

From 1 September, Stoke-on-Trent Parent Partnership Service became known as
SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).
Our website is now live at www.sendiass-stoke.co.uk.

Thinking about Mediation?

What is Mediation?

Mediation is a confidential statutory service to help parents or young people resolve disagreements about Education, Health and Care needs assessment and plans (EHC).

Why do I need to consider Mediation?

Under the Children and Families Act 2014 there is now a duty to consider mediation.

Mediation is a requirement in most cases where a parent or young person wishes to make an appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Tribunal against certain decisions made by the Local Authority (LA) i.e., refusing to assess, refusing to reassess, refusing to issue an Education Health and Care plan (EHC), ceasing to maintain an EHC plan, refusing to assess or reassess after an Annual Review, the LA amends or replaces an EHC plan.

A parent or young person may choose to go to mediation regarding the social care and health sections of a plan but these cannot be the subject of an appeal to SEND.

Who arranges the Mediation?

The LA or the responsible commissioning body (health care issues).

What happens if I do not want to go to Mediation?

Where a parent or young person does not want to attend Mediation they will be required to obtain a mediation certificate.

What happens if the Mediation is not successful?

If the mediation is not successful you will need a certificate to say that you have taken part, before you proceed to appeal.

What happens if the Mediation is successful?

A mediation agreement is drawn up which will be legally binding on the parties.

If the resolved mediation issues could have been appealed to the Tribunal, the LA **must** comply as if the agreement were a Tribunal order.

If the resolved issues were not appealable, the time limit is two weeks. If the LA was not part of the agreement i.e. the issues concerned health care provision, the responsible commissioning body must inform the LA of the mediation agreement within one week.

SEN Support - Code of Practice 2015 (6.44-6.56)

SEN support is provided within the school resources for the following areas of difficulty which a child may have:

- Communication and interaction;
- Cognition and learning;
- Social, emotional and mental health;
- Sensory and/or physical needs.

The SEN Code of practice recommends a 'graduated approach' which has four stages of action : Assess; Plan; Do; Review. This is for children which have been identified as having areas of need within the four categories listed above.

Assess

It is the class teacher or subject teacher (working with the SENCO) who is responsible for carrying out a clear analysis of a pupil's needs, drawing on teacher assessments and experience of the pupil. It is here where it could be identified when there are 'gaps' developing between a pupil and their peers. It is important that evidence is gathered at this stage.

Plan

Where it is decided to provide a pupil with SEN Support, the parents **must** be notified. All teachers and support staff who work with a pupil should be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies that are required. This will be recorded on a pupil passport, the provision provided should also be recorded on a provision map.

Do

The class or subject teacher retains the responsibility for working with the pupil on a daily basis. They should work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved and the SENCO should support the class or subject teacher.



Review

Reviews should take place and inform feedback into the analysis of the pupil's needs. The Code is not prescriptive about how often reviews should take place. The requirement is to meet with parents three times a year, it would be good practice if they were reviewed termly with the staff, parents and pupil.

Parents should have clear information about the impact of the support and interventions provided so that they are able to be involved in planning the next steps. Where a pupil has an EHC Plan, the Local Authority must review that plan every 12 months.

Pupil Passport

Across the Stoke-on-Trent locality schools are encouraged to develop a 'Pupil Passport' with the pupil and parents for children that are receiving SEN support. This can replace the previous IEPs (Individual Education Plan) but is not a Statutory requirement. The Pupil Passport will highlight areas of strengths, and the areas which the child will need support. Methods of how to support the pupil will also be identified on this document. Targets which are identified on this documentation can be tracked to see if they are being achieved when it is reviewed. This is valuable evidence if there continues to be concern about the pupil's achievements.



Does your child have Special Educational Needs and/or Disability?

IPSEA - Independent Parental Special Education Advice


If you are the parent, carer or supporting family member of a child/young person with SEND, our IPSEA training day will help you navigate the new legal framework and ensure that your child gets the right educational support to meet their individual needs.

This training is available for 40 parents and only through PEGiS.

Tuesday 12th January 2016
10am - 15.00pm
The Core, Normacot Road, Longton,
Stoke on Trent, ST3 1PR.

Tea/Coffee will be provided but you will need to bring a packed lunch

For more information please telephone:
☎ 07935 557380



Does your child have Special Educational Needs and/or Disability?

The Parent Engagement Group in Stoke (PEGiS)

would like to invite you to our next meetings where you can chat informally with other parents and discuss educational issues and concerns.

Tuesday 5th January 2016
Tuesday 2nd February 2016
Tuesday 1st March 2016
10am - 12.00 noon

The Mount Education Support Centre,
Mount Avenue, Penkhull, ST4 7JU.

For more information please telephone
☎ 07935 557380



Independent Supporters

Does your child have Special Educational Needs and/or a Disability?

Are you a young person with Special Educational needs and/or a Disability?

From 1st September 2014, families and young people have been able to access Independent Supporters to help with the Education, Health and Care (EHC) process:

- EHC Request to Assessment
- Assessment to Draft EHC through to Final Plan
- Information on Personal Budgets
- Transfer from Statements / Learning Difficulties Assessments (LDA's) to an EHC Plan

Would you like more information?

The Independent Supporter service is based within the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) which provides **FREE**, confidential and impartial information and support for families and young people (aged 0 to 25 years).

For more details please contact:
☎ 01782 236414
✉ independent-supporters@stoke.gov.uk
🌐 www.sendiass-stoke.co.uk/independent-supporters



All of the staff at SEND Information Advice and Support Service would like to wish all our parents/carers and young people a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

