

Our Story

Parental contribution to an Education, Health and Care needs assessment (Appendix K1)

Introduction

This guidance is to help you give us the information we need to make a decision about whether to undertake an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment for your child.

If we decide to carry out an assessment:

- this information will also be sent to all professionals who will contribute to the assessment of your child's needs and will help them understand what you would like for your child
- if we write a plan we will include your views about what is most important to you about your child. You will be able to amend these if you wish during the assessment process.

The headings we are using will help us know what difference you would like an EHC needs assessment and plan to make for your child. It is really useful for us to know about your child's:

- learning achievement and educational progress
- friendships and relationships
- health and wellbeing
- your plans for your child's future.

It is also important for you to tell us what outcomes you want **for** your child and what outcomes are important **to** your child.

Your views are important

Your views will help us make the right decision for your child. We will ask others too, but you know your child best and so it is important to help us understand what you would like to be different for your child and what an EHC plan may need to say for your child.

How should I respond?

You may:

- use the guidelines in this leaflet which make suggestions about what to write
or
- write about your child in a letter or a report and send that to us
or
- discuss your views with someone from Hampshire SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service), a voluntary agency or someone else such as a relative or friend, and for that person to write down your comments on your behalf.

Talking to someone about your views

If you would like to discuss your views with someone who would be able to offer advice and help about making your contribution to the EHC needs assessment, please contact:

Hampshire SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service)

Tel: **0808 164 5504**

Email: **hampshiresendiass@coreassets.com**

Website: **www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk**

The following support with your contribution is offered by SENDIASS, and this is a helpful starting point if you are looking for assistance in getting your thoughts down onto paper. They can help in a variety of ways including:

- telephone support and advice on completing your contribution
- email support and reviewing/commenting on your contribution
- home visits from an Information, Advice and Support Officer or an independent parental supporter to discuss and help you prepare your contribution.

Suggestions for writing a contribution 'Our Story'

These guidelines are to help you make your contribution to your child's assessment. It would be useful if you use the headings we have suggested, as doing so will help us to identify what your child is able to do, tell us your areas of concern and what you would like to be different for your child, and how that will improve things.

Your written contribution may be as short or as long as you wish.

A response form, 'Our Story' is enclosed as a loose-leaf insert for your use, which you might find helpful. It provides a framework using the headings we have suggested. The form can be downloaded at:

<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/education/sen-our-story-form-k1.doc>

You may wish to ask someone to help you with your contribution.

Some tips for completing the parental contribution

- This is an important document. It is your assessment of your child and his/her needs.
- Think carefully about what you are going to say about your child.
- Use the guidelines supplied.
- When thoughts come to mind at any time, make a written note, if possible.
- Talk to your partner, friends, relatives - anyone who knows your child.
- It may help to write your views out in draft to begin with.
- You do not have to use the form supplied but, if you do not, it would be helpful to us if you kept to the headings.
- Have it typed/word processed, if possible.
- Be as detailed, but as concise as possible. Summarise key points.
- In your general views about your child, state:

- what you feel are your child's key needs
- how you feel those needs should be met.
- If in doubt, please contact SENDIASS. They are there to help you.

My child's early years - until starting school

You may choose to comment on:

- any issues during pregnancy and/or at birth
- your child as a baby
- who helped you
- any changes which affected your child

What is your child like now?

Learning, achievement and educational progress

You might like to comment on:

- how well he/she is progressing, what skills he/she has and any difficulties
- interest and progress in reading, writing and number skills
- speaking and listening skills
- interest in finding things out
- concentration
- willingness to take part in learning activities
- what is going well?
- what needs to change?
- how will that change make a difference for your child?

Friends and relationships

You might like to comment on:

- friendships with other children
- relationships with you and others in your family
- friendships and relationships outside the home, eg with adults at school
- cooperation with others
- behaviour
- talking and listening
- what is going well?
- what needs to change?
- how will that change make a difference for your child?

Health and wellbeing

You might like to comment on:

- your child's general health, eg how well your child eats and sleeps
- any serious illnesses or periods in hospital, any diagnoses that have been made
- your child's physical skills, eg walking running, writing scribbling drawing
- self help, eg toileting, dressing and undressing feeding him/herself
- awareness of danger
- how much independence in day to day activities your child shows?
- what is going well?
- what needs to change?
- how will the changes make a difference for your child?

Getting about

You might like to comment on:

- how your child gets around the local community
- travel arrangements you make for family outings/trips out into the community
- your child's experience of using public transport, are they able to travel independently?
- awareness of danger and road sense

Writing your child's EHC plan

When we are writing the plan we want to include your views as part of it. Please summarise what you have told us. This might be included in the plan. Please try to include the aspirations you have for your child and some outcomes that you would like to be meeting and by when.

You can download this leaflet at www.hants.gov.uk/sen or request a hard copy by contacting childrens.services@hants.gov.uk or 0300 555 1384.

For a copy of this leaflet in another language or format (eg large print or in an audio format) please contact **0300 555 1384, childrens.services@hants.gov.uk or Textphone 0300 555 1390.**

Calls to 0300 numbers are included in call packages, or charged at the same rate as 01 and 02 numbers. Costs may vary depending on your telecoms provider and whether you are calling from a landline or mobile. Further information about call charges can be found at www.ofcom.org.uk.