

Section 139a (formerly S140)

[ASSESSMENTS GUIDE
FOR *Schools, Colleges,
Training Providers and
Partner Agencies*]



What is a S139a (formerly S140) Assessment?

A S139a Assessment is an assessment required under the Learning and Skills Act 2000.

Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive report of the support needed by a young person with learning difficulties and disabilities, to ensure they are able to succeed in post-16 education or training, or higher education.

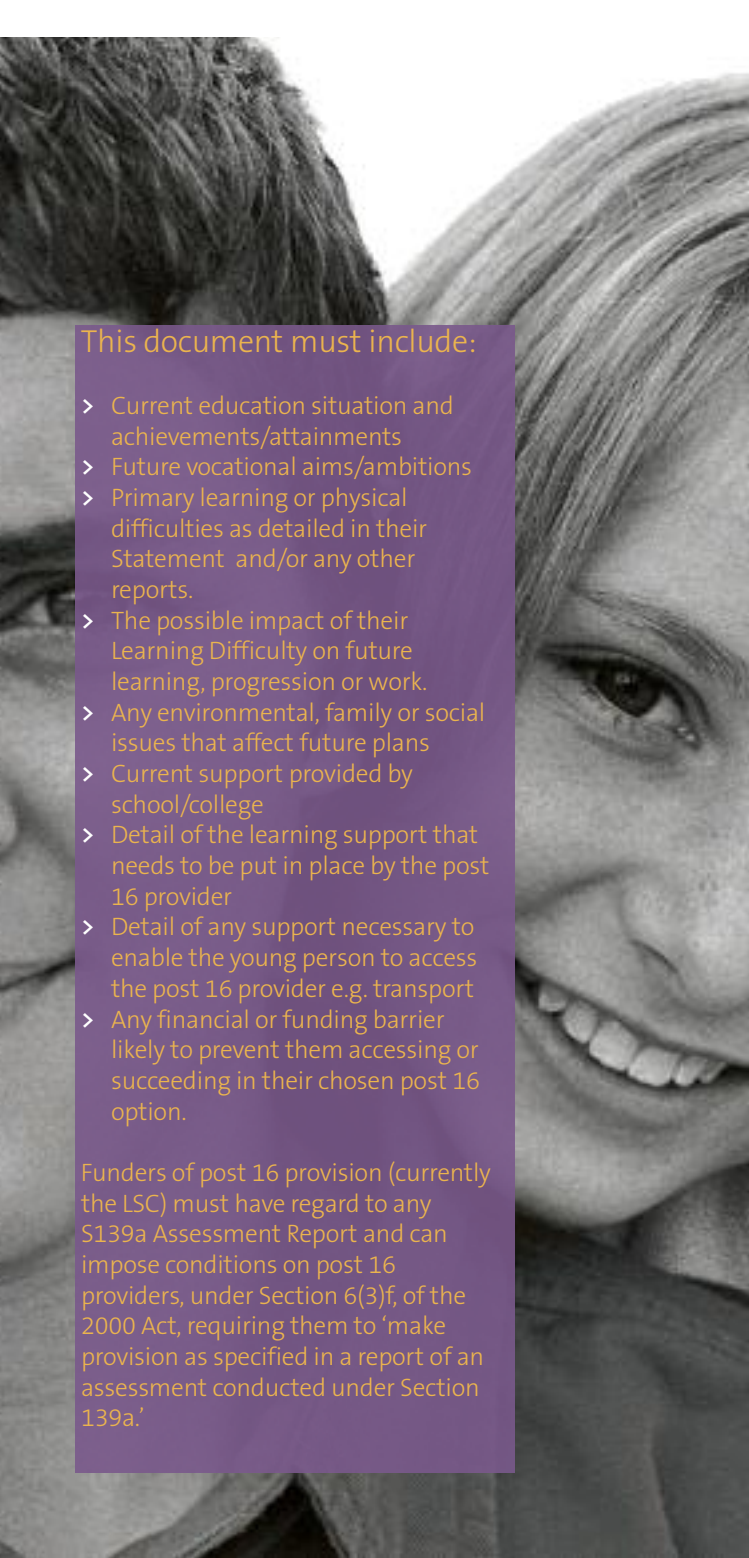
The S139a Assessment must be a stand alone document which meets the requirements of the 2000 Act and which pulls together a range of information about the young person.

