

Special Educational Needs and Disability Independent Supporters

Available to assist Parents, Carers, Children and Young People

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

Trained Independent Supporters will work with you throughout the assessment period. They can explain each stage, help you to get your views across and ensure you take an active lead role in this process.

Independent Support in Coventry will be provided by **Grapevine** and the **SEND Information, Advice and Support Service** (formerly Parent Partnership Service). If you would like to find out more please contact:



Grapevine will work with families who are transferring from a Statement to an EHC Plan and new assessments of pupils aged 16yrs and over.

nbaker@grapevinecovandwarks.org

Tel: 024 7663 1040



SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) will work with families of pupils up to the age of 16yrs who are new to the EHC needs assessment process.

www.coventry.gov.uk/iass

Tel: 024 7669 4307

What does an Independent Supporter do?

Independent Supporters will provide parents and young people with time limited help to support the parent or young person during the EHC needs assessment and planning process.

The role of the independent supporter is to:

- Help the parent or young person understand the local referral process and local offer
- Act as a named contact person for the parent or young person throughout the EHC assessment and planning process
- Focus on the main task of helping parents and young people to transfer a statement of SEN to an EHC plan (transfer reviews)
- Work with parents of children who are new EHC referrals, and/or young people (and their parents) who are coming up to school leaving age and would have had a Learning Disability Assessment under the old system
- Liaise across a range of local services with the parent or young person to help gather information required for an EHC plan
- Provide information to parents and young people on personal budgets
- Signpost parents and young people to local Information Advice and Support (IAS) services (formerly Parent Partnership Service) when the issue is outside the remit of Independent Supporter.