Education Health and Care Needs Assessment

What is it?
The EHC needs assessment is a statutory assessment under the 2014 Children and Families Act. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25) sets out how children and young people (0 – 25) should have their special educational needs identified through a plan, do, review approach in schools and other educational settings and the processes involved in an education health and care needs assessment.

Why would we use it?
When a school with the involvement of the child, young person and family consider that the school is not able to meet the needs of the child with the resources usually available. An education, health and care (EHC) plan is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support, including those with social, emotional and mental health needs. EHC plans identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs.

How does it work? (Requesting an EHC assessment)
You can ask the local authority to carry out an assessment if you think a child needs an EHC plan. A request can be made by parents, young people 16 and over, anyone at the child's school and other professionals.

A local authority has 6 weeks to decide whether or not to carry out an EHC assessment. If they decide to carry out an assessment you will be asked for reports and to participate in the co-production of the plan with the family and everyone involved.

When the EHC plan is created it is sent to parents in draft form and they can request the provision they want to meet their child's needs. The school is consulted and has 15 days to respond to a consultation. The local authority has 20 weeks to complete the process.

How can I find out more?
Kent SEND Strategy, Policy and Procedure