

## **STATUTORY ASSESSMENT - THE ROLE OF THE LEA**

The LEA must look into your child's case to decide whether a statutory assessment is necessary when you or your child's school write to ask for this. They have 6 weeks from receiving your letter to decide. The LEA does not have to consider your request if your child has had a statutory assessment within the last 6 months.

If the school or some other body asked the LEA for the statutory assessment, the LEA will write to you saying they are considering this.

### **The LEA will:**

- Tell you about the procedures for statutory assessment and statements
- Explain the timing of each stage of the assessment
- Give you the name of an LEA officer who can give further information
- Tell you of your right to explain why you want, or do not want, your child to be assessed (giving you at least 29 days in which to do this)
- Ask you whether you want them to ask anyone else about your child
- Tell you that you can send in any other reports about your child and these will be taken into account
- Give you information about the local parent partnership service

### **Before deciding whether to assess, the LEA will look at whether your child:**

- Has not made progress even though the school, with the support of experts, has already given your child suitable help and/or
- Needs the sort of help which can only come through a statement because the school cannot be expected to provide it from their own funds.

### **The LEA will:**

- Look at evidence from the school about help they have given and your child's progress. Sometimes progress is made only because a child has had much greater help than usually provided through School Action Plus
- Check that the school has adapted the curriculum to suit your child's learning needs
- Ask the school, other professionals and yourself about your child's learning difficulties.

### **You can:**

- Write your own report
- Ask the LEA to approach other professionals about your child.