

Dudley SENDIASS

(special educational needs and disability information,
advice and support service)

If you're a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability, or a child or young person up to the age of 25 with special educational needs or a disability, we can help you.

We provide legally based advice, information and support on all matters relating to SEN and disabilities including health and social care issues.

Tel: 01384 817373 Parent & Young Person Helpline Number

Email us on: dudley.sendiass@dudley.gov.uk

Web: www.dudley.gov.uk/dudleysendiass

News & changes over the academic year



- In November 2014 we held a significant event to mark the change from being Parent Partnership for over 20 years. The Children & Families Act 2014, has meant a change of name for the service, we are now known as Dudley SENDIASS (special educational needs & disabilities information, advice and support service). We provide information advice and support to parents of children with SEND and we now also offer the same service to young people up to 25 years of age.
- The event held in November was a reflection on 20 years of Parent Partnership and significant in moving onwards and upwards to become Dudley SENDIASS.
- We had a really positive event and were joined by parents, young people and professionals to enjoy a community luncheon. Julie Crawley a parent of a child with SEND spoke about her experiences of working with parent partnership service and the positive impact this has made to her child and to the family. A special thank you to Julie for sharing this.
- Our keynote speaker on the day was Daisy Russell from The National Information Advice and Support Network. She provided an overview of the new legislation and duties and how information advice and support services will be required to develop.

Thank you to all who attended.



Parent Partnership Service to Dudley SENDIASS from September 2014

Our service has changed as a result of The Children & Families Act 2014. The SEND reforms has meant our responsibilities to deliver services has grown with The Children & Families Act. Whilst we have always been required to provide impartial information advice and support to parents of children with SEND up to 19 the new legislation now means the service covers 0-25 and we are now also charged with providing support to parents and also support young people with SEND up to 25.

We provide legally based advice information and support on issues relating to Education, Health & Social Care to:

- Parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities
- Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

More details about our role is on our service leaflet available at: www.dudley.gov.uk/dudleysendiass

New rights for young people:

From September 2014, The Children & Families Act gave new rights to young people, these rights are effective once the young person reaches the end of compulsory school age, when they turn 16. Young people will be able to engage directly with Dudley SENDIASS if they request our support. We understand however for many young people that they will want the support of their families or carers.

Families and children at the centre:

A key part of the SEN changes places families, children and young people at the centre. The Children & Families Act 2014 Section 19 provides LA's with clarity that they must have regard to the views of the parent or young person, and encourage participation in decision making with parents and young people.

Developing our new service information

- At the beginning of the Autumn Term 2014 we set about the task of developing our leaflets to reflect our new name and the range of people including parents and young people that we will be providing information and support to.
- We have been working closely over the past year with a group of parents, some of whom are from our parent carer forum, to develop leaflets.
- We have also been supported in the development of leaflets by our young people in Dudley and we are hugely grateful to them for their involvement and we will continue to engage as we move into September 2015.



Our leaflets are available to read and/or download at: www.dudley.gov.uk/dudleysendiass or please ring our helpline tel: 01384 817373 if you require a hard copy to be sent to you.

Where we are now – SEND reforms:

The Children & Families Act is key legislation which commenced in September 2014. It has meant widespread changes in how services work and support SEND children and young people. It brings together education, health and social care from 0-25, placing parents and young people at the centre.

We also have a new Code of Practice which provides direction to professionals '*special educational needs and disability code of practice 0-25 years which is statutory guidance for organisations which work and support children and young people who have special educational needs*' January 2015 DFE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/pdfs/ukpga_20140006_en.pdf

Young Person's guide to the Children & Families Act 2014:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-persons-guide-to-the-children-and-families-act-2014>

Out with the old and in with the new – Statements to Education Health Care Plans

- From September 2014 it has no longer been possible to request a new Statement of Special Educational Needs. New requests for statutory assessment which may lead to an Education Health Care Plan are now considered under the new legislation Children & Families Act 2014. The new act brought about significant changes in the arrangements for special educational needs (SEN reform) As part of the reform process this means from September 2014 children and young people with a statement must go through an Education Health and Care Needs assessment to ensure that their needs are appropriately identified. This process is called the Transfer Review process. The Transfer Review process is required to conclude by April 2018.
- The local authority triggers the process by sending a letter to the parent to commence the transfer process. The process should complete within 14 weeks.
- The following numbers show the children and young people with current statements of SEN who will participate in the Transfer Review process between September 2014 and April 2018.

