



## Professional Support for Children with Special Educational Needs

Many children require extra support at one time or another during their school career. This support is usually provided by teachers and support staff. In some cases, schools will ask for specialist advice from other agencies.

This leaflet describes some of the teams within the county council as well as other agencies that may help your child achieve their full potential.

### Children and Young People's Service

- **Additional needs teachers** who provide specialist advice about :
  - specific learning difficulties
  - speech and language difficulties
  - social communication and autistic spectrum disorders
  - visual or hearing impairment
  - physical difficulties
  - mental health
- **Behaviour and Curriculum Inclusion Team (BAC IN)**  
This team includes teachers, support assistants and family liaison workers who provide advice to schools and families about managing behaviour. They may also provide direct support to pupils who are at risk of exclusion.
- **Educational Psychologists (EPs)**  
Are all qualified teachers who have undertaken further training to become psychologists who specialise in child development, educational and special needs. They carry out observations and assessments to identify a pupil's special educational needs and the sort of additional support that is required.
- **Education Welfare Officers (EWOs)**  
Advise schools about attendance and other matters relating to a pupil's welfare. EWOs work with schools and families if a pupil's attendance is causing concern.

### Professionals who advise about medical needs

- **Community Paediatricians**  
Identify any health problems that may be affecting a child's educational progress. They are doctors who have undertaken specialist training in children's health.
- **Speech and language therapists**  
Advise school staff about learning programmes that will help to develop a child's communication. They will help school staff monitor a child's progress but do not usually work directly with the child once an assessment has been made.
- **Occupational therapists**  
Advise school staff about special equipment or a programme of activities that will help to develop a child's motor skills or spatial awareness.
- **Child and adolescent mental health Service (CAMHS)**  
This service helps families and schools to understand the mental health difficulties that a child may be experiencing which are having an impact on their behaviour outside school.

## School based family support professionals.

- Parent support advisers(PSA)
- Family support workers
- Home school liaison workers

Schools may also have the following support available for their pupils:

- School nurse
- Learning mentor
- School counsellor
- Connexions personal adviser

## How do these professionals become involved?

The special needs co-ordinator (SENCo) at your child's school will request a consultation with any professional team they think can help teachers meet your child's needs. If a professional is asked to work with your child, this should be discussed with you first.

It is the SENCo's job to co-ordinate all the professional advice and make sure that your child's teachers understand the support he or she requires. The SENCo will also arrange review meetings to discuss your child's progress. The head teacher has overall responsibility to ensure that the SEN policy is followed within the school.

This leaflet has been produced by Special Needs-Informed Parents. SN-IP is a parent partnership service which provides support and impartial advice to parents whose children have special Educational needs. They help parents to make informed decisions about their child's education but they do not take sides

## Further reading

'Additional Support in School for Children with Special Educational Needs.'  
*explains the additional support known as School Action and School Action Plus*

Department for Education and Skills  
'Special Educational Needs (SEN) A guide for parents and carers.'

If you would like help, please contact:

 **SN-IP** [www.snipnorthants.org](http://www.snipnorthants.org)

**Special Needs - Informed Parents**

Springfield, Cliftonville,  
Northampton, NN1 5BE  
Tel: 01604 636111

or

Fairlawn Centre, Spring Gardens  
Wellingborough, NN8 2AA  
Tel: 01933 271673

Fax:01604 630283

e-mail: [contact@snipnorthants.org](mailto:contact@snipnorthants.org)

This information can be made available in other languages and formats upon request