

Independent Supporters (IS) are individuals recruited and managed by the IS Consortium in Bromley; offering a range of **impartial** and **time limited** support for families with children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN). ***They will support parents of children with SEN and young people with SEN through the statutory assessment and Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan process.*** They will offer support to families and young people in the process of **transferring** from SEN Statements to a new EHC as well as those who are **new referrals**. They are fully trained to carry out their role and are **independent of the local authority.**

Why has this role been created?

The Children and Families Act (2014) which came into effect from the **1st of September 2014** introduced major changes to the way children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are supported

From the **1st of September 2014** until **March 2016** the Government has funded an Independent Support program to provide additional support to parents and young people in relation to the new Education and Health Care (EHC) Plan.

In Bromley, this service is delivered through a Consortium made up of **Bromley Mencap, Burgess Autistic Trust, Bromley Parent Voice and Experts by Experience.**

Please contact Funke Adelaye on 02084660790 or email at is@bromleymencap.org or visit <http://www.bromleyparentvoice.org.uk> for further information

Disclaimer: This leaflet is for information purpose only and is not legal advice. If you are concerned about a specific legal issue relating to the reforms or Independent Supporters, you should seek independent legal advice

The role of Independent Supporters

- Providing relevant information for parents of children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) who are going through transition from statements to the EHC Plan
- Helping parents and young people understand the local referral process and the local offer
- Working with parents of children who are new EHC referrals, and/or young people (and their parents) who are coming up to school leaving age and would have had a Learning Disability Assessment under the old system
- Providing information to parents and young people on personal budget
- Signposting parents and young people to the local **Information, Advice and Support Services Bromley (formerly Parent Partnership Bromley) or other appropriate voluntary family support organisations** when an issue falls outside of their role.

Please note that Independent Supporters do not replace the Local Authority Keyworkers or any other support offered by your child or young person's school.