

Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Service

(Formerly the Parent Partnership Service)

Newsletter

October 2014
Issue 1: SEND Reforms

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A new Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Service for Windsor and Maidenhead

From the 1st September 2014, Parent Partnership Services (PPS) in every local authority have become Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Services.

Each IAS Service will continue to provide support similar to that of a PPS, although the type of support, and who is entitled to receive it, has been significantly expanded.

Contact us



Call our confidential helpline on 01628 683182



IAS@rbwm.gov.uk

www.iasrbwm.gov.uk Our new website is under construction and will offer a range of downloadable resources for children and young people and their parents. We ask you to bear with us while we complete this work. Please do contact us via the helpline or email in the meantime.

What is an Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Service?

- We are a statutory service that provides information, advice and support to disabled children and young people, and those with special educational needs (SEN), and their parents.
- Our services are impartial, accessible and free.
- In RBWM, we are an “arms-length” service, which means that we operate independently of the services with responsibility for making provision for children and young people with SEND and their families.
- Our obligations and responsibilities are set out in Chapter 2 of the SEND Code of Practice.
- We aim to provide you with a high quality service, which meets your individual needs, in accordance with the national standards set out in IASSN Quality Standards.

What to expect from your IAS Service

- Access to impartial and independently trained IAS staff to discuss your questions and/or concerns on matters relating to SEN and disability.
- Information, advice and support provided in confidence, in accordance with the IAS Service Confidentiality Policy.
- IAS on subjects including local policy and practice, the Local Offer, personalisation, Personal Budgets, as well as the law on SEN and disability, health and social care.
- IAS through the statutory EHC needs assessment, planning and review processes, and through the processes of transition to the new system.
- Support in preparing for and attending meetings.
- Help with filling in forms and writing letters/reports.
- Support in resolving disagreements.
- Signposting to other local or national sources of advice, information and support.
- Links to local parent support groups and forums.
- Confidential and impartial IAS for young people (16+) on their own, if requested.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms 2014

– a summary

1. Children and Families Act (CFA) 2014

In March 2014, the Children and Families Bill received Royal Assent, becoming the **Children and Families Act 2014 (CFA 2104)**.

Part 3 of the Act is entitled “Children and Young People in England with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities” and places legal duties on Local Authorities and other services in relation disabled children and young people, and those with SEN. Most of Part 3 came into effect on 1st September 2014.

Useful information about the CFA can be found at

<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/summary-of-the-children-and-families-act>

New legal duties on Local Authorities now include:

- Ensuring that children, young people and their parents participate fully in the decisions that affect them;
- Publishing a Local Offer;
- Having in place process for conducting Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessments and drawing up EHC Plans;
- Establishing joint commissioning arrangements in place with their partner clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) (Health).

2. A new SEND Code of Practice

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years is statutory guidance, which means that Local Authorities, schools, colleges, CCGs and a range of other agencies **must** consider what it says and **must** have legitimate reasons if they act outside it.

The full Code of Practice can be downloaded at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25

The Department for Education (DfE) has produced some guides for parents and young people, providing a useful overview of the new SEND system:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers

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

Key changes include:

- School Action and School Action Plus are replaced by “SEN Support”, which describes a graduated approach to identifying and meeting special educational needs;
- Education, Health and Care Plans replace statements of special educational need and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs). EHC needs assessments and plans should be person centred and focused on personal goals and outcomes;
- There is a new duty on health services to deliver the health provision set out in an EHC Plan;
- EHC plans can be maintained when a young person is in college, undertaking an apprenticeship, or “not in employment, education or training” (NEET) up to the age of 25. Post-16 institutions and provision now fall within the new SEND framework.
- Distinct rights for a Young Person (a person over compulsory school age, but under 25) within the SEND framework. A young person is entitled to take decisions in relation to the CFA 2014 on their own behalf, rather than having decisions made for them by their parents. This is subject to the young person “having capacity” to take a decision under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

3. Transitional Arrangements

The Government has published statutory guidance on the arrangements for transferring from the old legal framework to the new.

