

Educational Psychologist involvement in Statutory Assessment (EHC)

How does my child get an Educational Psychology assessment as part of an EHC Needs Assessment?

If an EHC Needs Assessment has been agreed for a child/young person (CYP) at the Inclusion Forum, the Educational Psychology Service (EPS) will be informed of this. An Educational Psychologist (EP) then provides psychological advice to support this process.

What does EP assessment entail?

An Educational Psychologist will be allocated to provide psychological advice. This aims to provide further information as to the nature and extent of a CYP's needs.

They will use a wide range of sources and undertake several activities to inform their understanding. This may include some, or all, of the following:

- Reading available file information.
- Liaising with other involved professionals.
- Speaking to parents/carers.
- Speaking to school/setting staff.
- Observing the child/young person.
- Working directly with the child to gain their views
- Completing assessment activities with the child/young person and/or the adults that know them well.

What assessment measures will be used?

Educational Psychology assessment is not a single approach, package or tool. It can take different forms, and there are a range of assessment approaches that EPs draw on to identify a CYP's special educational needs and the likely support and interventions required.

EPs will use their expertise to select the most appropriate type of assessment in each individual situation. There is no single approach or tool that is used as standard. The approaches selected will be based upon consideration of a range of factors including:

- What is already known about the child's needs (and is reported elsewhere) and what other information is needed.
- What approaches are professionally and ethically appropriate (considering factors such as age, language, culture etc).
- Approaches that are as minimally intrusive and maximally effective as possible.

What is remote EP assessment?

On some occasions, the EP assessment might be conducted remotely. Remote assessment is guided by the same professional and ethical standards as face-to-face assessment and is therefore an equally robust means of understanding a CYP's needs.

Where an EP assessment will be conducted remotely, this will be explained to parents/carers beforehand, and consent will be sought.

What does EP psychological advice look like?

Educational Psychologists provide psychological advice in different formats. In Milton Keynes, EPs provide a written report called an Appendix D.

The Appendix D describes the child or young person's (CYP's) strengths and difficulties across the four areas of special educational need. It also sets out suggested long-term outcomes and evidence-based psychological strategies and interventions to help the CYP achieve these outcomes.

It is our practice to report information identified by our own assessment activities as opposed to duplicating information that has been identified in other sources/reported by other professionals.

How is the EP assessment used as part of the decision-making process?

As with any one-off assessment, it can only ever be a snapshot and should be viewed as part of wider information collected collaboratively overtime.

The SEND Service will consider the EP assessment alongside the other available information when deciding about whether to issue an EHC Plan. The decision will be based on the extent to which the CYP's range of needs can be adequately met within the graduated response (at the SEND Support Level). EPs are not directly involved in the decision as to whether an EHC Plan should be issued.