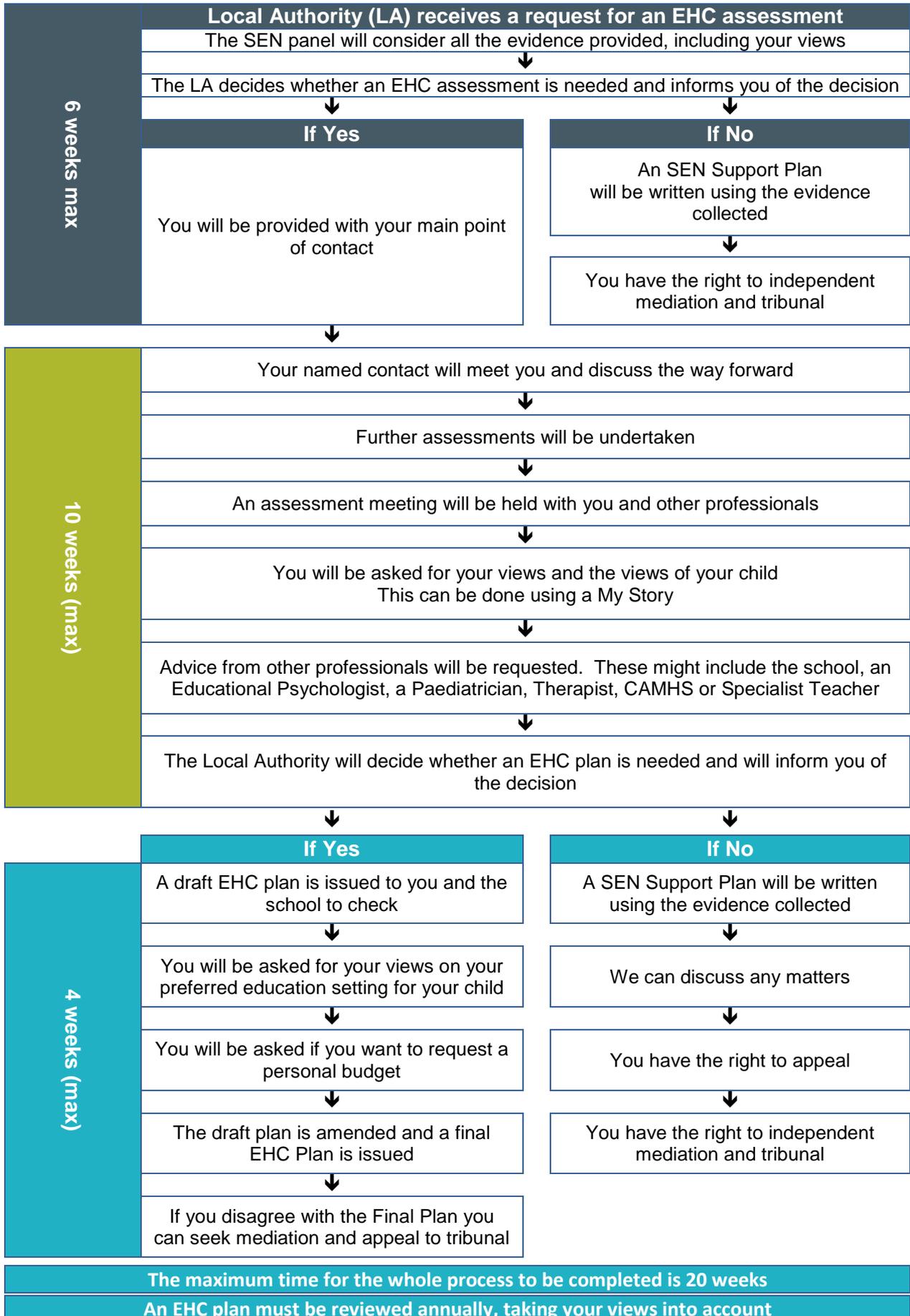
What does this mean for your child?

- The new assessment will cover the educational, health and care needs of your child.
- At the end of the assessment, you will be issued with either a SEN Support Plan or an Education, Health and Care Plan. Each one will detail the needs of your child, the outcomes that we all want your child to achieve and the support arrangements. The SEN Support Plan does not have the same legal status but we want to ensure that the needs of those children are also met in school, from the funding that has been allocated to the school.
- The Education, Health and Care Plan will be updated on a regular basis.
- You will be involved in making decisions about the help your child needs.

How does this improve things?

- You and your child will be at the centre of the process and your views on how, when and to what extent you would like to engage, are important and will be taken into account.
- There will be a named contact to help you through the assessment process.
- The assessment process will be quicker
- Education, Health and Care Plans cover all three services, if relevant, and include a duty on all services to deliver the plan.
- Children and young people can be assessed from birth to 24 years of age.

Education, Health and Care Plan – The Process



Useful Contacts

SEND Casework Team

Children and Young People's Services
Durham County Council
County Hall,
Durham,
DH1 5UJ
Tel: 03000 265 878

Improving Progression Team

Children and Young People's Services
Durham County Council
The Workplace,
Heighington Lane, Aycliffe Business Park,
Newton Aycliffe,
DL5 6AH
Tel: 01325 375 998

Durham SEND Information and Advice Service (SENDIASS)

Children and Young People's Services
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Lee House, Lee Terrace
Easington Village
Peterlee
SR8 3AB
Tel: 0191 587 3541