



Information, Advice
and Support Service
Herefordshire

(formerly Parent Partnership Service)

A guide about our service

SENDIAS is a confidential, impartial and free statutory service that provides information and support for parent/carers of children and children/young people as individuals who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or a disability.

SENDIAS can

- Provide confidential advice by telephone or email
- Provide one to one support through the education and training years up to age 25
- Help you work closely with other professionals to get your views heard
- Represent and support you in preparing for and attending meetings
- Support you during the transfer of your/your child's Statement of SEN
- Provide information to enable you to understand the new legal SEN framework.
- Help with the preparation for appeals and tribunals
- Provide an Independent Supporter to work with you throughout the Education Health and Care assessment

About SENDIAS staff and Independent Supporters

- Legally trained in Special Needs Education and parent/young person support
- Fully checked through the Disclosure Barring Service (Criminal Records Bureau)
- Understand and uphold person centred values to work in partnership with you
- Inform the local authority on issues affecting families including local policy and practice
- Advise you on what to expect from statutory services and other agencies

What do Independent Supporters do?

- Help you understand the Education Health & Care (EHC) process and local offer
- Act as a named person throughout the EHC assessment and planning process
- Focus on the main task of helping you to transfer a Statement of SEN or Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) to an EHC plan (transfer reviews)
- Work with you if you are new to EHC referrals or if you have had a Learning Disability Assessment under the old system
- Liaise across a range of local services and help you to gather the information required for an EHC plan
- Provide you with information to help you understand personal budgets
- Refer you to SENDIAS colleagues who would support and advise you on other more complex issues e.g., school exclusions, disability discrimination, school disagreements etc
- We can provide a range of resources relating to Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities
- We are able to signpost you to other services which may be useful to you

How we assess our work

We will contact you soon after your period of support has ended to ask if you are happy with the service. This will enable us to evaluate how we are supporting people and what if anything we can do better

Herefordshire SENDIAS are part of the National Information, Advice and Support programme at the Council for Disabled Children in London.

www.IASSNetwork.org.uk www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk

How do I get support?

If you would like more information about things you have read in this leaflet or would like to ask about getting some support **contact the service on 01432 260955.**

- Ask your SEN Co-ordinator (SENCo) or other professional to pass on your contact details to us and we will be in touch.
- Email sendias@herefordshire.gov.uk
- Find more information at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/sendias