

This guide has been introduced following significant changes being made to the process around the assessment of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability. The new process is more centred around the child/young person and has a joint service approach to assessment and delivery for children and young people across education, health and social care. This guide outlines the two systems.



BACKGROUND

In March 2011, the Government published a Green Paper on reforming the way young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) have their needs assessed and delivered in Education, Health and Social Care.

Northamptonshire, in partnership with Leicester City, were chosen as a Pathfinder to test the proposed reforms. Pathfinders are now in the final phase of refinement of the new system as legislation is finalised by the Government in the Children and Families Bill currently going through Parliament.



WHY ARE CHANGES NEEDED?

The Government recognised that whilst there is much existing excellent practice, there are always ways to build and improve services. The Government wants to give each child and young person the best chance to succeed and reach their potential. Ensuring a co-ordinated approach across agencies and having a single plan from 0-25 are two main factors to support this.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR CHILD?

- The new multi-agency plan can cover all ages from birth to 25 and will be reviewed regularly.
- The coordinated assessment and plans are being rolled out across Northamptonshire between June 2013 and January 2014. They are being offered as an alternative option to the current process.
- It is envisaged that children and young people with an existing Statement of Special Educational Needs will move to an Education, Health and Care Plan from Sept 2014.
- Parents/carers will have greater choice and more control over services for their child and how they are provided.



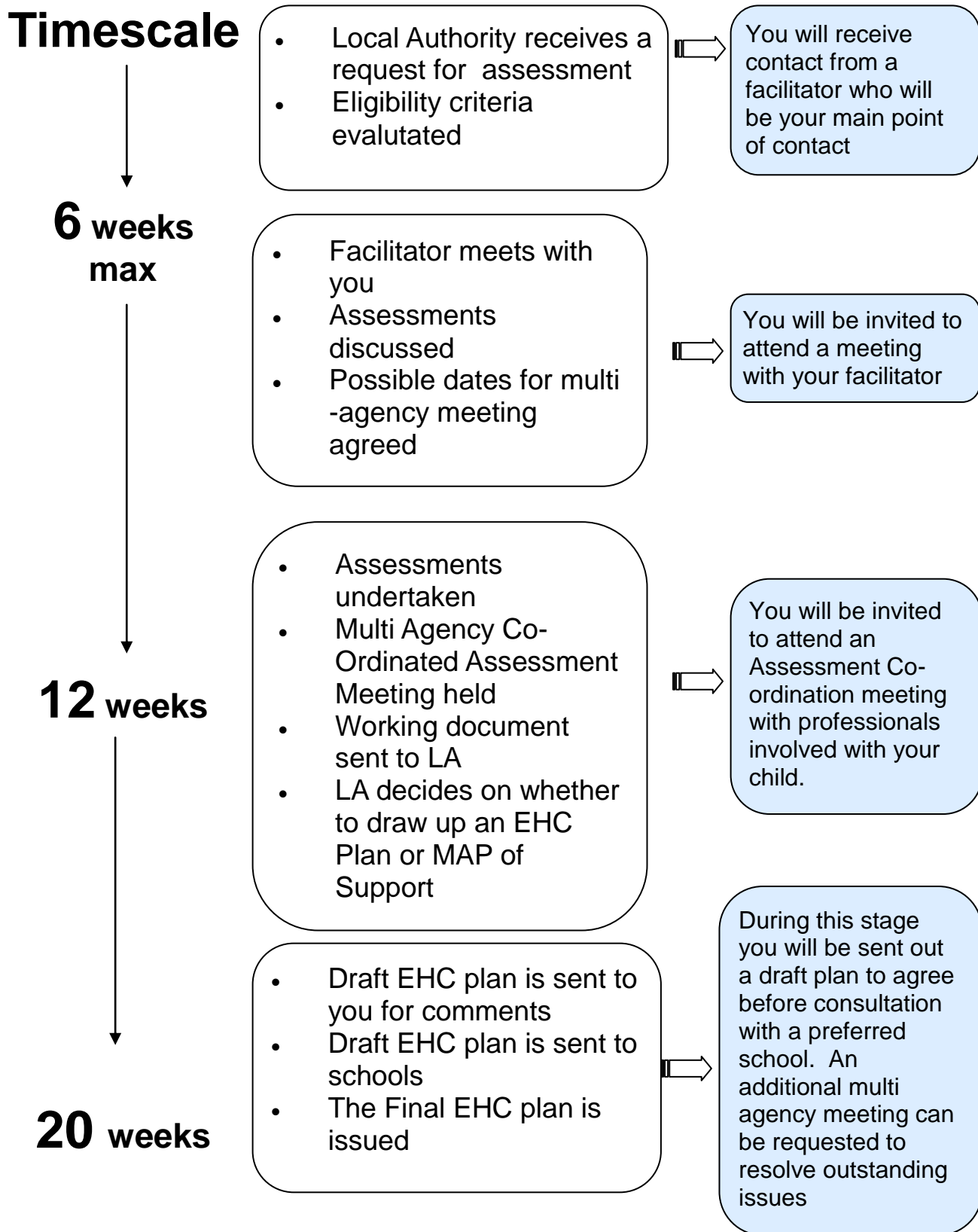
WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF CHOOSING AN EDUCATION HEALTH & CARE PLAN?

