



# Independent Support

The Children and Families Act has changed the way that parents/carers and children/young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) receive support. From September 1st 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 EHCP process. The Bracknell Forest Independent Support is being delivered in close collaboration with Adviza. All Independent Supporters have completed the Council for Disabled Children's training programme which includes the new SEN legislation. They also receive local training on 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 before and during the EHC assessment and planning process, whether for the first time or those undergoing a 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 the Information, Advice & Support Service for general SEN support.



# Independent Support in Bracknell Forest



## Can we help?

Independent Supporters are available in Bracknell Forest to:

- Provide free support and help to parents/carers and/or young people before and during the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessment and planning process.
- Provide free support and help to parents/carers and/or young people during the transfer of their statement to an Education, Health and Care Plan.

**In Bracknell Forest Independent Support is being provided by the Information, Advice & Support Service – IASS (formerly Parent Partnership Service) in partnership with Adviza.**

If you would like the help of a free Independent Supporter

Email: [SEND.Support@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:SEND.Support@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

Tel 01344 354011