Independent Supporters are an additional, time limited resource, for each Local Authority. They will support parents and young people during changes in how disabled children and young people, and those with special educational needs (SEN), receive services.

Independent Supporters are from Information Advice and Support Services, and voluntary, community and private organisations, selected by the Council for Disabled Children. Barnardo’s will be providing an Independent Supporters in ten London Boroughs: -

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Local Authority</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barking and Dagenham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ISBarkingDagenham@barnardos.org.uk">ISBarkingDagenham@barnardos.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnet</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ISBarnet@barnardos.org.uk">ISBarnet@barnardos.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammersmith and Fulham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ISHammersmithFulham@barnardos.org.uk">ISHammersmithFulham@barnardos.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Haringey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ISHaringey@barnardos.org.uk">ISHaringey@barnardos.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>Harrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Havering</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ISHavering@barnardos.org.uk">ISHavering@barnardos.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:ISKensingtonChelsea@barnardos.org.uk">ISKensingtonChelsea@barnardos.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tower Hamlets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waltham Forest</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ISWalthamForest@barnardos.org.uk">ISWalthamForest@barnardos.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barnardo’s London Independent Support Service is included, with contact details, in the Local Offer of the ten boroughs where we are providing a service.

If you want to contact us to find out more after reading this leaflet either telephone or email us at the mailbox for the Local Authority where you live, giving your name and a contact number and/or e-mail address.

The contact details are:

**Barnardo’s BLISS**
Suite One
49-51The Broadway, E15 4BQ
Tel: 0208 555 1880

**Barnardo’s Head Office:**
Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG
Tel: 020 8551 0011 | Fax: 020 8551 8267
Barnardo’s Registered Charity Nos. 216250 and SC037605

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Barnardo’s London

**Background**
Who are independent Supporters and what do they do?

Independent Supporters are completely independent of the Local Authority. They are either paid staff or volunteers, but they have all been specially trained to provide advice and support about the Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan processes. Support will be provided to:

- Children who are being assessed for EHC plans
- Children with a statement of special educational needs converting to an EHC plan
- Young people with a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) converting to an EHC plan

Independent Supporters offer a range of time-limited support, usually for between 15 and 20 weeks for each family requiring Independent Support. The support offered will include;

- Helping the parent or young person to transfer a Statement into an EHC plan
- Helping the parent or young person understand the Local Offer
- Acting as a named contact person for the parent or young person throughout the assessment and planning process
- Liaising across a range of agencies with the parent or young person to help gather the information required for an EHC plan
- Providing information to parents and young people on personal budgets
- Supporting the parent or young person in contributing to an EHC plan that is then ready to be signed off by a designated professional
- Signposting parents and young people to the local Information Advice and Support (IAS) Services, when the issue is outside the remit of an Independent Supporter.
- Helping families to build confidence and resilience for the future.

Will the Independent Supporter stay in contact after the EHC Plan is completed?

No. the Independent Supporter will be involved for between 15-20 weeks. S/he will make sure you are signposted to services that can continue to offer the right support. This may be a referral to the Information Advice Support (IASS) Service (previously called the Parent Partnership Service). If parents of a Barnardo’s London Independent Support Service will work with parents and young people who may benefit from help understanding the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms and would welcome support with making a contribution to the EHC Plan, asking questions, knowing what is available, and what different services can offer.

How do I request an Independent Supporter?

Barnardo’s London Independent Support Service will work with parents and young people who may benefit from help understanding the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms and would welcome support with making a contribution to the EHC Plan, asking questions, knowing what is available, and what different services can offer.