

What is an Independent Supporter?

With the introduction of the Children and Families Act 2014, Independent Support was commissioned by the Department of Education through the Council for Disabled Children across Education, Health and Social Care Services.

The SENDIAS Service responded to the government initiative through the Council for Disabled Children, to enable the introduction of two Independent Supporters in their aim to further help parents/carers or young people throughout Stoke on Trent.

Our Independent Supporters have completed accredited training provided by the Council for Disabled Children which enables them to provide time limited impartial information and support to families and young people with special educational needs who are going through the process of developing an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan.

When can you use an Independent Supporter?

An Independent Supporter can support you at any stage of the EHC planning process.

We can help by:

- Explaining the EHC Assessment process
- Explaining who does what and when
- Helping you to recognise the difference between goals, aspirations and outcomes
- Navigating the Stoke on Trent SEND Local Offer
- Ensuring you have all the information you need to make a decision e.g. how to request a Personal Budget, how to choose a school or setting
- Providing impartial information and support for you to be confident to express your views and make informed decisions
- Being a point of contact throughout the EHC Assessment

- Helping you to produce your One Page Profile
- Helping you prepare and supporting you at meetings during the planning process
- Translating any jargon
- Reviewing the Draft and/or Final EHC plan with you.

What can't an Independent Supporter do?

An Independent Supporter cannot prepare your EHC plan for you. They provide a guidance and support role to help you do this.



SEND Information, Advice and Support Service

Independent Supporters

The Mount Education Support Centre
Mount Avenue
Penkhull
Stoke on Trent
ST4 7JU

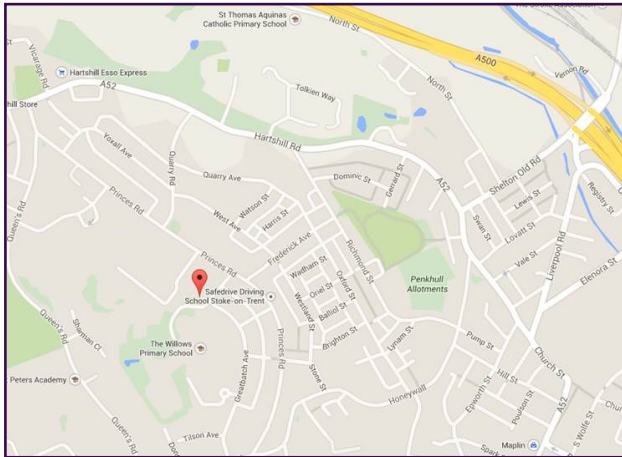
Tel ☎ : (01782) 236414

Email: independent-supporters@stoke.gov.uk

Web: www.sendiass-stoke.co.uk

Telephone Helpline (Mon-Fri): 9.00am to 16.00pm

An answerphone service is available outside of these hours. Saturdays & Sundays: Closed



How to find us:

Join the A52 signposted Newcastle. Turn left into Princes Road. Turn third right into Mount Avenue leading to Greatbatch Avenue. The entrance gates to the Mount Education Support Centre will be directly in front of you. Follow signs for parking.



SENDIASS are working in partnership with:



Core Assets Children's Services also offer the Independent Support Service within Stoke on Trent.

Telephone: 0800 028 8455

E-mail: isreferrals@coreassets.com



Updated: December 2016



Independent Supporters

Delivering independent support

Independent Support is a national government initiative launched in January 2014 and designed to help parents and young people navigate through the Education, Health and Care (EHC) planning process.

