

Parental requests for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment

You have the right to make a parental request for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment if your child has special educational needs or a disability and you believe that the nursery, school or college are not providing the help that you feel they need. **Before you do this please consider the following:**

Most children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can have their needs met within mainstream schools. Schools receive funding to meet the SEND needs of children without an EHCP. If your child is still not making the progress expected after this support, then you should first of all discuss this with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) at the setting attended by your child. You can discuss with them whether a statutory assessment of your child's education, health and care needs may be required. You may like to ask the following questions:

- What has already been done, and what support is already in place, to meet the needs of my child?
- Are there services or professionals who could offer further support?
- Have different approaches been tried and reviewed?
- Have the school got evidence of a graduated approach?

The following table outlines what an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is and what it is not:

An EHCP can help to:	An EHCP is not:
Collect up to date advice about your child's needs	A guarantee of full time or one to one teaching assistant support
Share the views, goals and wishes of you and your child	Needed because your child has a particular diagnosis
Identify outcomes that will make a difference to your child	A guarantee of a place in a resourced provision or special school
Define the support that your child needs to meet these outcomes	The only way our child can get help and have their needs met
	Guaranteed, or always appropriate, until the age of 25 years

For a small number of children, a graduated response may not be able to fully meet their needs and they may need extra help. This is when consideration may be given to requesting an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment. **Requests for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments are most effective when parents/carers and the school/setting work together on the request.** This is because the school/setting will be able to provide much of the information that the Local Authority requires in order to determine whether or not to carry out such an assessment, for example the provision already made to meet the needs of your child and their response to this as well as information regarding the severity of their needs.

Before making the request please take time to reflect on whether you have done the following:

- Spoken with the SENCO at your child's school
- Worked with school to identify and agree on the support that is required at the current time
- Considered the other support available via the Bolton Local Offer