

What is involved in becoming a volunteer for SEND Family Partnership?

Volunteers wishing to become Independent Parental Supporters (IPSs) will have free training and ongoing support which will equip them with the basic understanding of special educational needs and disability issues and give them the confidence to support other parents.

After training, IPSs can start to provide support. Training is **free** and expenses are paid. IPSs can work in their local area or volunteer to travel around the county.

As an IPS, you will be able to help Staffordshire families with a child or young person with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) by:

- Listening to parents and encouraging them to be confident and realistic in expressing their views
- Helping parents to draw up a profile of their child
- Helping parents make phone calls and draft letters with them
- Helping parents understand the role of different professionals and the ways in which children are supported in school
- Attending meetings with parents; perhaps reminding them of questions that they wanted to ask.
- Accompanying parents on school visits.
- Being a befriender/enabler and offer emotional support.
- Helping parents access other sources of help and support.
- Providing feedback and take part in evaluating and monitoring of the SEND Family Partnership.
- Helping at SEND Family Partnership events and attending workshops and coffee mornings in schools if you wish.
- Promotion of the SEND Family Partnership

At meetings you may:

- Take notes for the parent.
- Remind parents of any points they may have forgotten to raise.
- Support the parent should they become distressed or anxious.
- Clarify points the parent may not have understood.