

## What is a Statutory Assessment?

A Statutory Assessment is a detailed investigation conducted by the local authority to find out what your child's special educational needs are and what extra help your child may need. You or your child's school or nursery can ask Northamptonshire County Council (the local authority) to carry out a statutory assessment of your child's special educational needs. The local authority has six weeks to decide whether to do so. Careful consideration will be given to your child's progress at school and to your views and the views of the school or nursery about your child's special educational needs. If the decision is not to carry out a statutory assessment, the local authority will write to you and your child's school explaining the reasons for the decision.

### What happens next?

If the local authority decides your child needs a statutory assessment, they have 10 weeks to carry out the assessment and to decide whether or not to issue a statement.

They will consult:

- You (and your child as appropriate).
- Your child's school or nursery.
- The school doctor and any other medical professionals who are involved.
- Social Services (who will only write a report if they already know your child).
- An Educational Psychologist.
- Anyone else whose advice they think could inform them about your child's special educational needs and the extra support that your child may require.

You will receive a copy of all the reports and can ask the local authority to consider any additional information that you think is relevant.

### Is it important for me to give my views?

It is very important for you to give your views about your child. The local authority will send you some guidance about this when they write to you. If you would like some help in writing your views, you can contact the parent partnership service, Special Needs-Informed Parents (SN-IP) on 01604 636111 or 01933 271673 or email: [contact@snipnorthants.org](mailto:contact@snipnorthants.org)

### What happens after the assessment is completed?

The local authority has two weeks in which to inform you whether a statement will be issued. If the decision is to write a statement, they will send you a copy of the proposed statement.

The proposed statement will not refer to a particular school or type of school. You will have 15 days to tell the local authority what you think of the proposed statement and to express a preference for the school you would like your child to attend. The letter you receive will explain what to do if you need more time and the extended time limits that you are allowed.

If you want to discuss the proposed statement or any of the reports that have been written, you can ask for a meeting with a local authority officer.

The local authority should issue a final statement within 8 weeks of making a proposed statement. If the decision is not to issue a statement, the local authority will write to you and the school or nursery to explain their reasons and to tell you what sort of help they think your child needs.

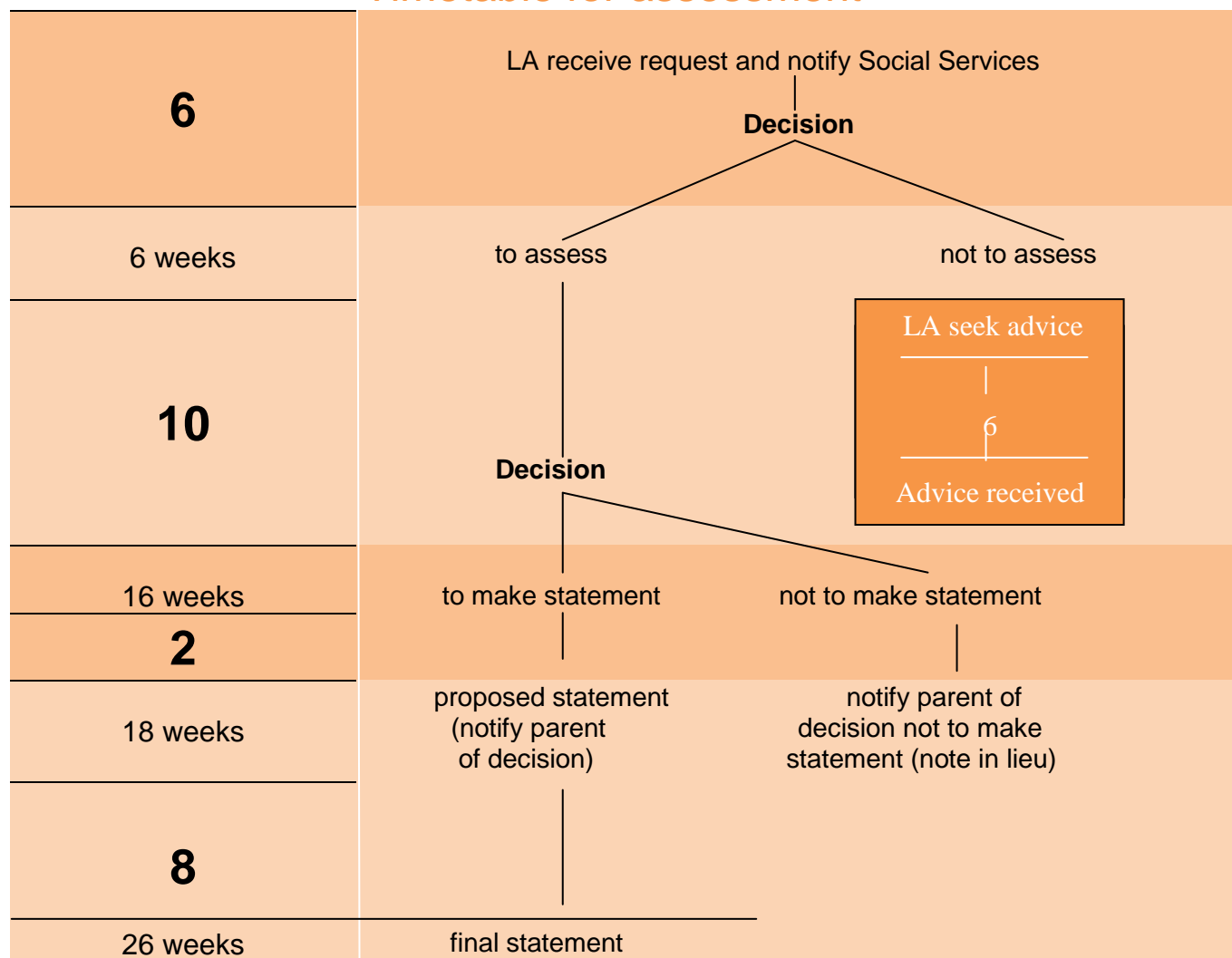
## What happens if I disagree with the local authority's decision or I am not happy with the statement?

The local authority will give you information about:

- Disagreement Resolution.
- How to appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

You can also ask for help and information from the parent partnership service, (SN-IP).

### Timetable for assessment



If you would like help please contact:

 **SN-IP** [www.snipnorthants.org](http://www.snipnorthants.org)

**Special Needs - Informed Parents**

Springfield, Cliftonville,  
Northampton, NN1 5BE  
Tel: 01604 636111

or

Fairlawn Centre, Spring Gardens  
Wellingborough, NN8 2AA  
Tel: 01933 271673

Fax: 01604 630283

e-mail: [contact@snipnorthants.org](mailto:contact@snipnorthants.org)

This information can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.