What happens to the completed S139a Assessment.

- It is sent – using recorded delivery or e-mail receipt – to a named contact within the Post 16 Provider.

The Assessment is used to construct a support plan ready for when the young person starts their course or training.

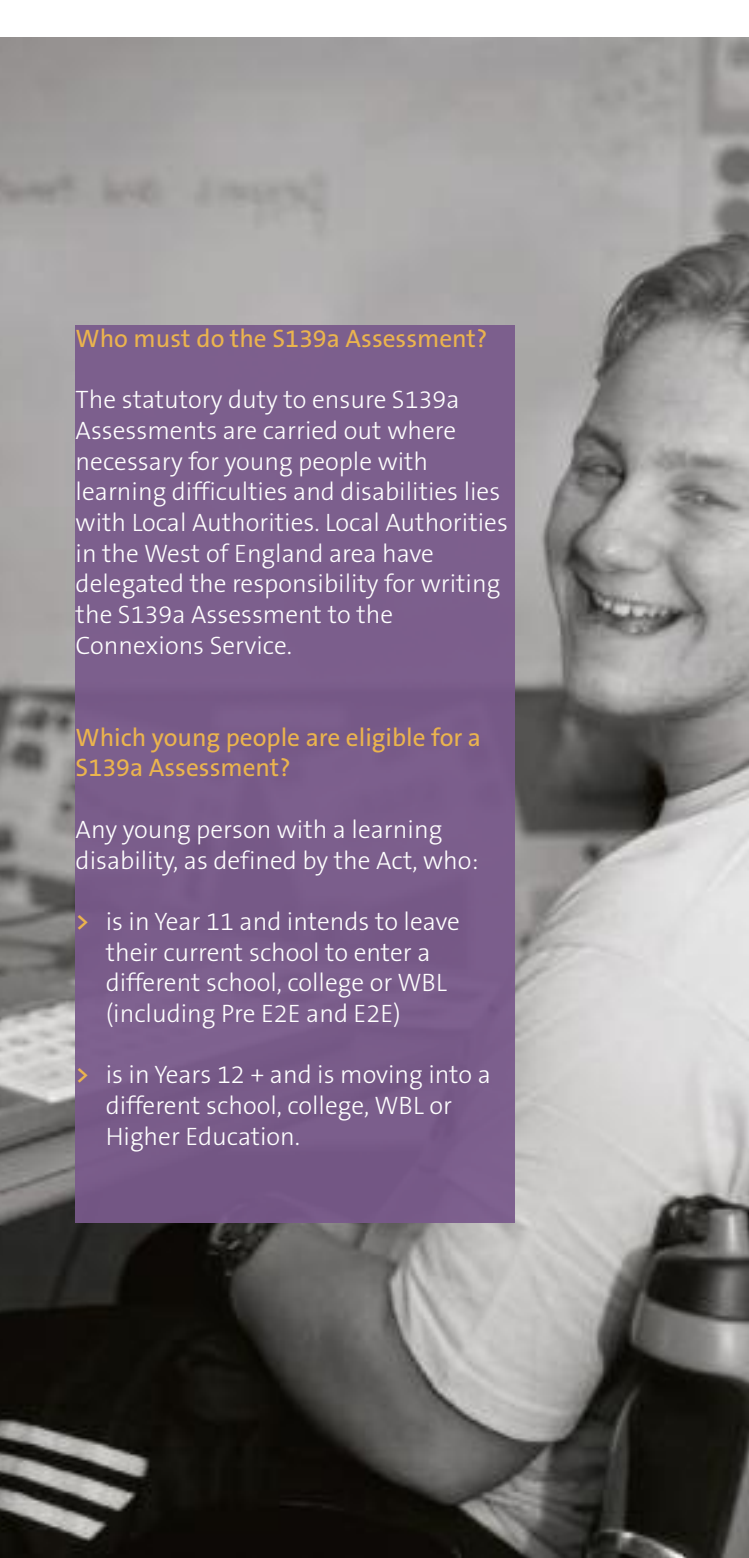
- Post 16 providers may use the S139a Assessment to identify any additional funding requirements from the post 16 funding body (currently the LSC).



