

Dear [INSERT NAME],

I am writing to ask for your assistance with research I am doing into the challenges faced by local schools when delivering support for children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

As you may be aware, there have been reports that local authorities are increasingly refusing requests for EHCP assessments. In cases where an assessment is given, there has been an increase in families having to wait longer than 20 weeks for a decision to be made<sup>[1]</sup>; and even when families are given a plan, they may not get all of the services they need.

This is clearly a very worrying situation, which may leave vulnerable young people without proper support and cause them and their families significant distress.

I am keen to understand the reasons behind this in order that, as your local councillor, I can fight to ensure we are delivering services which meet the needs of every young person in [area].

This is also part of a wider survey the Liberal Democrats are doing, looking at how EHCPs are being delivered across the country, so that we can encourage the Government to resolve challenges facing schools, local authorities and the health service.

I would be extremely grateful if you could please complete this short survey by 31st August 2018: <https://digitallibdems.typeform.com/to/Kj2fFk>

Please be assured that your response to the survey will be treated as confidential and no individual respondents will be named when publicising the findings of this research.

Many thanks in advance.

Yours sincerely,

[NAME]