



Cumbria SEND
Information, Advice & Support Service
(formerly Cumbria Parent Partnership Service)



Offering impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities and their parents & carers.

Parent and carer meetings.

You may have heard about the changes to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) statutory duties and legislation, which came into force in Sept 2014.

Many of the changes are based on the **Children and Families Act 2014 – Part 3**, which received Royal Assent in April 2014.

Part 3 is all about children and young people in England with special educational needs or disabilities and how Local Authorities, Health Services and other organisations should work together because they “need to support the child and his or her parent, or the young person, in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help him or her achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes.”

Children and Families Act 2014

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted>

From this legislation the statutory guidance was produced – **SEND Code of Practice 0-25 years Sept. 2014 and revised to implement even more changes in Jan 2015 to be used from April 2015.**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf)

and also more specific guides for parents and carers:

Special educational needs and disabilities: a guide for parents and carers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Many organisations have produced summaries and easy to read fact sheets to help children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers understand these changes, these sheets are useful for everyone and you may want to use some of them. **Council for Disabled Children, IPSEA and Contact a Family** are some of the more frequently used national organisations.

<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources>, <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/> or <http://www.cafamily.org.uk/>

Cumbria SEND Information, Advice and Support Service – formerly known as Parent Partnership Service - can work with you if you want more information or need more impartial advice and support. We now work directly with children and young people as well, if they want us to.

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/schoolsandlearning/ils/parentpartnership/>

The SEND processes and paperwork have had to change to reflect the new legislation and these processes have new statutory timelines – **IPSEA** have some useful information.

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/home> and the Local Authority explain the new processes and

paperwork on the **Local Offer**.

<http://search3.openobjects.com/kb5/cumbria/fsd/home.page>

In the **SEND Code of Practice – 0-25 years** - Chapter 6 tells you about how schools should be supporting children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities. Schools have to make sure all pupils are properly identified, assessed, planned for, receive support and have their additional needs reviewed. There are four broad areas of need identified in the Code of Practice – Communication & Interaction, Cognition and Learning, Social, emotional and mental health difficulties and Sensory and/or physical needs.

We have produced a SEND Journey in Cumbria document to try and explain how all this national information fits into local provision. We have also brought together lots of organisations and services in Cumbria who provide SEND Information, Advice and Support and formed a **SEND IAS Partnership** to help children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers have a better idea about who can help them, at various times.

Cumbria has a Parent Carer Forum which is just for parents and carers who have children with special educational needs or disabilities. It is free to become a member and you can use social media – Facebook and Twitter to chat with other parent carers and find out what's going on and how you can get more involved in changing services for the better, if you want to.

<http://www.cumbriaparentcarerforum.org.uk/>

The main principles of all the new laws and guidance have happened because children and young people and their parents and carers were fed up of not being properly supported; having to tell their story over and over again, services and large organisations not always working together to solve problems and help families overcome the difficulties they faced. Edward Timpson – the government minister for Children and Families wants children and young people and their parents to have more say about the support they need and when they need it.

Now that these changes have been in place for over a year the government are going to send inspectors out into Local Areas to ask children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers, what difference the new laws have made to their lives. It is important that the government receive information about all the services and organisations in the Local Area so a joint team of inspectors will be sent to do the inspection.

The team of inspectors will be made up of **Ofsted** (the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. They inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people, and services providing education and skills for learners of all ages) and **CQC** (Care Quality Commission who monitor, inspect and regulate health and social care services) members.

To find out more about the SEND Local Area Inspections please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-areas-to-get-more-notice-of-send-inspections>