Locally, the Children and Young People's Disability Service (CYPDS) has published its own timetable for transferring existing statements to the new system and reviewing the needs of young people who currently have an LDA. These can be found at:

<http://search3.openobjects.com/kb5/rbwm/directory/site.page?id=CtwNcYyWFeQ>

The CYPDS or IAS Service will be happy to answer your questions about the transition arrangements.

4. The Local Offer

The CFA 2014 requires all Local Authorities to publish and maintain a "Local Offer".

This sets out the education, social care and health provision that the Local Authority expects to be available for disabled children and young people, and those with SEN. You will also find information about local activities as well as local community and voluntary sector support.

RBWM has developed its Local Offer in collaboration with its partners, and with the participation of local parents.

The Local Offer will be further developed over time and your feedback will be important in ensuring that it provides the information you need.

<http://search3.openobjects.com/kb5/rbwm/directory/localoffer.page>

5. The Independent Support Programme

To ensure that support is available to parents and young people entering or transitioning to the new SEND system, the Government has made available additional funding for the recruitment and training of "Independent Supporters" until March 2016.

Independent Supporters will be specifically trained to offer advice and time-limited support to parents of children with SEND, and young people with SEND, through the process of EHC needs assessment and the development of an EHC Plan.

Here in RBWM, our local Independent Support delivery partner, appointed by the Council for Disabled Children, is Adviza. Adviza may be contacted on 0118 4027177.

We, the IAS Service, also aim to recruit volunteer Independent Supporters. If you are able to give some time and are interested in undertaking the training to deliver Independent Support, please do contact us!

Individuals who would like an Independent Supporter should contact the IAS Service in the first instance to discuss their needs.

Of course, children and young people with SEND, and their parents may also contact the IAS Service and request the direct support of an IAS worker at any stage of the SEND process.

Also in the News

This section contains news items that may be of interest to you. Please note, however, that the inclusion of news items in this Newsletter does not represent a recommendation or an endorsement of the content by the IAS Service, nor can we take responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or suitability of the linked information.

Whizz Kidz launch new Parents Network

The charity Whizz-Kidz has launched their Parents Network –the first national network created especially for families of young wheelchair users. The Network has a big emphasis on peer to peer support, with resources on subjects such as travel and dealing with transition periods. They are also partnering with Mumsnet to launch a forum which will provide an online space for parents to chat and share advice. Visit the network at <http://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk/get-our-help/parents-network>

Preparing for Adulthood Factsheet on Personal Budgets for Post-16 Provision and FE Colleges

Preparing for Adulthood's new Factsheet combines work from Preparing for Adulthood, In Control, AOC and Natspec. It explores examples and scenarios of how personal budgets can be implemented in Further Education colleges and post-16 provision.

<http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/resources/pfa-resources/factsheet-personal-budgets-for-post-16-provision-and-fe-colleges>

Safeguarding Children with Autism for Professionals

The National Autistic Society is working with Ambitious about Autism and the Autism Education Trust to improve safeguarding for children and young people with autism and together they have developed a booklet for professionals. The booklet looks at key principles of safeguarding children with autism for those who have limited experience of child protection, or for those who haven't worked with children with autism before.

<http://www.autism.org.uk/safeguarding>

Department for Education equality objectives

The document sets out how the department demonstrates compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-education-equality-objectives>

Review of standards for teaching assistants launched

The independent review will aim to replace the current set of standards with a clearer and more concise version which reflects the diversity of the existing schools system. The review is expected to report back to the Secretary of State for Education in spring 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-of-standards-for-teaching-assistants-launched>

Boost for carers from rise in allowance threshold

The government announced that from April 2015, the earnings threshold for Carers' Allowance will be raised to £110 a week.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-for-carers-from-rise-in-allowance-threshold>

Dates for your Diary

Parents' Share Programme

Manor Green School 09.30 – 11.30

Wednesday, 15th October The Local Offer / Independent Support Programme
Wednesday, 19th November Personal Independence payments (PIPS)

Riverside Children's Centre 10.00 – 12.00

Friday, 7th November Coffee morning
Friday, 5th December Coffee morning



Festive Get Together
Friday, 19th December 11:00 – 13:30, Manor Green School



If you would like to advertise an event in our Newsletter, please contact us on 01628 683182 or IAS@rbwm.gov.uk