



HARTLEPOOL Information, Advice and Support Services

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Independent Supporters

Available to assist Parents, Carers, Children and Young People

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 Hartlepool will be jointly provided by **Hartlepool Information, Advice and Support Services** and in partnership with **Hartlepool Carers**

Hartlepool IASS will work with families of pupils up to the age of 25 years who are new to the EHC needs assessment process, Statement transfers, Post 16 transfers, Complex requests and for families requiring ongoing support.

For further information please contact us on: 01429 284876 or email: HARTLEPOOLIASS@hartlepool.gov.uk

Alternatively you can contact Sue Harrison at Hartlepool Carers Tel: 01429 283095 or email: susan.harrison@hartlepoolcarers.org.uk for information and support

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

To **act** as a named contact person for the parent or young person during the EHC assessment and planning process

Supporting parents and young people through the transfer of a Statement of SEN or Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) to an EHC plan (transfer reviews)

Working 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 an LDA under the old system

Understand a range of local services and supporting the parent or young person to decide who should contribute the information required for an EHC needs assessment plan

Provide information to parents and young people on personal budgets

Signposting parents and young people to **HARTLEPOOL IASS** when the issue is outside the remit of an Independent Supporter

