**I have been told we need a diagnosis to get an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)**

No formal diagnosis is needed to get an EHCP.

Before a child or young person is given an EHCP, an assessment of their needs must be completed. An assessment of **need** is carried out if the information given to the Local Authority suggests that the child or young person may have a special educational need and may need the support of an EHCP. If the assessment demonstrates that the child or young person has significant, complex, and long-term special educational needs that require additional provision, then it is likely that the Local Authority will issue an EHCP for the child or young person.

It is also important to note that if your child is given a diagnosis they will not as a matter of course need an EHCP in place. As detailed above an EHCP is only felt to be necessary if a child or young person has significant, complex, and long-term special educational needs that require additional provision.

The majority of children should be able to have their needs met through reasonable adjustments and ordinarily available inclusive provision. [Ordinarily-available-Provision-document.pdf (portsmouthlocaloffer.org)](https://portsmouthlocaloffer.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Ordinarily-available-Provision-document.pdf)

**I have been told we need a diagnosis to get certain benefits**

You do not need a formal diagnosis to claim for DLA.

One of the main sources of financial support available is the [Disability Living Allowance](https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children) (DLA) which is provided by the government to help with the additional costs faced by disabled children under the age of 16. You do not need a formal diagnosis to claim for DLA. A child or young person may qualify for DLA if they have a physical disability and/or Special Educational Needs and require more help or supervision than other children of the same age.

**Only schools can complete the Profiling Tool**

A range of practioners across different services have been trained to use the profiling tool. It doesn’t just have to be an education setting that can complete the tool with you. A rolling programme of training will be completed over the next year to ensure that a wide range of practioners and agencies are trained to use the tool.

We do advocate that it is important that all agencies involved are part of the profiling exercise to ensure that there is a clear picture of needs and to get the most value for the tool.

**Can I only access the ND team for support if I have a diagnosis or a profiling tool in place?**

The team are available and open to anyone that may have a concern or need advice/guidance regarding a young person who presents with ND needs. You do not need to have a diagnosis to access the service and you do not need to have a completed profiling tool in place.

**Will the new Neurodiversity Profiling Tool mean we can't get a formal diagnosis?**

From 1 July 2022, the ND Profiling Tool will replace the current referral process to request a ND clinical assessment. If someone would like to request an ND clinical assessment after completing a profile, they can discuss this with the neurodiversity team. Where a child or young person will benefit from a formal diagnosis (for example, where support is not having a sufficiently positive impact) we will move them forward in the formal diagnostic pathway.

If a child or young person is currently on the waiting list for an ND assessment, they will remain on the list.

**My child is on the waiting list for an assessment does an ND profile need to be completed whilst we wait for assessment?**

An ND profile does not **need** to be completed if a child is on the waiting list for assessment for their assessment to progress

We would encourage those on the waiting list to complete a ND profile while they wait if there are concerns about unmet needs - this will not affect their position on the waiting list but will help to identify strategies that can support the child or young person and their family while waiting.

**My child is showing signs of ND at home but not at school. How can I get support to complete an ND Profile with my child?**

The first step would be to speak to your school and explain your child's behaviour at home. The school may have seen signs of this in school or your child may be masking.

We would suggest that it would be good to discuss your concerns with the school and agree a way forward.

It may be that signposting to other agencies are needed or that further support/strategies are needed. The neurodiversity team are available to provide advice and guidance to families and our neurodiversity platform also provides a range of information.

It may be that after further discussion with school that the profiling tool doesn’t need to be completed at this stage but could be considered again at some point in the future.

**If we complete the profiling tool with my child or young person does that mean they get referred for an assessment with the ND team?**

The ND profiling tool is used to understand the needs of your child or young person and to be able to put strategies in place to help support them at home and in school. This should help families, schools and other services to support young people more effectively, without requiring specialist support. If, after a review, it is felt the strategies have not worked as well as anticipated, you or the professional working with your child can contact the ND Service for advice about moving forward with a formal ND assessment. Any decision made about going forward with a formal assessment will be made as part of a joint discussion with you, the school and the young person.

**I am going to college in the next few months, will the college support me to use the strategies identified by the profiling tool?**

A lot of local colleges are being trained in the profiling tool and therefore will be able to support you to utilise the strategies currently being used. They will also be able to review the profiling tool with you and your family and make changes where necessary. If your college does not know about the tool or needs extra support, they can contact the ND Service for more information.

**Contact Details**

**Email address -** [**Neurodiversity0-19Enquiries@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**](mailto:Neurodiversity0-19Enquiries@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

**Telephone Number - 02392 606051**

**Neurodiversity Platform -** [**Family Assist Home (custhelp.com)**](https://solent-family-assist.custhelp.com/) (click on the neurodiversity tab)