



We are delivering the new Independent Supporters Service in your area and will be providing independent information and support to families and young people finding their way through the changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system and the New EHC assessment and planning process in particular.

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service

Independent Supporters

**The Mount Education Support Centre
Mount Avenue
Penkhull
Stoke on Trent
ST4 7JU**

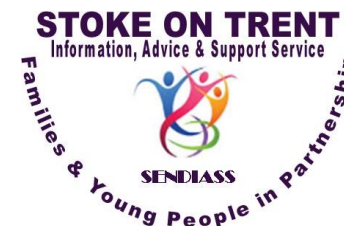
Tel ☎ : (01782) 236414

**E-mail: independent-supporters@stoke.gov.uk
www.parent-partnership-stoke.co.uk**



**Mandate
for change**

November 2014



**Delivering
independent
support**

An Independent Supporters Role



Independent Supporters

Independent Supporters provide information and support to parents, children and young people with SEN on the transition to the new Education, Health and Care Plans.

Independent Supporters will help to build resilience in families by offering a range of time-limited support such as liaison across different agencies and advice on personal budgets. The level and nature of that support will be tailored to the particular needs of individual families.

Edward Timpson, Minister for Children and Families, said:

“Independent Supporters will be able to spend one-to-one time with families giving them the independent help and advice they need to progress through the new SEN assessment and education, health and care planning process. This will ensure that every child and young person with SEN can take full advantage of our reforms. Independent Supporters will be available every step of the way for families as they navigate the new system, which will provide much greater integration of vital services and one system for children and young people with SEN from birth to 25. Where there is disagreement, Independent Supporters will also make sure councils understand what families want, and help families to challenge decision making so children with SEN receive the support they really need.”

Independent Supporters will be used specifically to support young people and parents through the introduction of the new assessment process and the development of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. Support will be provided to:

- New entrants to the system
- Children with a statement converting to an EHC plan
- Young people with an LDA converting to an EHC plan

SEND Information, Advice and Support Services (SENDIASS) already provide impartial information, advice and support to families. And some families are also able to access a key worker to support them. However, the new SEN arrangements that will apply from September 2014 will require local authorities to provide broader information, advice and support across education, health and social care services.

How will Independent Support Engage with SENDIASS?

The Government recognises the key role of SENDIASS in providing impartial Information Advice and Support (IASS), and the need for Local Authorities to build on them in order to meet their new IASS duties.

Independent Support is, and will be seen to be, additional to SENDIASS. There will be clear expectations that in each area Independent Supporters will work with and complement pre-existing local services.