This document must include:

- › Current education situation and achievements/attainments
- › Future vocational aims/ambitions
- › Primary learning or physical difficulties as detailed in their Statement and/or any other reports.
- › The possible impact of their Learning Difficulty on future learning, progression or work.
- › Any environmental, family or social issues that affect future plans
- › Current support provided by school/college
- › Detail of the learning support that needs to be put in place by the post 16 provider
- › Detail of any support necessary to enable the young person to access the post 16 provider e.g. transport
- › Any financial or funding barrier likely to prevent them accessing or succeeding in their chosen post 16 option.

Funders of post 16 provision (currently the LSC) must have regard to any S139a Assessment Report and can impose conditions on post 16 providers, under Section 6(3)f, of the 2000 Act, requiring them to 'make provision as specified in a report of an assessment conducted under Section 139a.'

A black and white photograph of a young man with short hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a light-colored t-shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or office environment with a whiteboard and some papers.

Who must do the S139a Assessment?

The statutory duty to ensure S139a Assessments are carried out where necessary for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities lies with Local Authorities. Local Authorities in the West of England area have delegated the responsibility for writing the S139a Assessment to the Connexions Service.

Which young people are eligible for a S139a Assessment?

Any young person with a learning disability, as defined by the Act, who:

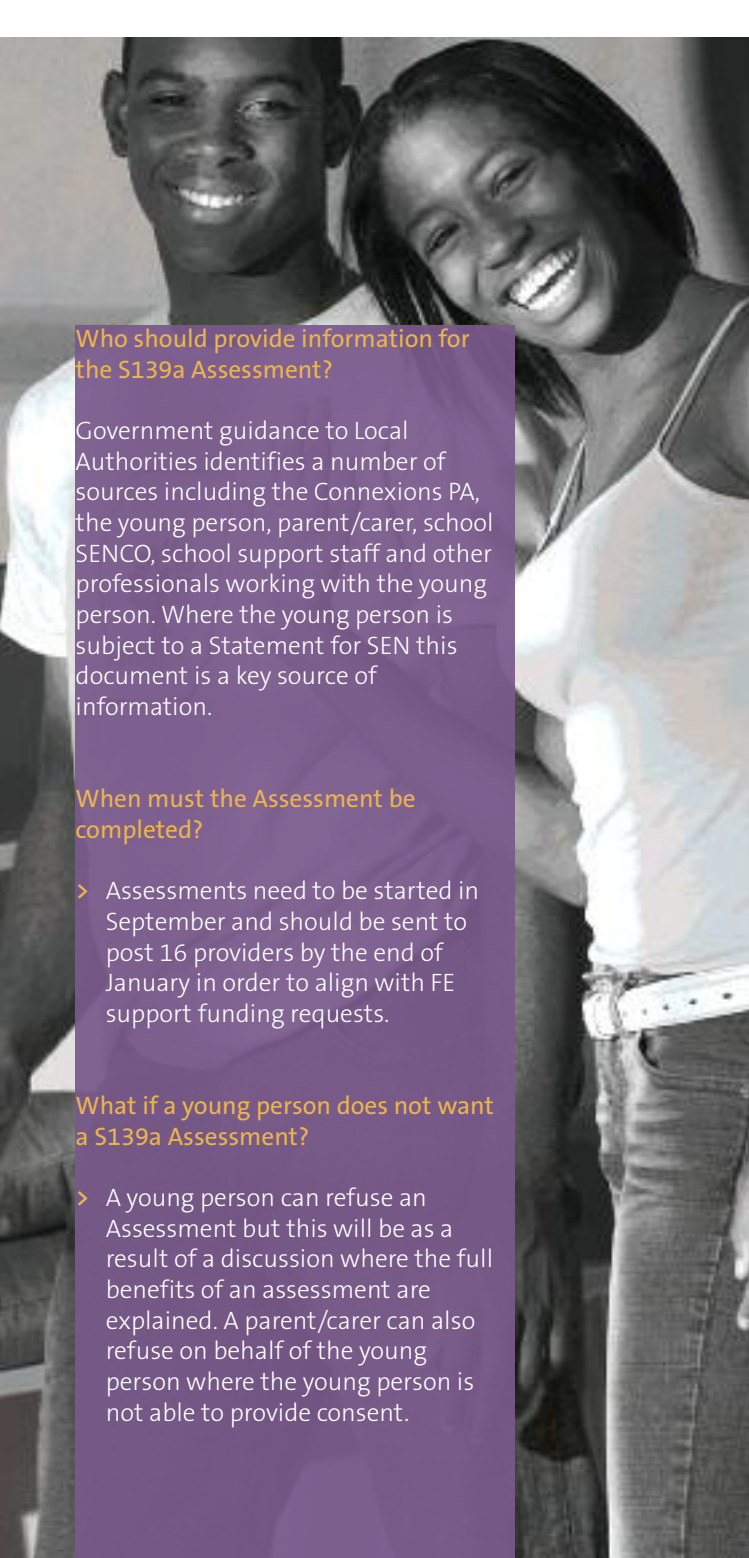
- > is in Year 11 and intends to leave their current school to enter a different school, college or WBL (including Pre E2E and E2E)
- > is in Years 12 + and is moving into a different school, college, WBL or Higher Education.

