What if my disagreement is not about a finalised EHC Plan or a decision about an Assessment?
Under the Education Act and the new Special Educational Needs and Disability Act Code of Practice-0-25 years, local authorities must make a Disagreement Resolution services available to parents and young people.

How is Mediation different to the Disagreement Resolution service?
Mediation is different because it is used at the end of the assessment and planning process; and it is one of the possible steps of the appeal process. Disagreement Resolution can be used at any time; and is an early opportunity to raise concerns about support whether or not there is an EHC Plan in place, such as:-

- How education, health and care duties are being carried out by a school or local authority, whether there is an EHC Plan or not.
- What special educational support has been provided for a young person, whether they have an EHC Plan or not.
- How the EHC Assessment ‘process’ or the ‘drafting’ of an EHC Plan is been conducted, before any decisions have been made.

What should I do next?
If you disagree with an EHC decision, or you are concerned about the support provided for a young person with SEN, whether they have an EHC Plan or not, then you can talk in confidence to Collis Mediation. We will talk through your concerns impartially; and let you know what your options are; and discuss the best way to get things sorted out quickly and in the best interest of the young person.

The vision for children with special educational needs and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people – “That they achieve well in their early years, at school and in college; and lead happy, independent and fulfilled lives”.

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Appealing decisions made about Education Health Care (EHC) Assessments and Plans

You can appeal against a decision your local authority makes if:-

- You have been refused an EHC assessment
- You have been refused an EHC Plan after an EHC assessment
- You disagree with the school, college or learning centre named in the EHC Plan
- You disagree with how the young person’s needs are described in the EHC Plan
- The support described is not specific in the EHC Plan
- Any of the details in the EHC Plan are changed without your agreement
- Any of the support described in the EHC Plan is stopped without your agreement

Who are Collis Mediation?
Collis Mediation are an independent, impartial specialist, working with parents and young people with SEN who have concerns about the support and help they are being offered. We work with parents, carers, young people and the local authorities to help you all work out your differences through Mediation or a Disagreement Resolution service.

What is Mediation?

- The local authority always wants to make sure the best support and help is being provided for young people with SEN, but they may not always get it right.
- The local authority wants to listen and hear your views if you are concerned their decision is wrong.
- Mediation is a relaxed, safe and comfortable meeting that gives you the opportunity to talk about EHC decisions if you do not agree with them.
- Collis Mediation runs the meeting; and makes sure everyone has the same opportunity to listen and be heard.

What happens at the Mediation?

- The Mediation is a relaxed meeting where concerns and options are discussed around a table.
- The meeting is totally confidential and usually takes about 1 ½ hours.
- You can bring someone with you, such as a friend or family, a teacher, SENCo, Educational Psychologist or anyone you feel can help support and be with you.
- You can bring information, reports and letters from people who have opinions about the support the young person may need.
- The meeting allows everyone to discuss providing the best education, right support and same opportunities for young people with SEN; as everyone else.

Why should I consider Mediation first and what are the facts?

- Mediation is a fast and effective route to resolving differences when initial discussions with the Local Authority / SENCo have failed to resolve the matter.
- The law says you must consider Mediation before you lodge an appeal at SEND Tribunal
- Mediation is a free service for the young person, parent, carer and family to use.
- Speaking face to face allows the local authority to get behind the file of paperwork and really understand the young person with SEN; and their needs.
- You can bring someone to help you at the Mediation, such as a teacher, SENCo or anyone you feel can support you.
- You take part in the decision making.
- Final decisions and actions are agreed on the day of the Mediation.
- Mediation meetings take about 3 weeks to arrange but SEND Tribunals take about 20 weeks.
- You can still appeal to SEND Tribunal if you do not reach agreement at Mediation.