



For more information or to request an Independent Supporter:

Tel: 0300 123 7782

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About Amaze

Amaze is a Brighton and Hove based charity that offers information, advice and support to parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We also support young people with SEND up to the age of 25. We offer Independent Support for EHCPs in Brighton and Hove, West Sussex and East Sussex.

Amaze

Community Base

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Independent Support with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)



for families in Sussex

What is an Independent Supporter?

An Independent Supporter is someone who can give parent carers and young people extra advice and support while they go through the needs assessment that can lead to an **Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan**.

An EHC plan or EHCP is a **legal document** that sets out a child or young person's special educational, health and social care needs. It describes the support that will be given to meet those needs and how this will enable them to achieve what they want to do in their life. The EHCP replaces the old Statement of special educational needs.

All our Independent Supporters have completed accredited national training and have an enhanced DBS check.

Who can have an Independent Supporter?

A **parent carer or young person** going through the EHC needs assessment can request support at any stage. **Professionals** can also make referrals with the permission of parent carers or young people. The **Independent Support** service is **free** as we are funded directly by the government.

We work with families **transferring from Statements** of SEN to EHC plans and with families getting an **EHC plan for the first time**.

What does an Independent Supporter do?

An Independent Supporter **works alongside you** during the weeks when your child/young person is going through the EHC needs assessment and when an EHC plan is being written, discussed and then finalised.



We will...

- **Explain** what is happening and how you should be involved
- **Support** you to write the parental and young person contributions
- Make sure you feel able to **get your views across**
- **Check you have the information** you need
- **Signpost** you to services
- **Attend meetings** with you to discuss the EHC plan
- **Look through reports** with you
- **Check through the draft EHC plan** with you and support you to request changes if any are needed
- **Get involved** at any stage of the process
- Allocate a named Independent Supporter for you

