



The Rotherham Parent Partnership Service

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council
Where Everyone Matters

FACTSHEET WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT PARENTAL SUPPORTER?

Independent Parental Supporters (IPS) help individual parents through the SEN process.

All parents whose child has been identified as having special educational needs can have access to an IPS if they feel it would be helpful.

Rotherham Parent Partnership has a register of volunteer IPSs who have attended an initial accredited training course and access regularly training on SEN related issues.

IPSs are volunteers who understand parents' concerns about their child's special educational needs. Many of them have gone through the SEN process with their own children. Some have experience of SEN from the 'professional' side too. All can offer independent support to parents.

Parents who contact us and who need an IPS are carefully matched with someone who can support them. We operate a strict confidentiality policy and no information is passed to a third party without Parent/Carer consent.

Support from Independent Parental Supporters can include:

- Assisting parents/carers in communicating with schools and other services involved with their child
- Accompanying parents/carers to meetings or reviews
- Helping parents to put their views in writing
- Reading through and discussing written documents, for example, letters from the LEA, draft statements and advice
- Explaining the SEN process
- Providing a 'listening ear' for parents

If you would like to be put in contact with an IPS or are interested in becoming an IPS please contact the Parent Partnership Service on Rotherham 823627.