like to share my experience also as I really think it makes a difference to other parents fighting for the support their children need.

I have a son who is dyslexic and have fought with his school teachers and local authorities for help since he was 6 year old! He eventually was diagnosed with dyslexia when he was 11, however I was told I didn't need to apply for a EHCP as he would not get anymore help than he was already getting (at the time he had 3 hours learning support a week, in a small group). Knowing no different I did as suggested and did not apply.

Throughout secondary school he has made very little progress and at times I have wondered why I was even sending him. When he was in year 8 I decided to go against his teachers and local authorities advice not to apply for a EHCP and demanded they did so. After an assessment the local authority decided not to issue a EHCP as there had been funding cuts and they said the school could afford to pay for the extra support he needed (his Ed Phyc had recommended 10 hours a week one to one). The school said they could not afford it so he was to continue with 3 hours a week in a small group. Once again I was discouraged from appealing this decision and told to wait 1 year and apply again.

He's in year 10 now and will be doing his GCSE's next year, unable to write and quite far behind with his reading and maths. I went for a meeting at his school in sept 2016 and asked them to apply for a EHCP again, the school did so but we're constantly telling me he wouldn't get one because he was too old and there's nothing else they can do for him other than what they were doing.

Initially the local authority refused to even assess him again, so I appealed to the tribunal and they suddenly changed their mind! Iv just had a letter yesterday informing me that he is now being issued an EHCP and will get 10 hours a week one to one support at school.

I am so pleased he is eventually getting the help he needs and deserves, however I'm also saddened to think that if I had of followed my own instincts and disregarded advice from teachers and local authorities he could have had this help sooner. I know realise that their priorities lie with  school funding and exam results.

Moral of the story: follow your instincts. Your child is your priority and you know what's best for them!