

Conducting an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Assessment

You can have Independent Support (**IS**) and access Impartial, Information, Advice and Support (**IIAS**)

The local authority has decided that an EHC assessment of your child's special educational needs / disabilities is required.

You will be asked whether you would like to meet the local authority representative to decide if any further external assessments are needed (e.g: Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Educational Psychology). You may want to be accompanied by an Independent Supporter (IS) to meetings. Independent Support can be contacted on 0300 303 8604 email: independentsupport@roseroad.org.uk

Any organisation asked to carry out an assessment or offer advice must comply within 6 weeks. Anyone asked will be sent a copy of your "Our Story" and your child's views so that they understand your child's requirements.

Update your "Our Story" to reflect any other assessments or changes. Do not forget to include all the interventions that have been tried.

The local authority makes a decision whether to issue an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or whether it thinks your child can be helped sufficiently from the SEN support in school or services from the local offer.

If the local authority decides not to draw up an EHC plan, it must inform you within 16 weeks of the original request for an EHC plan, and if you disagree with this decision there is a right of appeal. You can also access Support4SEND (formerly Parent Partnership) by email on enquiries.pps@hants.gov.uk or telephone 01962 845870

If an ECHP is to be drawn up you will be offered a meeting to discuss the provision that will be required for your child, to ensure co-production. This is the point where you think about your preferred school / college. See the Local Offer for information.

Once you have received the draft plan, you and your IS (if you have one) now have 15 days to check through to ensure all needs and provision have been included and to make any alterations. During this time you can put forward the name of your preferred school and agree how any personal budget will be allocated.

The local authority has to discuss the placement with the proposed school / college to ensure that it is suitable before naming it in the EHCP. The institution should respond within 15 calendar days.

Following further consultations between the local authority and the parents / young person, the final plan is issued. It must be reviewed as a minimum every twelve months to assess progress.

The whole process must be completed within 20 weeks.

The plan is implemented.

However, if you are not happy with the outcome, you can appeal. Mediation must be considered before you lodge and appeal, unless your appeal is about placement.

If you want to appeal go to the Disagreement sheet for information