

What happens at a DaD group and who attends?

The groups are weekly or fortnightly. Each group is chaired by a SEND Service or Team Manager. After listening to the discussion and carefully considering each request and a range of evidence, it is the Chair that makes the decision on behalf of the local authority.

There is representation from a range of officers and professionals from education services, schools and settings, health services and/or social care. There is also a local authority case worker who organises the meetings and attendance and makes a careful record of the reasons for the decision so that this can be communicated back to the parent/carer or young person, following the meeting.

How are the DaD groups moderated?

Parent representatives from the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) attend DaD groups each term, to moderate our SEND decision making processes. They feed back to the decision makers using an agreed criteria. There is a particular focus on how the group takes account of the views, wishes and feelings of the child and their family in their decision making.



If you would like further information about SEND Local Offer in Wiltshire, please visit the SEND local offer webpages at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-offer

Information about Wiltshire Council services can be made available on request in other languages including BSL and formats such as large print and audio.

Please contact the council by:

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SEND Discussion and Decision Groups (DaDs)

EHCP Decision Making
in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council

Introduction

Most children and young people with SEN or disabilities (SEND) will have their needs met within local mainstream early year settings, schools or colleges. Some children and young people may require an Education, Health and Care needs assessment, for the local authority to decide whether it needs to provide an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

What type of decisions need to be made?

When a request for an EHC needs assessment is made, the local authority has a legal duty to consider it and decide if it is necessary.

If that assessment is agreed, the local authority then need to decide if the child or young person requires an EHCP to make special educational provision to meet needs, to secure the best outcomes for them across education, health and social care, and to prepare them for adulthood.

These decisions need to be made in a fair and equitable way and in line with the SEND Code of Practice, which lays out how local authorities must make these decisions.

What are Discussion and Decision groups (DaDs)?

We have worked in co-production with parent carers to review and change the format of SEN Panels. Parent carers told us that we were not being clear enough about what the panels were for or who was part of the decision making. So, we have introduced a series of DaD groups to replace the single SEN Panel and are sharing information about how the groups work.

These groups have been formed to ensure that

- There is the opportunity to discuss needs and provision with the most appropriate professionals for the type of request
- The decisions made are fair, equitable and in line with the law
- There is regard to the views, wishes and feelings of the child and parent carer or young person
- There is a moderation process in place so that our processes are clear for all service users and that we report back on improvements.

How many DaD groups are there and what do they do?

DaD1

This group makes the decision on whether or not to commence an EHC Needs Assessment

DaD2

This group decides on whether to issue an EHCP after an assessment, and specialist provision and funding decisions

DaD3

This group makes decisions on placements and funding for children and young people with highly complex needs

Above is a diagram to show the three main DaD groups that we have in place to make these decisions.

