

independent support

for Nottingham City and
Nottinghamshire County areas



Information, advice and support
for children and young people with
a disability or special educational
needs and their parents/carers

Futures
Advice, skills & employment

The Special Educational Needs revised Code of Practice 2014 recommends that all parents of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and young people themselves, who are being assessed or going through the transfer of a Statement of SEN or Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) to an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan should have access to an Independent Supporter.

What can an Independent Supporter do?

Independent Supporters are independent of the decision-making professionals and are there to give parents and young people impartial information, advice and support to help them through the EHC needs assessment/Annual Review process.

For some families, an initial visit and occasional telephone contact may provide the level of support they need. Other families may need more frequent face-to-face contact.

How long will the Independent Supporter be involved?

An Independent Supporter will only be available to families during the EHC assessment period. Support ends when the Education, Health and Care Plan has been finalised or if it is decided an EHCP is not necessary. Support is now also available for Annual Reviews





An Independent Supporter can support parents/young people by:

- acting as a named contact person throughout the EHC assessment and planning and Annual Review processes
- liaising across a range of local services and helping to gather the information required for an EHC plan
- helping them to understand the local referral process and local offer
- helping them to express their views related to the EHCP or Annual Review process
- attending meetings with them
- talking through options
- signposting to Information Advice and Support Services (IASS) when the issue is outside the remit of an Independent Supporter
- providing information on personal budgets
- provide advice on the legalities of the EHCP or Annual Review
- process, statutory duties and timeline.

An Independent Supporter does NOT:

- make decisions for parents or young people
- tell parents or young people what they should do
- attend meetings or write reports in parent's or young person's absence
- help parents or young people with issues unrelated to the Education, Health and Care Assessment or Annual Review processes.

How can I access an Independent Supporter?

Families who live within Nottinghamshire or the City of Nottingham can request an Independent Supporter (for the parent/carer, the young person or both) using the contact details below. The Co-ordinator will allocate you an Independent Supporter as quickly as possible and arrange for her/him to make contact with you.



Independent Support

Telephone: 0115 9601869 or 0115 8041740

Email:

independentsupporters@futuresadvice.co.uk

enquiries@askusnotts.org.uk

Futures Advice, Skills & Employment

Futures is contracted by the Council for Disabled Children to deliver Independent Support in this area, alongside additional support via Ask Us Nottinghamshire.