

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

AskUs Nottinghamshire (Parent Partnership Service)

Futures Advice, Skills & Employment

Futures is contracted by the Council for Disabled Children to deliver Independent Support in this area.

independent support

for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County areas



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 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.



An Independent Supporter can support parents/young people by:

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

