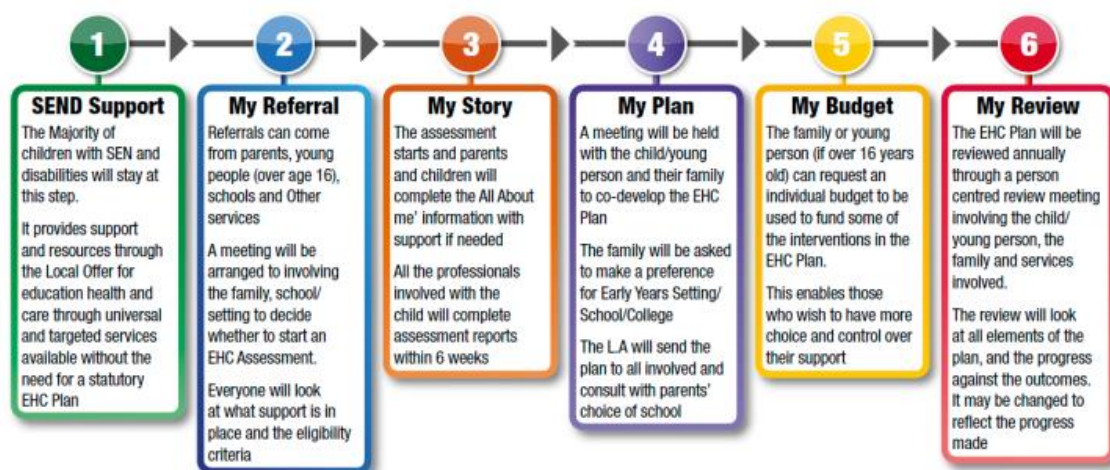


# Does my child need an Education, Health and Care Plan Referral?



## Definition of Special Educational Needs (SEND)

A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or 10
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions

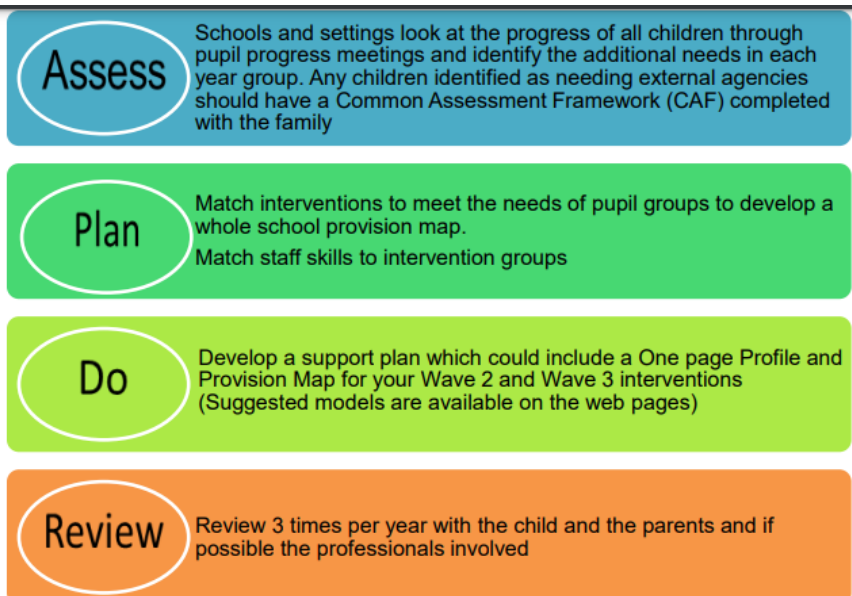
*Significantly greater difficulty* means that the child/young person is significantly below in their learning compared to age related expected national curriculum levels despite being provided with additional interventions for a period of up to 2 years. An example would be that the child is in year 5 but working at National Curriculum Year 1.



