

Does my child have special educational needs?

Every child is different and they all mature and learn at different rates, and are better at some things than others. When difficulties persist however, they may become a cause for concern, and this could mean that they have special educational needs (SEN).

Children with SEN may have a difficulty in learning or communication. They may have a physical disability or emotional or behavioural problems. Many difficulties are mild and temporary but some will be more severe and longer term. Most children with SEN will be taught in an ordinary school. Very few will need to attend a special school, where their needs can be met by specialist teaching and smaller groups.

If you think your pre-school child may have SEN, you can ask your health visitor or GP for help. They may refer you to the Portage service. Portage is a home teaching service for pre school children who have developmental delay. Parents are supported by trained personnel who visit the family regularly.

Parent's Comment:

"I have the confidence to go to meetings on my own now"

For more information

This leaflet is one of several produced by the Parent Partnership Service.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دوسری زبان میں چاہیے
یا آپ کو کسی ترجمان کی ضرورت ہو تو براہ مہربانی
ہم سے مندرجہ ذیل نمبروں پر رابطہ کریں:

Tel: 01422 392695

Fax: 01422 392660

email: cpps@calderdale.gov.uk

website: www.calderdaleparents.com



Joanne Grenfell
Parent Partnership
Manager and
Lead Officer



Trizia Wells
Senior Parent
Partnership Officer



Jayne Woodworth
Parent Partnership
Officer

Calderdale



A service for parents and carers of children in Calderdale with special educational needs

Advice, support and information



Northgate House • Northgate
Halifax • HX11UN
Tel: 01422 392695

What is the Calderdale Parent Partnership Service?

If you are a parent or carer of a child with special educational needs, trying to get advice, support and information can seem very confusing at times. It can feel intimidating to approach the education authority, school or other professionals involved in your child's education. Calderdale Parent Partnership service is here to ensure that you receive the advice and information which will help you make the right choices for your child. Our aim is to help parents, carers, schools and all professionals work together to create the right environment for children with special educational needs.

The Calderdale Parent Partnership Service is situated in the council offices in Northgate in Halifax town centre. This makes our job much easier, because we have easy access to, and a close working relationship with, the various council departments and officers. HOWEVER, we are independent of the local authority in the way in which we work and all calls to our service are treated as confidential.

Parent's comments ...

"The people at Parent Partnership are very comfortable to talk to"

"It's nice to know there is someone to give advice"

What can we do?

- Come to meetings with you and make sure your voice and the voice of your child is heard
- We can help liaise with schools and other professionals
- Explain jargon and decipher official letters
- Liaise with other agencies to ensure your child receives the best provision
- Help and support you through the statementing process
- Help you to prepare an appeal against school placement, exclusion, or refusal to issue a statement or assess
- Provide you with information about specialist organisations
- Provide you with a friendly listening ear - an Independent Parental Supporter, a volunteer who has gone through similar experiences and understands the difficulties facing you
- Keep you informed with newsletters, details of training and other information

Independent Parental Supporters

Please contact us if you would like to become a volunteer IPS – we offer free training and support from a friendly team.

Working with others

Calderdale Parent Partnership works closely with many agencies. In many cases we can make direct referrals to services including Speech and Language Therapy, Statement Review and Support, Social Services, Early Years Service and Family Support Services. There are many other sources of support that we can put you in touch with.

If a school or other agency thinks that they know a parent in need of our service, they must have the parent's permission before contacting us.

Where appropriate, we can also help you to meet with the Calderdale Educational Psychology Service for a consultation. This is a one-off appointment for parents to discuss specific concerns.

Parents can attend these sessions with their child's teacher or SENCO if they wish. They will be helped to identify practical strategies to address their concerns.