

Factsheet 8

What are Independent Supporters?

Independent Supporters are individuals who are recruited and managed by the private, voluntary and community sector to provide advice, and support children and young people with SEN and their parents, through the processes of an EHC needs assessment and transition from a statement. They are independent from the local authority (LA), but are part of the offer of advice and support that LAs should make available.

The role of the Independent Supporter includes:

- Supporting the parent or young person in contributing to an EHC plan
- Signposting parents and young people to Parent Partnership Services or local Information Advice and Support (IAS) services, when the issue is outside the remit of an Independent Supporter
- Focussing on the main task of helping to transfer a statement into an EHC plan
- Helping a parent or young person understand the local offer
- Acting as a named contact person for the parent or young person throughout the assessment and planning process
- Liaising across a range of agencies with the parent or young person to help gather the information required for an EHC plan
- Providing information to parents and young people on personal budgets

