

# Need help with the new SEND REFORMS?

Negotiating the various changes within the new Reforms can be time-consuming for parents and carers. To help you through these changes, Bolton Local Authority introduced a new local service to make this process more easily accessible and simpler to understand.

What is IAS?



“ Local authorities must arrange for children with SEN or disabilities for whom they are responsible, and their parents, and young people with SEN and disabilities, for whom they are responsible, to be provided with information and advice about matters relating to their SEN or disabilities, including matters relating to health and social care. ”

SEND Code of Practice, 2014

**IAS**, the Bolton Information and Advisory Service, is a community-based, independent and confidential point of contact for parents and carers of children and young people up to the age of 25, with special educational needs and disabilities.

**IAS** offers the continuity of help from an individually appointed advisor. The service is run by experienced parents with first-hand knowledge of the challenges encountered when raising children and young adults with special educational need and disabilities.

Your advisor will be fully-versed in all stages of the new Education, Health and Care plan (EHC), which replaces the previous Statements for SEN and the Learning Difficulty Assessments, and will be able to guide you through the new changes.

We support children, families and young people with all aspects of special educational needs and disability in the following areas:

- \* **Special educational needs. If you have concerns about your child's progress in school, what help your child is getting, or if your child has been identified as having SEND, we can offer advice and support**
- \* **Non – curriculum issues such as bullying and school policy**
- \* **Offering information and guidance throughout the SEND process**
- \* **Support at tribunals, appeals and meetings**
- \* **Liaising between parents, carers and young people and the Bolton Local Authority if communication has broken down**
- \* **Contacting other professionals and services on behalf of parents/carers/young people to enable best outcomes**
- \* **Mentoring children/young people who are experiencing difficulties with their home/school life**
- \* **Facilitating the reintegration of children who are experiencing attendance issues**
- \* **Supporting families/ children/ young people with exclusions from school**
- \* **Specialised support for children, families and young people with the implementation of the SEND reforms and education, health and care assessments**

What support is available



## Other specialist services on available through Bolton **I**nformation & **A**dvisory **S**ervice

### Independent Support

Specifically provides individual support to children and families and young people with all aspects of the new SEND reforms, in particular with new entrants to the system and transfers from statements to EHC plans.

#### *Other support includes:*

- \* Being a single point of contact throughout the assessment and planning process
- \* Advising on the process, such as timescales, requesting a personal budget etc
- \* Providing legally informed information and guidance
- \* Supporting at meetings and person centred reviews
- \* Ensuring parental views and wishes and those of the child or young person are taken into account

### A.M.I.T.Y project

Providing on- to-one mentorship and support for young people, helping them with personal development and rebuilding their confidence in authority figures.

#### Contacts:

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