### SEN Support in Early Years/School Settings

All Early Years/School settings must identify children who have SEN. They should take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place using the graduated approach. They must work in co-production with parents and follow a 4 stage approach as shown below:

1. **Assess** – Settings should assess the needs of the child to establish what the barriers are to their learning and development. This could include the involvement of external agencies e.g. the Educational Psychologist or Speech and Language Therapist. Settings will complete a Common Assessment Framework (CAF).
2. **Plan** – Settings should plan with relevant external professionals, child and family the support that is required to meet their special educational needs or disability. This should take the form of a plan including the outcomes, interventions and provision.
3. **Do** – Settings should put in place the agreed support/interventions required
4. **Review** – Settings should review the support/interventions three times per year and this should involve both the child/young person and the parent/carers.



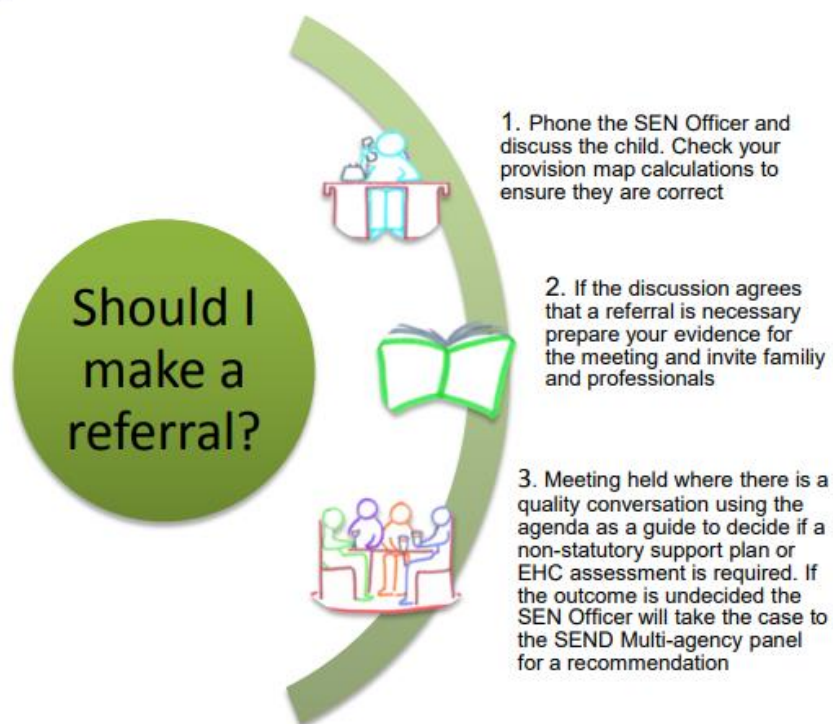
## My Referral

Most children identified as having special educational needs or disabilities will have their needs met within the SEND support available in all settings.

Schools/Settings can make a referral for an Education, Health and Care Assessment if they have identified a pupil as *having significant and complex needs* that cannot be supported through the support already available.

Schools/settings should contact their allocated SEND Officer for advice when considering making a referral so that a discussion can take place around how realistic the request is and to go through the evidence required and the eligibility criteria. In considering whether an EHC needs assessment is necessary, the local authority should consider whether there is evidence that despite the school/setting having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the special educational needs of the pupil, they have not made expected progress.

### Referral Meeting Model



## Eligibility Criteria

The pupil:

1. Has severe and/or complex long-term needs that affect their everyday life.
2. Requires provision and resources that are not normally available in early years/school/college setting.
3. Requires intensive help and support from more than one agency (e.g. Health/Education/Care or Health/Education, Education/Care)
4. Despite high levels of support is making limited or no progress
5. Evidence of a graduated response; i.e. appropriate interventions, support and resources available through the Local Offer have already been put in place and the expected progress has not been made.

\*All of the above need to be considered.

## Making a decision

If it is clear at the referral meeting that the pupil's needs are *severe and complex*, the support required will be regarded as high needs with the pupil clearly meeting the eligibility criteria, the L.A Officer will complete an eligibility form and they can give formal agreement to commence a statutory education, health and care assessment.

The assessment will be started following the meeting without delay.