

Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

Hartlepool Information, Advice and Support Service
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**.

We can work with families of children and young people up to the age of 25 years who are new to the EHC needs assessment process or are undergoing a review of their Education, Health and Care Plan.

For further information please contact us on:



01429 284876



HARTLEPOOLIASS@hartlepool.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can contact Sue Harrison at Hartlepool Carers for information and support:



01429 283095



susan.harrison@hartlepoolcarers.org.uk

» 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 and review process.

Supporting parents and young people through the reviews of EHC Plans.

Working with parents of children who are new EHC referrals and/or young people (and their parents) who are going into Post 16 and Post 19 Educational Provision.

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.