



## Statutory Assessments and Statements

If your child is at School Action Plus or (if your child is of pre-school age and is at Early Years Action Plus) all the advice from the other services has not resulted in your child making as much progress as was hoped, it may be that someone from the school may ask the LEA to make a formal assessment of your child. As a parent you also have the right to request an assessment, but you should discuss this with the school first.

### What is a statutory Assessment?

A Statutory Assessment is a careful study which aims to find out what your child's special educational needs are and what extra help he or she should have. The people who make contributions to the assessment are:

- ❖ You - you know your child better than anyone and will be invited to write a Parental Contribution
- ❖ Your child's teacher
- ❖ An Educational Psychologist
- ❖ A Paediatrician or doctor
- ❖ Any others who are already helping your child, e.g. speech and language therapist, a physiotherapist, health visitor, social worker.

All of these people write reports and look at your child's needs. When the reports are put together including your own written contribution, they will give a full picture of your child's strengths and weaknesses. The reports are then used to make an assessment of your child's special educational needs.

If the LEA decide to issue a **Statement of Special Educational Needs** you will be sent a Proposed Statement along with all of the reports

### What is a Statement?

A statement of special needs is a legal document which says:

What your child's needs are

And

The provision that must be made to meet those needs.

The statement places duties on the school, the LEA, Social Services and the Health Authority. Statements are only written when the LEA decides that your child has special educational needs which are not able to be met in mainstream school without additional resources being provided for your child.

### What if I do not agree with the Proposed Statement?

You can discuss your concerns with the Named Officer or ask for help from Parent Partnership.

### What Happens Next?

If you agree with the Proposed Statement you will be sent a signed and final copy to keep. The school will also be sent a copy.



**How long does Assessment and Statementing take?**

The LEA will try to stay within the time limits and complete the assessment within 26 weeks. If the assessment period is extended the LEA will write and tell you the reason and the length of the extension.

**What Happens if the LEA decide my child does not need a Statement?**

The LEA will write to you to say that after assessing your child they have decided that your child does not need a statement and that his/her needs can be met through the school. This is called a Note in Lieu. They will give you reasons why they feel that your child does not need a statement, you will also receive copies of all of the reports.

**What if I disagree with any of the LEA's decisions?**

You will be able to discuss your concerns with the Named Officer, but if an agreement cannot be reached you can ask the LEA to arrange to sort out the disagreement through the disagreement resolution service. The disagreement resolution service is totally independent and provides an informal way of preventing and sorting out disagreements between parents of children with special educational needs and the LEA. This is an additional service that parents can use if they want to. The service is designed to be a way of resolving problems quickly and informally. They will be able to listen to your views and the LEA's views and help to reach an agreement. You can choose whether to use this service and it does not affect your right of appeal to the SEN Tribunal. To use this service please contact the Parent Partnership Officer.