

Independent Supporters in County Durham are provided by;

Core Assets Children's Services and by **Durham's Special Educational Needs Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)**

Core Assets Children's Services

Is an independent organisation that has been commissioned by the Council for Disabled Children to work in partnership with Durham to support parents and young people who are **transferring** from a Statement to an EHC Plan.

Durham SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (formerly Durham Parent Partnership)

Will work with parents and young people who are **new** to the EHC needs assessment process. This service also offers confidential and impartial information, advice and support on matters relating to all special educational needs and disabilities.



To obtain an Independent Supporter from either organisation or to find out more information,

please contact:

SENDIASS on 0191 5873541

Or

Core Assets on 0800 028 8455

Durham SENDIASS ►

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Information, Advice and Support Service



**Practical Help for
Parents and Young People**

Special Educational Needs
and Disability

**Independent
Supporters**

Available to assist you with
the new Education Health
Care Assessment Process



The Government has made funding available (from September 2014 to March 2016) to provide specialist individual support to parents, carers, children and young people who are involved in an **Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment**.



If you ask for this kind of support, trained **Independent Supporters** will work with you throughout the assessment period. They can explain each stage, help you get your views across and ensure you take an active lead role in this process.

What does an Independent Supporter do?

Independent Supporters will provide parents and young people with time limited help to support them through the EHC needs assessment and planning process.

The role of the Independent Supporter is to:

- **Help** the parent or young person understand the EHC assessment process and **local offer**.
- **Act** as an independent and impartial contact person for the parent or young person throughout the EHC assessment and planning process.
- **Focus** on the task of helping parents and young people to be fully involved in the transfer of a **Statement of SEN** to an EHC plan (transfer reviews).

- **Work** with parents of children who are new EHC requests and/or young people (and their parents) who are coming up to school leaving age.
- **Liaise** across a range of local services with the parent or young person to help gather the information required for an EHC plan.
- **Provide** information to parents and young people on personal budgets.
- **Signpost** parents and young people to **Durham SEND Information, Advice and Support Service** when an issue is outside the remit of the Independent Supporter.