



For more information or to request an Independent Supporter:

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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

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



We also offer support with Annual Reviews

## 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.

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**. We can also support with the **Annual Review** of the EHC plan

## 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 can...

- **Explain** what is happening and how you should be involved
- **Support** you to write the parent carer 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
- Support you with the **Annual review** of the EHC plan
- **Get involved** at any stage of the process
- Provide an **individualised** service that works for you

