

## Example Consultation Scenario

A primary school are concerned about Sam in year 4. His progress with writing is very slow and he's getting further behind his peers in most areas. School decide to contact their link EP for help. The EP suggests that the first step should be a consultation with Sam's parents, his teacher and the school SENCo.



In the consultation, concerns about Sam are discussed as well as his strengths, strategies that have been used, how well they have worked and potential future strategies. Sam's parents have the chance to talk about what Sam enjoys doing and their views on his progress. The discussion also includes the teacher's suggestions on how to help Sam achieve his targets and a date is set for a review meeting next term.

## Consultation FAQs



*An EP is due to have a consultation with my child's school. Do I have to attend?*

You will always have to provide written consent for your child to be discussed during a consultation although you do not have to physically attend if you do not want to. However, it is really helpful if you can as it helps build a clearer picture of what is going on for your child. It also means you are able to have your say as you know your child best after all. You may be able to bring someone with you if it makes you feel more comfortable.

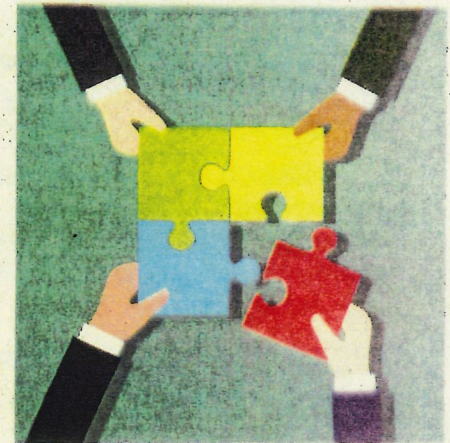
*Will a consultation lead to any further assessments?*

In some cases it may be agreed for individualised assessment or work to be conducted. This will be dependent on the cause of concern and the information already available. Parents will be informed if any work is to be carried out by an EP. Parents are not usually asked to attend as it can sometimes change a child or young persons behaviour.



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

## Consultation



## Information for Parents/Carers



North Northamptonshire  
Educational Psychology Service



## What is Consultation?

Consultation involves working together to try to achieve the most positive outcome possible with a problem or issue that a child is experiencing. During a consultation, concerns are identified by school and parent/carers and action plans with agreed, achievable steps and goals are developed.

Educational Psychologists (EPs) also contribute to a consultation by using their experience and knowledge of child development, problem-solving, the psychology of learning and organisational processes.

A consultation is a collaborative process, meaning that the opinions and ideas of all members present are considered and discussed in order to find a positive and

### The key things to remember about consultation are:

No individual in the meeting has greater power than the other

Everyone has an active role to play

It is confidential

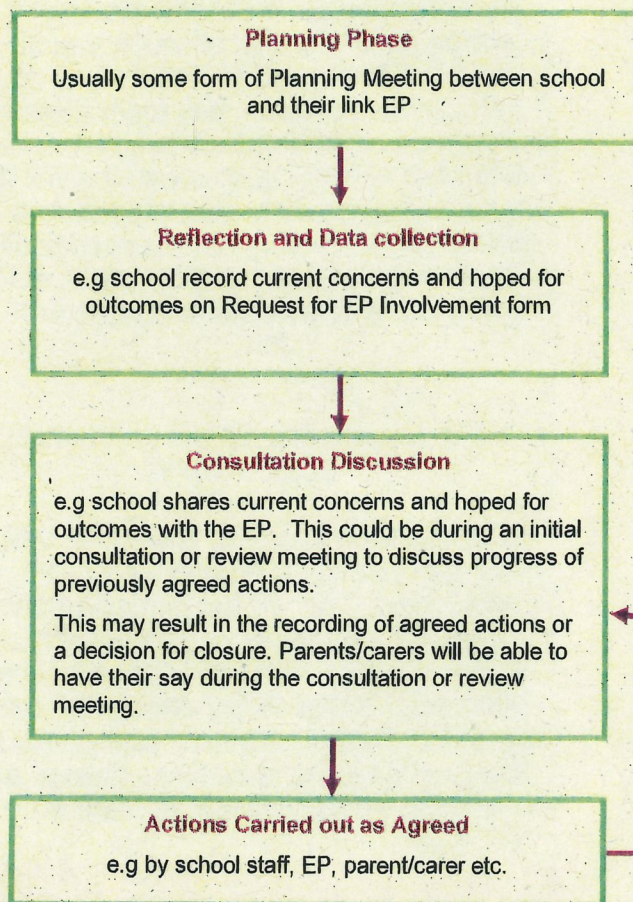
Consultees (school/parent/carers) have the right to accept or reject suggestions by the consultant (EP)

Participation is voluntary

(Gutkin and Curtis, 1982)

## What happens during a Consultation?

- ◇ All invited members attend. It will typically last for an hour.
- ◇ A discussion based on the referral from school and solution focused questions
- ◇ Notes and actions will be recorded to form an action plan. This can be reviewed in a follow up meeting



## What are the benefits of Consultation?

- ◇ Parents/carers can have their say and feel listened to
- ◇ Consultation can help build a positive working relationship between home and school
- ◇ Parents usually respond positively and their participation is promoted
- ◇ All participants' views are valued including the child/young person's.

## How can I prepare for a Consultation?

- ◇ Taking time to understand the consultation process. You can talk to your school's SENCo if you need support with this.
- ◇ Think about what you want to get out of the consultation. What would you like to happen following the consultation?
- ◇ Your knowledge and experience of your child/young person is essential to a consultation. The EP may have sent some forms out to gather more information. It is helpful for take time to complete these; it will help the flow of the meeting and prepares parents. The consultation is a chance for you to talk more about the points you have made on these forms.