

Statutory Assessment



BFG Parent
Partnership
Service

The special educational needs of the majority of children should be met effectively within mainstream school settings through Early Years Action/School Action and Early Years Action Plus/School Action Plus. For a minority of children with the most complex needs it may be necessary for a Statutory Assessment to be carried out and consideration given to issuing a Statement of Special Educational Needs.

What is a Statutory Assessment?

A Statutory Assessment is a very detailed assessment of your child's special educational needs carried out for those children/young people with the most severe and complex difficulties. It involves collecting information and advice from parents and a range of professionals to determine your child's level of disability/difficulty, how that impacts on their learning within an educational setting, and what provision should be in place to meet their needs. When all the advice has been collected SCE will consider whether a Statement of Special Educational Needs should be issued.

When will I know if my child needs a Statutory Assessment?

Your child is likely to be at Early Years Action Plus/School Action Plus and will have targets that are regularly monitored and reviewed. If it is felt that your child's needs are no longer being met or he/she is no longer making satisfactory progress with what is already in place, then it will be discussed at a review meeting whether he/she may benefit from a Statutory Assessment.

Who can request a Statutory Assessment?

It is usual for a request for a Statutory Assessment to be made by the Educational Psychologist when parents and other services involved with your child are agreed this is needed. However, other services and parents also have a right to request a Statutory Assessment.

Who is responsible for carrying out a Statutory Assessment?

In overseas commands, SCE acts as the local authority and is responsible for carrying out a Statutory Assessment. A request for a Statutory Assessment should be made in writing to AEO(SEN), HQ SCE Wegberg, Building 5, Wegberg Military Complex, BFPO 40 .

Who will be asked for information about my child?

When carrying out a Statutory Assessment SCE have a duty to request written information from parents; the school or educational setting; the Educational Psychologist; health services; and social services. This is not a request to become involved with a child, only to provide any information they have about the child's needs. In addition SCE will request advice from any other agencies/ professionals involved with your child e.g. a specialist teacher from a support service such as Inclusion Support Development Team (ISDT).

How long does a Statutory Assessment take?

SCE have to follow the timescales set out in the SEN Code of Practice and should complete the assessment within 18 weeks from the date they receive the request until the issuing of a Proposed Statement of Special Educational Needs, a Note in Lieu or a Summary of Need. If a Proposed Statement is issued then SCE have a further 8 weeks to issue the Final Statement (see chart on next page).

Will I know if a Statutory Assessment is started for my child?

Yes, once SCE receive a request for a Statutory Assessment, whether that is from the Educational Psychologist, a parent or another service, they will write to you to let you know they have received the request and are considering carrying out an assessment. They will also inform you when they have decided to start an assessment and ask you to contribute your written advice.

What happens when the Statutory Assessment is completed?

SCE will write to you to let you know the outcome of the Statutory Assessment which will be in the form of either:

A Statement of Special Educational Needs; this is a document issued when a child has severe and long term special educational needs that cannot be met by the resources already available. It sets out the child's needs, the provision required to meet those needs, and where (educational setting) they should be met.

A Note-in-Lieu; this is a document issued when the assessment identifies that the child's needs are not so severe that they require a Statement of Special Educational Needs issuing, but can be met by the resources already available to school.

A Summary of Need; this may be issued when a child has significant needs that require more specific resources, usually in terms of a particular type of placement, that is not available in BFG.

Timescales for Statutory Assessment