How is Learning Difficulty/Disability defined by the LSC 2000 Act?

A person has a learning difficulty if:

- > he has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of persons of his age, or
- > he has a disability which either prevents or hinders him from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided by institutions providing post-16 education or training.

A person is not to be taken to have a learning difficulty solely because the language (or form of language) in which he is or will be taught is different from a language (or form of language) which has at any time been spoken in his home.

A young man and woman are smiling together. The man is on the left, wearing a white t-shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a white tank top and jeans. They are both looking towards the camera.

Who should provide information for the S139a Assessment?

Government guidance to Local Authorities identifies a number of sources including the Connexions PA, the young person, parent/carer, school SENCO, school support staff and other professionals working with the young person. Where the young person is subject to a Statement for SEN this document is a key source of information.

When must the Assessment be completed?

- Assessments need to be started in September and should be sent to post 16 providers by the end of January in order to align with FE support funding requests.

What if a young person does not want a S139a Assessment?

- A young person can refuse an Assessment but this will be as a result of a discussion where the full benefits of an assessment are explained. A parent/carer can also refuse on behalf of the young person where the young person is not able to provide consent.

Your nearest Connexions Centre

- > **Bath & North East Somerset:**
28 Southgate, Bath BA1 1TP.
T: 01225 461501
- > **Bristol:** 4 Colston Avenue,
Bristol BS1 4ST.
T: 0117 987 3700
Minicom: 0117 907 4514
- > **North Somerset:** 45 Boulevard,
Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1PG.
T: 01934 644443
- > **South Gloucestershire:**
21-23 High Street, Kingswood,
South Gloucestershire, BS15 4AA.
T: 0117 961 2760 or

28 Gloucester Road North,
Filton, South Gloucestershire,
BS7 0SJ.
T: 0117 969 8101

Connexions Centres are open Monday
to Friday – contact them for their
opening times. Or visit our website:

www.connexionswest.org.uk

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WEST OF ENGLAND