2014 – 2015	=	269
2015 – 2016	=	387
2016 – 2017	=	479
2017 -2018	=	267

This shows the transfer plan document available on the Dudley's Local Offer

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/localoffer/supporting-parents-children-and-young-people/transfer-arrangements-from-statement-to-ehcp/>

Transfer Review Document.pdf (page 10)

Transition to the new 0-25 special educational needs and disability system – March 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414952/SEND_Reforms_transitional_advice_March15.pdf

Key information from DFE 2015

- The legal test of when a child or young person requires an EHCP remains the same as that for a statement of SEN under the Education Act 1996, therefore it is expected that all children and young people who have a statement of SEN and who would have continued to have one under the 1996 provision, will be transferred to a EHC plan. No child or young person should lose their statement and not have it replaced because the system is changing.

Transition to the new 0-25 special educational needs and disability system – March 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414952/SEND_Reforms_transitional_advice_March15.pdf

See transitional arrangements page 15

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

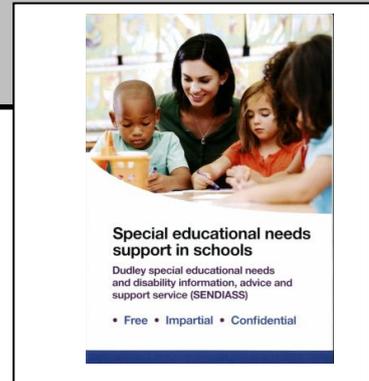
Transfer arrangements for young people

- There will be young people with a Section 139a or otherwise known as a LDA (learning disabilities assessment) which were completed by the Connexions service.
- For these young people with a section 139a in post 16 settings they can formally request the LA to consider them for an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment.
- The transfer timeline for young people with a S139 or otherwise known as a LDA to request consideration for EHCP assessment is shorter and this must be completed by September 2016 beyond this point a S139a cannot be used to request an EHCP assessment.

SEN support in schools (SENs)

- A graduated step by step approach to identify and support children with special educational needs who do not require an education health care plan.
- Children who have previously been supported at school action or school action plus will be transferred to special educational needs support SENs by September 2015.
- The new code gives guidance to schools about SENs.

Our leaflet is available to read and/or download at: www.dudley.gov.uk/dudleysendiass



Understanding Independent Support

Last year the government advised that there would be an additional amount of funding specifically to support parents and young people going through the new Education Health Care Plan process.

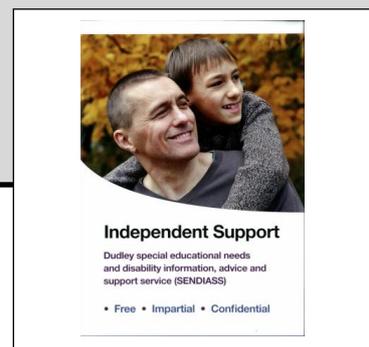
- Parents can request support of an Independent Supporter if they are a new entrant requesting an EHCP for their child.
- Parents can request support of an Independent Supporter for their child or young person if they are going through a transfer review, moving from a statement to EHCP.
- Young people can request Independent Support if they have a S139a and are requesting the LA to consider them for conversion to an EHCP.

Dudley SENDIASS works together with Royal Mencap to provide parents and young people with access to an Independent Supporter.

- Our Independent Supporter within SENDIASS is Judith Doidge. She works with families and young people to provide a clear understanding of the EHC assessment process.
- To gather views of the parent and young person to complete necessary documents.
- Support the parent or young person in meetings.
- Work with the parent and young person to consider the draft EHCP

See our Independent Support leaflet with contact details.

www.dudley.gov.uk/dudleysendiass



Parent carer forum

- Within Dudley we have an established parent carer forum supported by Dudley CVS. The PCF is working towards developing positive outcomes for families with children presenting with SEND and also offering a support network for parents and carers.
- Dudley PCF provides families with a gateway to participating at strategic level with the local authority, it provides parents of children with SEND, the opportunity to be active in service planning that supports the needs of families in a meaningful way.
- Over the past year as the SEND reforms have been implemented the PCF have been actively involved in a range of working groups across the authority.

Dudley SENDIASS and PCF

- The PCF have provided ongoing consultation and have offered support and input into SENDIASS service.
- PCF have been actively engaged with Dudley SENDIASS in developing a portfolio of information for parents and young people.
- SENDIASS engages and informs PCF steering committee of service development.

Web: www.dudleyparentcarerforum.com

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