

IMPARTIALITY POLICY

Central Bedfordshire SENDIASS is provided “in house” but operated “at arm’s length” from the Local Authority to ensure a totally impartial and unbiased service.

What do we mean by impartial information, advice and support?

This information is about the impartial information, advice and support required by the SEND Code of Practice [SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf](#)

The Children and Families Act 2014 says local authorities must provide information advice and support about special educational needs (SEN), disability, health and social care for children, young people and parents.

The SEND Code of Practice says...

Local authorities must arrange for children with SEN or disabilities for whom they are responsible, and their parents, and young people with SEN or disabilities for whom they are responsible, to be provided with information and advice about matters relating to their SEN or disabilities, including matters relating to health and social care. This must include information, advice and support on the take-up and management of Personal Budgets. In addition, in carrying out their duties under Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities must have regard to the importance of providing children and their parents and young people with the information and support necessary to participate in decisions. (2.1).

This means that every local authority should provide a service that is free, easy to access and confidential and that can help children, parents and young people take part in decisions that affect their lives,

The Local Offer must include information about the sources of information, advice and support for parents, children and young people and how this is resourced.

What does Impartial mean?

The SEND Code of Practice says: The information, advice and support should be impartial and provided at arm’s length from the local authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups (2.8)

This means that the information, advice and support that we offer are firmly based in the law and the SEND Code of Practice. We provide unbiased information and advice about the local authority’s policies and procedures and about the policy and practice in local schools and other settings.

What is our role?

Parents, Carers and Young people with Special Educational needs and/or disabilities will be given factual information, advice and support based on SEND legislation and guidance to understand the options, make informed decisions and understand their rights.

- ✖ We do not take sides.
- ✖ We cannot give opinions or make promises.
- ✖ We do not take part in any decision-making process.
- ✖ The advice we give is based on what the law says, not local policies and procedures.
- ✖ We do not hold power over Local Authority or school policies, practices, or procedures.
- ✖ We do not give priority to any particular impairment, disability or special educational need
- ✖ We do not campaign for any particular approach to education.

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