

The role of Independent Supporters

Independent Supporters can work with you and your child to ensure that your voices are heard. They offer a free, friendly, flexible service for families and young people. They offer support when:

- you have applied for an education, health and care plan (EHCP) for your child
- your child has a statement that is transferring to an EHCP.

They aim to do this by:

- supporting you to understand the legal framework underpinning the changes in SEN
- helping you think through and identify what the changes mean for you
- attending or supporting you at meetings with the local authority or school

The local organisations that provide this service are:


Independent Support Partnership

 020 8831 6076

 independent.support@richmondaid.org.uk

 www.raid.org.uk

KIDS Richmond and Kingston SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

 020 8831 6179

 richmondkingston@kids.org.uk

 www.kids.org.uk

In addition to independent support, the Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) offers advice across a wide range of subjects. This may include help with personal budgets and how to use the Local Offer plus:

- support with understanding reports and letters, attending meetings and preparing for assessments and reviews
- information and signposting to support services in your area
- support with transition and preparing for adulthood
- support with and signposting to mediation
- advice and support on benefits

Special Educational Needs or Disability?

Are you interested in support and services on offer for families including children and young people aged 0 to 25 years in your local area of Kingston or Richmond? Then the Local Offer is for you.

www.afclocaloffer.org.uk



What is the Local Offer?

It is a website that includes information about:

- education services from pre-school to further education
- health services which are universal, targeted and specialist
- social care services including short breaks
- preparing for adulthood for young people aged 19 to 25
- training opportunities for young people
- transport arrangements including the SEND transport policy
- arrangements for assessing children and young people
- how to request an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- transferring from a statement of special educational needs to an education, health and care plan
- the option of personal budgets
- making complaints, appeals and tribunals
- information, advice and guidance on funding, financial support and support available from local voluntary organisations.

The website has many accessible features to help people use the information including:

- accessible font
- text only version
- high contrast version
- Dyslexia friendly colour scheme
- ability to change font size
- Google translate in many languages

What if I don't have access to the internet?

You could visit your local library or other public access computers and ask to view the Local Offer there. You can phone 020 8547 4722 to ask for printed copies of individual pages.

Registering on the Local Offer website

You can choose to register basic details on the website so that you can build a personalised resource of information and advice specific to you and your family.

You said, we did – giving us your feedback

The Local Offer website is managed by Achieving for Children but is for the community. Your comments, suggestions and feedback on the website and the services and support included as part of the offer are important. Your input will help shape future services and ensure that the information is always relevant.

You can contact us:

- ☎ 020 8547 4722
- ✉ sendlocaloffer@achievingforchildren.org.uk
- 🌐 www.afclocaloffer.org.uk
using the 'Contact us' form



Other ways to get support and advice

Parent carer forums are local groups of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside local authorities, education, health and other service providers to ensure the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families. They also offer support and advice to families from a parent point of view.

SEND Family Voices (SFV) provides this service for Kingston and Richmond.

- ☎ 07469 746145
- ✉ SENDFamilyVoices@outlook.com
- 🌐 www.sendfamilyvoices.org