



Cheshire East Information, Advice, and Support (CEIAS)

Quick Guide - EHC Needs assessments

This test for deciding whether to carry out an EHC needs assessment is set out in the law (section 36(8) of the Children and Families Act 2014).

- Most children's needs will be met through Special educational needs (SEN) support level in a mainstream setting.
- Despite interventions at SEN support level, it may be necessary for a child/Young person to have an EHC needs assessment to assess what a child's needs are and whether it is necessary for an EHC plan to be in place. It will be helpful to speak with your school SENCO to discuss an EHC needs assessment.
- The setting, the parent or young person over 16 years can apply for an EHC needs assessment to the Local Authority. The EHC needs assessment is the first step to gaining an EHCP.
- An EHCP can only be issued after the child or YP has gone through an EHC needs assessment.
- A timeline of the EHCP process can be found on the link below.

[the-ehc-needs-assessment-process.pdf \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](#)

- All decisions relating to EHC needs assessments are made by a multi-agency panel comprising of representatives from health, social care, schools, Educational Psychologist, SEND service manager and key workers.
- If you disagree with any decisions made by the Local Authority in relation to an EHCP decision you will be given the right to appeal to the First Tier, SEND Tribunal and you will be given information on the mediation process.

Useful links for further information....

[Asking for an EHC needs assessment | \(IPSEA\) Independent Provider of Special Education Advice](#)

[Education health and care needs assessments and plans \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](#)

www.ceias.cheshireeast.gov.uk