



# Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum

Registered Charity No: 1141060

LPCF have recently been having some parental traffic about EHCAs being “refused assessment”. To clarify the situation we have contacted the LCC SEND Team for a response: -

Following a request for an EHC Needs Assessment, the local authority gathers information from those involved with the child or young person. At the 6-week decision point the multi-disciplinary panel may decide not to proceed with a statutory assessment; this is commonly referred to as ‘refusal to assess’. The decision is based on the information gathered. Typically, the reason that a case won’t progress to a full statutory assessment is because there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that ordinarily or universally available support and resources have been accessed to help meet the special educational needs of the young person. This support is often referred to as the graduated approach and there is a wealth of resource that can be accessed without the need for a statutory EHC Plan. Settings are expected to use the support available to them and in many cases, this will meet the needs of the young person.

The feedback following the decision not to assess includes information about resources and support that can be accessed and there is also a SENDCo Advice Line to help settings identify support that they can draw on for young people with SEN or a disability.

The local authority and multi-disciplinary panel will never refuse to assess a child until they have considered the information gathered through the initial six-week process. This is when it is helpful for settings and families to provide as much information as possible about the child’s needs, the support they already have in place, what difference the support is making (or not) and details of any professionals that are currently involved with the young person that can be contacted to add to the information which will inform the decision.