



## **Devon Parent Partnership and Careers South West are working in partnership to offer you the new Independent Support Service (ISS).**

### **What is an Independent Supporter?**

Independent Support is a 2 year national programme funded by the Department of Education via the Council for Disabled Children to provide additional support to young people and parents during the implementation of the SEND reforms.

The Government has specified that Independent Supporters should be provided by private, voluntary and community sector organisations which are **independent** of the local authority but that they should work with and complement pre-existing local services.

The key job purpose of the Independent Supporter is:

To provide independent information, advice, and support to parents/carers and young people (age group 0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) who are either:

- going through a statutory Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment and development of the resulting EHC Plan;
- transitioning from a statement of SEN to an EHC Plan;
- Transitioning from a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) to an EHC Plan.

Any Independent Supporter will have completed accredited training and will have skills and expertise in working with parents and young people and have experience and understanding of SEN and disability.

### **What can an Independent Supporter help you with?**

An Independent Supporter's work with a family would depend on the families' individual need but in general could offer the following support;

- To help and support parents/carers and/or young people to understand the local offer. (<http://www.devonsendpathfinder.info/local-offer/>)
- To support and encourage young people to participate in relevant school meetings and reviews, so that their voice is heard regarding future aspirations and support needs.
- To provide information to parents/carers and/or young people on personal budgets within the context of an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- To support parents and young people to have confidence and understand the new legislative framework and to empower parents/carers and young people to participate effectively in the process.
- Assistance with preparation for meetings.
- Support with writing letters/presenting views.
- Explaining reports and draft documentation.
- Support parents/carers and young people to access support in resolving disagreements.

### **How can you get support from an Independent Supporter?**

You can request support by ringing 01392 383080 or emailing [devonias@devon.gov.uk](mailto:devonias@devon.gov.uk)

