



North East Lincolnshire SENDIASS

Impartiality Policy for Children and Young People

NE Lincs SENDIASS is an independent service and we are not controlled by the Local Authority. The role of the service is to give information and advice to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. If you are a child or young person we can support you separate from your parent/career.

We will:

- Support you to voice your views and opinions with the people who work with you.
- Treat all children, young people, organisations and their representatives with equal respect.
- Provide information that will be fair and will include all your available choices.

We will not:

- Take sides
- Tell other people what you said. We will keep it private unless you tell us you or somebody else is being harmed or has committed a crime
- Tell you what to do and will provide information to help you make the best choices for you
- Make decisions for you

Our telephone number is 01472 355365

Email: nelincs@barnardos.org.uk

Write to us: SENDIASS, Barnardo's, 11 Dudley Street, Grimsby,
DN31 2AW

Reviewed Dec 2018

How we know we are fair?

- NE Lincs SENDIASS follow the National Quality Standards which support and provide impartial information, advice and guidance.
- NE Lincs SENDIASS is provided by Barnardo's which means we are separate from the Local Authority.
- Our team works in a building that is separate from the Local Authority special educational needs team.
- We're *impartial* we do not take sides and we act independently from the local authority, individual or organisation.
- We provide you with unbiased *information and advice* about the Local authority's policies and procedure.

Advocacy Explanation

Advocacy means getting support from another person to help you express your views and wishes and help you understand and exercise your rights. IASS do not fulfil the role of statutory advocates - more info here - <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/advocacy/legal-rights-to-advocacy/#> nor do they provide legal advocacy as provided by a lawyer.

More information on what we mean by advocacy can be found on the MIND website and in the extract below:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/advocacy/#.WyJ4mKdKiM9>

An advocate can:

- Listen to your views and concerns
- Help you explore your options and rights (without pressuring you)
- Provide information to help you make informed decisions
- Help you contact relevant people, or contact them on your behalf
- Accompany you and support you in meetings or appointments.

Reviewed Dec 2018

An advocate will not:

Give you their personal opinion

Solve problems and make decisions for you

Make judgements about you.

The support of an advocate is often particularly useful in meetings when you might not feel confident in expressing yourself.

They can:

Support you to ask all the questions you want to ask

Make sure all the points you want covered are included in the meeting

Explain your options to you without giving their opinion

Help keep you safe during the meeting – for example, if you find the meeting upsetting, your advocate can ask for a break until you feel able to continue.