

Progress in relation to delays in Education, Health and Care Assessments

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Written by | Vic Courtis – Head of SEND |
| Date | February 2026 |
| Purpose | To update families on the progress made in clearing the EHC assessments backlog in the local area |

This document explains the current situation in Milton Keynes regarding delays to Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessments, and what we are doing to reduce the backlog and get back to meeting expected timescales.

We know how important timely assessments are for children, young people, and their families. One of the biggest challenges we face is recruiting enough Educational Psychologists (EPs), who play a key role in the assessment process. This is a national issue, not just something affecting Milton Keynes.

Last summer, Milton Keynes City Council changed how we commission educational psychology assessments. This has helped us reduce the growing backlog and create a more sustainable approach for the future.

Since making these changes, over 681 assessments have been completed, and the backlog of educational psychology assessments has been reduced by 90%.

We have also restructured our SEND service to make sure we have the right staffing in place to deliver EHC plans within the 20-week timescale, as well as meet other legal duties. The new structure began in January 2026, and the team is now working through the final stages of the remaining overdue assessments. This includes making decisions about whether to issue plans and writing draft and final EHC plans. We expect to have completed all late plans and to be meeting the 20-week timescale again by summer 2026.

Thank you for your continued patience. We will keep families updated as soon as new information is available. Queries about EHC assessments and plans can be sent to ehcp@milton-keynes.gov.uk.