

- Dudley's Local Offer and how can you can use it to help find support
- More information about mental capacity and making decisions
- Advocacy

What can SENDIASS do for you?

- Explain information in a way that you will understand
- Attend meetings with you
- Write letters for you and help complete forms
- Offer access to support if you are going through an EHC needs assessment
- Help when things go wrong and advice on complaints to do with special educational needs and/or disabilities including those related to your health and social care

Can you contact Dudley SENDIASS yourself?

We will often work with parents, children and young people together, but we are also able to provide a separate service to children and young people.

- You can contact us yourself on the contact details listed below. We can offer information, advice or support on the phone, via email or can arrange to meet with you. You can also ask someone else to contact SENDIASS for you such as your parents or a carer
- You can of course bring someone with you to a meeting such as a parent, carer or advocate

For more information contact:

Dudley SEND information, advice and support service

For referrals email dudley.sendiass@dudley.gov.uk

Service telephone number 07900 161363

Website: <http://dudleysendiass.org.uk/>



Children and young people

Dudley special educational needs and disability information, advice and support service (SENDIASS)

We can provide information for children and young people with special educational needs or a disability

- A child is someone who is under compulsory school age. Compulsory school age finishes after the last day of the summer term in year the child becomes 16
- A young person is someone over compulsory school age but under 25

• **Free** • **Impartial** • **Confidential**



The Children and Families Act 2014 made changes to how some children, young people and their families are supported.

Dudley SENDIASS can give advice to parents and carers and children and young people either separately, or alongside their parents, up to the age of 25.

A child or young person may have special educational needs if:

- They find it harder to learn than other people of their age
- Face challenges that make it hard to go to school or college
- They need extra or different support to learn

A child or young person who has disabilities

- May have problems with their health
- May find it harder to do things than other people

As young people develop and increasingly form their own views, they should be involved more closely in decisions about their own future.

After compulsory school age the right to make requests and decisions about their special educational needs and/or disabilities applies to the person directly rather than to their parents.

Parents or other family members can continue to support young people in making decisions or act on their behalf, provided that the young person is happy for them to do so, and it is likely that parents will remain closely involved in the great majority of cases.

- Sometimes some young people will not be able to make decisions. This is called lacking capacity and they might need to have a mental capacity assessment.
- If you are under 16, your parents may be the main people making decisions about your life but you should be asked about what support you think you need and what you want to do in the future. You may need support to help you do this, Dudley SENDIASS can offer this support.

What does sendiass do?

We provide legally based information, advice and support on education law relating to being disabled or having special educational needs.

Issues relate to education, health and social care

We are there to listen and help you but if SENDIASS cannot help you with something then we will do our best to find another place or service that can.

– SENDIASS is **impartial**

That means we will not tell you what to do. We will give you honest and clear information so that you can make your own choices.

– SENDIASS is **confidential**

That means that any conversations or meetings will be private and we won't discuss anything with anyone else unless we have your permission. This would not apply if someone is in danger of being hurt.

What type of information and advice can you receive?

- Explaining what support a school or college may offer a student
- Support in requesting an education health care assessment
- Advice when you receive a draft education, health and care plan (EHC plan)
- Help if you do not agree with what is written in your EHC plan
- Advice on complaints relating to SEND issues, including support in appealing to the special educational needs and disability tribunal
- Help in understanding mediation
- Personal budgets