

SENDiass



information advice
& support service

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information, Advice & Support Service for Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ANY SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES?

About Us:

All local authorities have a legal duty to provide children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities, and their parents, access to fair and unbiased information and advice relating to education, health and social care.

The Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS) responsibilities are contained in Chapter 2 of the SEND Code of Practice 2015 and include the importance of providing an impartial, confidential and accessible service, with the capacity to provide face-to-face, telephone and electronic support. Our services are free to those families living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

We are trained to support and work in partnership with parents, children and young people and aim to promote independence and self-advocacy to enable children and young people and their parents to engage in discussions and decisions about individual support and local provision as fully as possible.



SENDIASS offers help and advice to parents and carers who may be concerned about their child or young person's educational or other needs, and/or the provision made for them. We also offer a service to children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities, who may want to receive information, advice or support themselves.

We are funded by the Local Authority, but work as an "arm's length" service, which means that we operate separately from the services which have responsibility for making provision for children, young people and their families.

Early Years Support:

Chapter five of the SEN and Disability Code of Practice 2015 deals with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the early years. It applies to all children in early years settings whether they have an Educational Health Care (EHC) plan or not.

It emphasises the legal requirement upon early years' providers to have arrangements in place to identify and support children with SEN and disabilities. This could be done through the universal progress checks at age two or five, or at anytime. The code identifies four broad areas of need:

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



Special educational provision given to children is called SEN Support. The code recommends a graduated approach which has four stages of action: Assess; Plan; Do; Review.

Early years settings are advised to involve specialists “*where a child continues to make less than expected progress, despite evidence-based support and interventions that are matched to the child’s area of need.*” The decision to involve specialises should be taken with the child’s parents (paragraph 5.48 of the Code). Records about their children must be available to parents and they must include information about how the setting supports children with SEN and disabilities.

Referrals to SENDIASS:

SENDIASS accepts referrals from young people and parents/ carers themselves via telephone calls to our dedicated helpline or via email. Face to face appointments can be arranged either at one of our centres, your own home or an agreed venue local to your address. On occasion, where a parent or young person is unable to refer themselves independently, initial contact by a family can be supported by another practitioner already known to them. We ask that the practitioner seeks consent from the family concerned in the first instance, and/or calls us in the presence of the individual to request our involvement or supports the individual to make a written request (email/letter) for SENDIASS support. A member of the SENDIASS team will then talk to the child, young person or parent to discuss what we can offer and to ascertain whether we can help.

Children, young people and their parents can refer to SENDIASS as many times as they wish. We will continue to work with individuals for as long as they need our support, with the



aim of increasing their knowledge, skills and confidence.

What do we offer?

Our services include:

- Access to a confidential helpline.
- Support with transition into school meetings and advice around choosing a school
- Support in preparing for and attending meetings at Preschool and beyond to discuss the support your child is receiving or the support you feel your child needs
- Information about options, rights and responsibilities
- Advice and information about the responsibilities of early year providers, schools, colleges and Local Authorities
- Advice and information about the EHC Needs Assessment process
- Help with paperwork - filling in forms; reading/writing letters and reports
- Support in resolving disagreements
- Support in managing mediation, appeals to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) and complaints on matters related to SEN and disability
- Signposting other statutory and voluntary services, including local parent support groups and forums



We are also happy to support professional colleagues by providing information, advice and training as appropriate.

Contact Us

Office: 01202 451970 (if you live in the Bournemouth and Christchurch area)

01202 261933 (if you live in the Poole area)

Email: sendiass@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Please note that we log client details and email content on our secure database. If you don't want your details to be held in this way then please respond accordingly.

<https://www.sendiass4bcp.org/>