

Get in touch

If you live in Croydon, Lambeth or Southwark and want to be referred to an Independent Supporter, get in touch with Family Lives by:

Tel: 020 3131 3150

Email: parentssupportherts@familylives.org.uk

To find out more information about the Independent Support service, visit:
www.familylives.org.uk/IS

Family Lives also run a free,¹ 24-hour, confidential **Helpline** on **0808 800 2222** for advice, information and support on any aspect of parenting and family life.

Independent Support: Education, Health and Care Plans

Family Lives offer an Independent Support service in Croydon, Lambeth and Southwark. Independent Supporters can provide information and support to parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities who are being assessed for, or transferring to, an Education, Health and Care Plan.



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What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?

Statements of special educational needs (SEN) and learning difficulty assessments (LDAs) are being replaced with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans. EHC Plans are integrated plans of education, health and social care provision for children and young people aged 0 to 25 with SEN and disabilities, who are in education or training.

EHC Plans focus on identifying individual outcomes and put children, young people and parents/carers at the centre of the assessment, planning and review processes. EHC Plans focus on what the child or young person wants to achieve and what support is needed to achieve this.



Who are Independent Supporters?

In Croydon, Lambeth and Southwark, paid and volunteer Independent Supporters are being provided by Family Lives to give free and impartial information and support during the assessment and transfer processes for an EHC Plan.

Independent Supporters will support parents of children with SEN and disabilities, and young people (aged 16+) with SEN and disabilities, who:

- are being assessed for an EHC Plan
- are transferring from a statement or LDA to an EHC Plan
- live in Croydon, Lambeth or Southwark

How can Independent Supporters help?

Independent Supporters can help parents, children and young people during the EHC Plan assessment and transfer processes by:

- Providing information about EHC Plans and the local referral, assessment and transfer processes.
- Supporting parents, children and young people through the EHC Plan assessment and transfer processes.
- Working with you if you are new to the EHC Plan referral process.
- Helping parents, children and young people to contribute to their EHC Plan and have their views heard and made central.
- Helping you to put together your child's one page profile.
- Giving information about the local offer and personal budgets.
- Acting as a named contact and liaising across agencies during the assessment and transfer processes, as required.
- Signposting you to the local SEND Information, Advice and Support Service when the issue is outside the remit of an Independent Supporter.

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