

# Request to Assess – decision making process



This diagram shows how the council decides whether to carry out an education, health and care needs assessment (EHCNA) for a child or young person, and who supports with that decision. An EHCNA is the process which decides whether a child or young person requires an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).



AN INFORMATION GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

# Education, Health Care Needs Assessments



## Surrey Local Offer

Check out the local offer to support parents and children with additional needs.



**SEND Advice SURREY**  
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities information, advice and support

**NEURODIVERSITY ADVISOR PADLET**  
FOR PARENTS/CARERS

We understand that navigating life with a Neurodivergent child can be overwhelming. We have brought together key resources and information in a easy to use format.

Please scan the QR code to access our Padlet for Families.

✉ NDAvisors@surreycc.gov.uk

**CARE CHALLENGE EXPLORE**

[www.ashleyschool.org.uk](http://www.ashleyschool.org.uk)

## What are EHCPs and EHCNAs?

Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans are for children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND), who need more support than mainstream early years settings, schools and colleges can normally provide. An EHC plan is a legal document that describes the child or young person's special educational, health and social care needs, and describes what support they will be given to meet those needs, and describes what support they will be given to meet those needs. Where children and young people are able to express their views, interests and aspirations, the EHC plan should be created with these in mind. EHC plans for children and young people with profound disability, including non-verbal individuals, should take into account their likes, dislikes and personality.

An Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment is a detailed look at a child's or young person's special educational needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the support he or she may need in order to learn. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities are responsible for carrying out EHC needs assessments. If you live in Surrey, the local authority is Surrey County Council. Some children may have exceptional individual situations or extremely high-levels of need which require an EHC needs assessment very early on. In these cases, we will work with the appropriate practitioners and start the process without delay.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/local-offer/parents-and-carers/ehcp>



The inclusion section of our website shares more about the process of identifying and supporting needs.

But for most children, EHC needs assessment should not be the first step in getting the Special Educational Needs (SEN) support for your child. It usually follows on from planning already undertaken with parents and young people in partnership with an early years provider, school, post-16 setting or other provider. There is no legal requirement for the school to spend a specific amount before initiating an assessment.

Once completed, the assessment may result in the decision to issue an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan for the child or young person.

An EHC needs assessment will not always lead to an EHC plan. An education setting may be able to use the information gathered during an assessment to meet the child or young person's needs, without requiring an EHC plan.

## SEND Graduated Response

