



Umbrella will be launching a new service for children and young people and their families on 1st November 2014. The new service will be named the " Umbrella Independent Support Service".

This new service has been established following the implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms that have recently been introduced by the Government. Independent support is a Government funded programme running until March 2016 to provide additional support to children, young people and parents during the implementation of the SEND reforms. The Council for Disabled Children has awarded Umbrella the contract to provide Independent Support in Derby and Derbyshire.

Independent Support (IS) will be used specifically to provide support for young people and parents/carers through the introduction of the new assessment process leading to the development of Education Health and Care plans (EHC's). Support will be provided to:

- Young people or parents/carers of children being assessed for an EHC plan
- Young people or parents/carers of children with a statement of SEN transferring to an EHC plan.
- young people with a Learning Disability Assessment transferring to an EHC plan

The support will be provided during the assessment and planning process. The support provided will be impartial and time limited, this will help parents/carers and young people to:

- understand the SEND reforms and the new EHC process
- contribute to assessments and take an active part in the decision making process
- access support from a wide variety of external services
- understand the processes for resolving disputes, attending mediation and the routes to appeals and complaints.

Information regarding Independent Support will automatically be provided to parents and young people once a request for an EHC has been agreed. Referrals can come from any source including self referrals. To access independent support please call;

Umbrella Independent Support Service on 01332 785658

e-mail requests to; [Independent.Supporters@umbrella.uk.net](mailto:Independent.Supporters@umbrella.uk.net)

All referrals will be acknowledged. Umbrella aims to make initial contact with the family and/or young person within one working day of referral.

**Working to improve the quality of life for disabled children and young adults and their families in Derby City and Southern Derbyshire**

---

Umbrella receives funding from Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, NHS Derby City, Children in Need, Lloyds TSB and Health & Social Care Volunteer Fund