- You and your child will be at the centre of the process and your views on how, when and to what extent you would like to engage, are important and will be taken into account. Please refer to next page which highlights your involvement
- You will be allocated a named independent facilitator who will be your main contact and will guide you through the process.
- There will be a reduction in the time taken to finalise the process (from 26 to 20 weeks).
- Education, Health and Care Plans encompass all three services, if relevant, including an expectation on all services to deliver the Plan.
- Children can be assessed from birth to 24 years of age.

Education, Health & Care Plan

The Process (20 weeks)

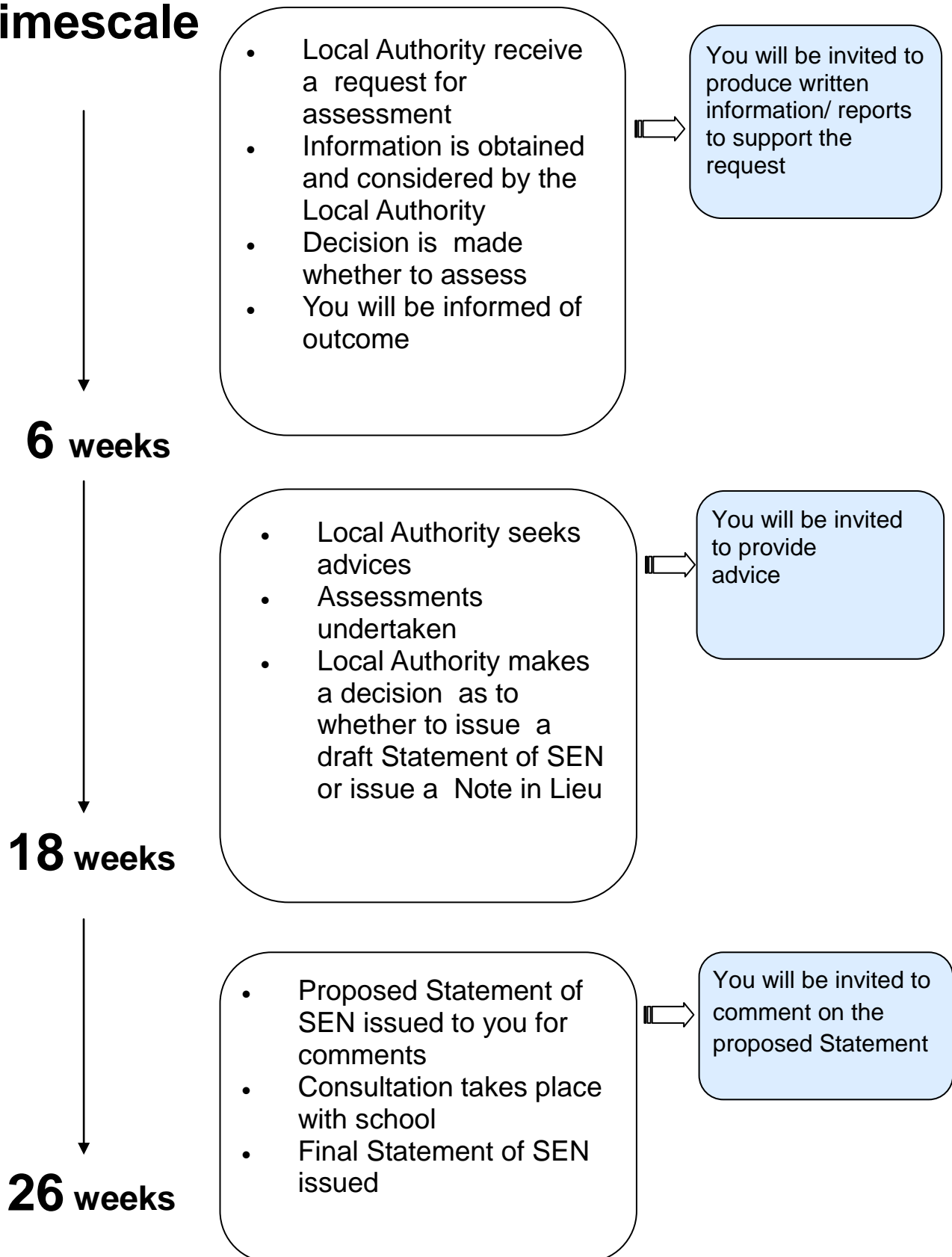
Timescale



Statement of Special Educational Needs

The Process (26 weeks)

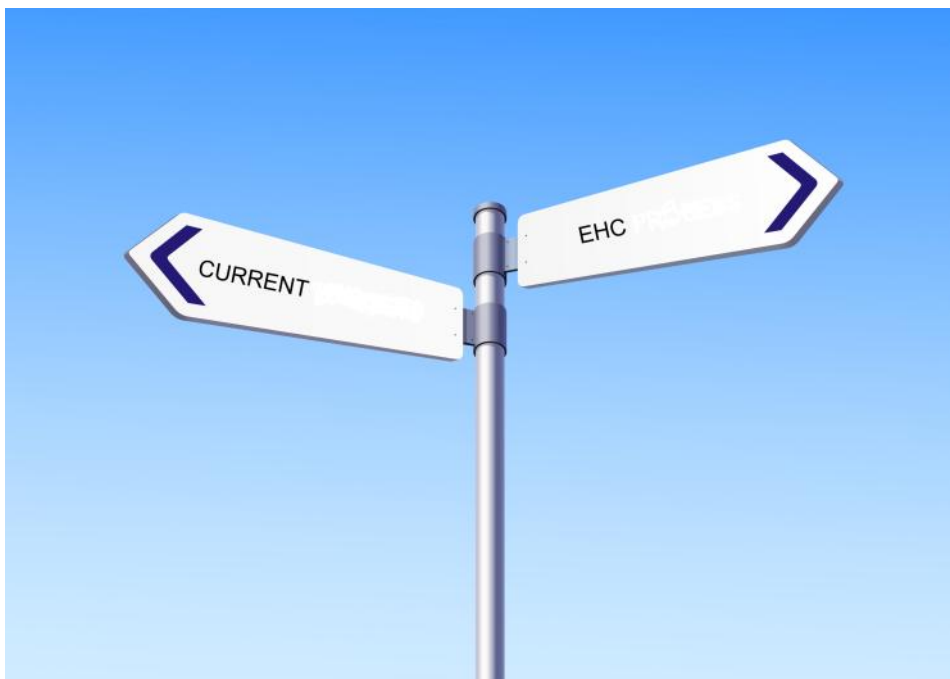
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What Do I Need to Do?

If you have this booklet, once the formal assessment process is complete and you have been issued with a draft Education, Health and Care Plan you can still choose a draft statement at this time.



You can contact the EHC Team or Parent Partnership for more detailed information.

Notice of Northamptonshire County Council undertaking in regard to the legal status of an EHC plan

EHC plans are currently not statutory but, as a Pathfinder authority, Northamptonshire County Council will treat an EHC plan in exactly the same way as a statement of SEN and the plan will have the same status as a statement of SEN.

This means that the Local Authority will carry out its duty to secure the special educational provision identified in the Plan in the same way as it does for a statement of SEN. The right to appeal to SEND Tribunal will be fully protected as will all other aspects of a statement such as the Annual Review process.

USEFUL CONTACTS

EHC Team:

John Dryden House
8-10 The Lakes
Northampton NN4 7YD
Tel: 01604 367125
Fax: 01604 367767
Email: EHCP@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Northamptonshire Parent Partnership Service (NPPS):

Springfield
Cliftonville
Northampton NN1 5BE
Tel: 01604 636111
Website: www.npps.info

Central SEN Team:

William Knibb Centre
Montagu Street
Kettering
Northants NN16 8AE
Tel: 0300 1261013
Fax: 01536 533931
Email: senkett@northamptonshire.gov.uk

