

WHAT IS AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE (EHC) NEEDS ASSESSMENT?



This information sheet is for you if you are under 16 years old, attend a school, and:

- Want to understand what an EHC Needs Assessment is?
- Why one might be requested?



WHAT IS EHC NEEDS ASSESSMENT?

- An EHC Needs Assessment is a detailed assessment of your education, health, and care needs. It is the first step to getting an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan.

An EHC plan can result in additional support and funding for you at school if you have special educational needs (SEN).

SEN is when you find learning or taking part at school a struggle and need extra or different types of help for this, compared to other students of the same age.

- If your school or parent/carer feel the help the school is already providing is not enough or the school needs more money to keep the help going, then they are likely to request an EHC Needs Assessment from the council. The council is usually referred to as the **Local Authority (LA)**.
- Whoever puts the request in (school or your parent/carer) they **must** ask you for **your views about what you are having difficulties with, what you think of the help you are getting and any other help you feel you need.**

- The EHC Assessment request **should** also contain detailed information on.
 - The reasons for making this request
 - Your SEN and the help the school are putting in,
 - The progress you have made so far, including your SEN Support plan and reports written by any professionals who have seen or worked with you.

When the LA receive the EHC Needs Assessment request, they will read through the information submitted with request and make a decision whether to start the EHC Assessment or not.

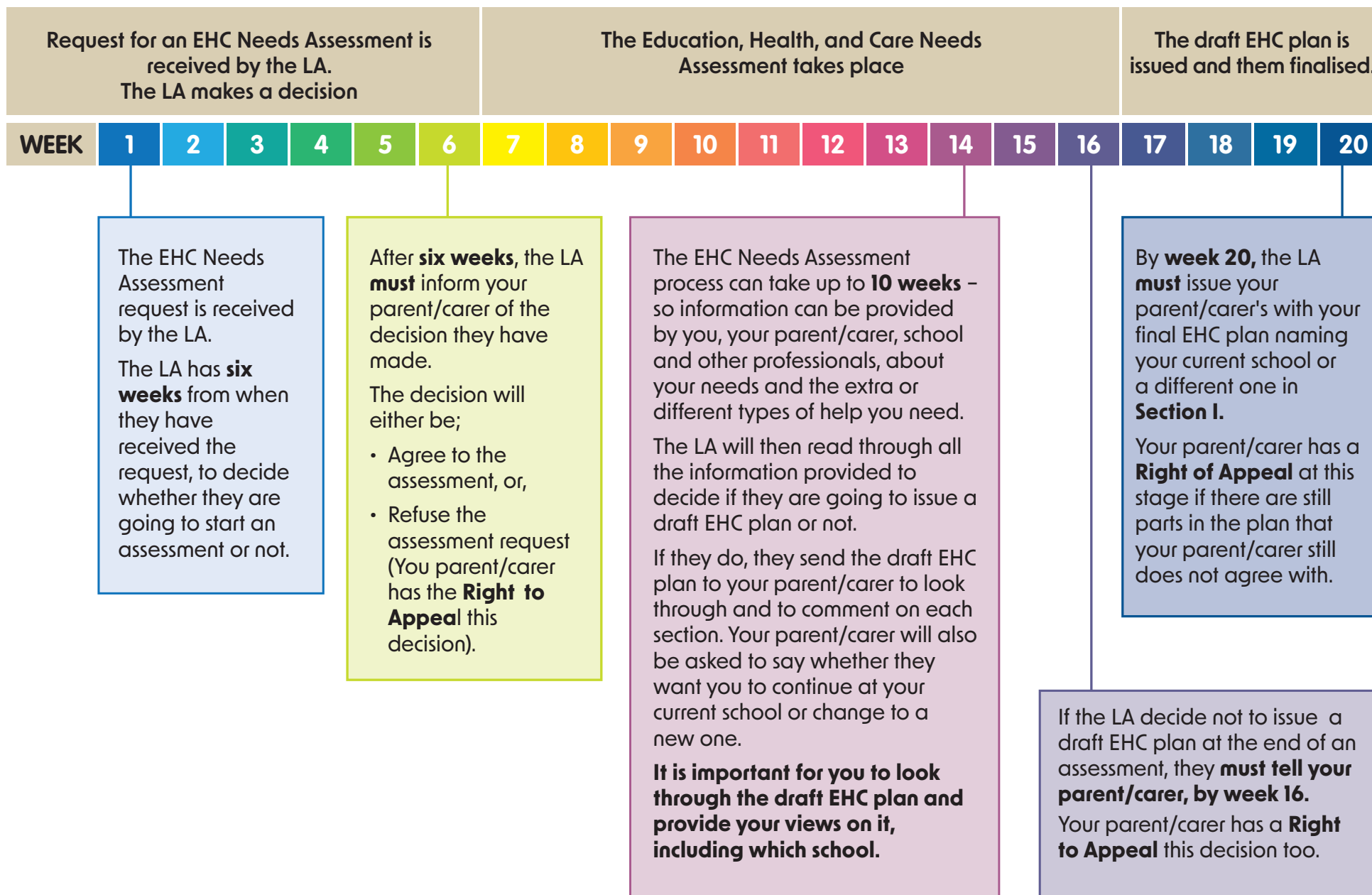
If the LA agree to starting an EHC Needs Assessment, then there are number of steps that they have to follow legally.

The EHC Needs Assessment process takes **20 weeks** from when the LA receive the request and to the end of the process.

If you want to know more about what SEN are and how schools should be supporting you with this, please contact us.



Below is a timeline of each step of the EHC Needs Assessment process, timescales and what happens at each step





HOW WE CAN HELP:

We can:

- Go through any questions you and your parent/carer's have about the EHC Needs Assessment steps
- Support you and your parent/carer's to give your views during each step and at meetings
- Provide advice on your parent/carer's options when they have a Right of Appeal

HOW TO CONTACT US:

- By phone - call or text our Children and Young People's officer on **07917 504 390**
- Call our office Helpline Number: **020 8871 8065**
- Email: wiaass@wandsworth.gov.uk
- Visit: wiaass.org.uk

**We are Free, Confidential (private)
and Objective (we will not tell you
what to do or take sides)**