

# Free Independent Support



Statements of Special Educational Needs are being transferred to Education, Health & Care Plans.

Independent Supporters are here to:

- ✓ help you understand more about this process
- ✓ support you to be right at the centre of the decisions made

*For more information please contact:*

**SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (formerly Parent Partnership)**

 **01296 383754**

 **[sendias@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:sendias@buckscc.gov.uk)**

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brighter futures

Delivering  
**independent  
support**

# Independent Support

The Children and Families Act 2014 has changed the way that young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) receive support. From September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 Statements of Special Educational Needs are being transferred to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Independent Supporters are now available to help parents and young people navigate through the new EHCP process.

The Independent Support service is being delivered in close collaboration with the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (formerly Parent Partnership).

All Independent Supporters have completed the Council for Disabled Children's training programme which includes the new SEN legislation. They also receive local training in Data Protection, Equality & Diversity, Health & Safety, and Safeguarding. All staff have enhanced DBS checks.

An Independent Supporter will provide time limited support to parents and/or young people during the EHC assessment and planning process, whether for the first time or those undergoing the transfer of a statement or Learning Difficulty Assessment to an EHC plan.

This could be to help parents and/or young people to:

- ensure their views are central to the whole process
- understand local authority processes and timelines
- gather the information required for an EHC assessment and plan
- understand the local offer
- understand personal budgets and other aspects of the process
- signpost to Information Advice and Support (IAS) Service for general SEN support