

SENDIASS- how can we help? That will probably be the first thing you hear if you ring us.

SENDIASS is a bit of a mouthful, it stands for SEN & Disability Information and Advice Service, We used to be called Parent Partnership but since Sept 2014, we now also provide a service directly to young people with SEN & Disabilities 16-25 so we had to change the name.

If you are a parent of a child with special educational needs or disabilities, SENDIASS, can help you in a variety of ways. We can help you at all stages, any age and any type of difficulty.

Perhaps you are concerned about how your child is doing and wondering if they do have additional needs, we can help you look at what progress a child is expected to make and talk about how schools decide whether a child does have difficulties with learning.

If you already know your child has SEN or a disability but are wondering about their progress and the level of support they receive, we can advise you how to approach the school with your concerns and often suggest you make an appointment at school to discuss things. If it would help, we can try to find someone to come to the meeting with you. We have some fantastic volunteers called Independent Parental Supporters.

It really helps to have someone to talk it through with beforehand, and afterwards as well.

They often will take notes if you ask them, and also help make sure you ask everything you want to.

Some children have greater levels of difficulties with their learning which might mean that the school needs outside help and extra funding to provide the right support. Children or young people with the greatest needs may be supported through an EHC Plan. You might have heard about these and wonder whether your child needs an assessment to see whether they do need a EHC plan to support their learning.

We can talk you through how this process works, the paperwork that needs to accompany any request and suggest the evidence that would help the LA to make a decision on whether to carry out an EHC Needs Assessment for your child. We also have volunteers called Independent Supporters who can help support you through the EHC needs assessment and EHC Plan paperwork and meetings

How else can we help?

We can advise about choosing a school, and sometimes one of our volunteers might be able to come with you when visiting schools.

Your child might have difficulties with their behaviour and be being excluded from school, we can also advise on exclusions matters and the law.

If you think your child is being discriminated against because of their difficulties or disabilities, we can support you in raising concerns about disability discrimination

All our information advice and support is free, impartial, confidential and up to date