

Impartiality Policy

Statutory Requirement

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provides independent support, advice and information for parents/carers of children with special educational needs and for children and young people themselves so they can make appropriate informed decisions.

- (1) A local authority in England must arrange for children and young people for whom it is responsible, and the parents of children for whom it is responsible, to be provided with advice and information about matters relating to the special educational needs of the children or young people concerned.

Children and Families Act 2014 c.6 part 3 Information and Advice 32

To ensure effective independence and impartiality Rochdale Local Authority has outsourced its Special Educational Needs and Disability Information and Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) to Barnardo's Rochdale Service

An effective SENDIASS is expected to meet minimum standards and ensure:

- The provision of neutral, accurate information for parents and young people on all SEN procedures as set out in SEN legislation and the SEN code of practice

What is Impartiality and how it is maintained

Rochdale SENDIASS provides an impartial service to children, young people and parents/carers and other professionals engaged with the service.

Impartial: **'Not favouring one side or the other'** *Collins English Dictionary*

This means that we will work with parents/carers, children and young people to listen to their concerns, assess their needs, support at meetings and provide accurate information. Workers will not take sides with any party. They will provide factual information and advice based on what the guidance and legislation says. Workers will endeavour to provide parents and young people with enough information and support so that they can make their own decisions, we will not tell parents and young people what to do.

Rochdale SENDIASS will ensure that parents/carers, children and young people and professionals who engage with the service are made aware in the first instance that we are impartial. We will also ensure that this is publicised in all relevant materials e.g. leaflets, website and initial correspondence with parents.

The steering group will monitor the information leaflets to ensure they reflect the impartiality policy as well as monitor the impartiality of the overall service. We will seek to ensure that parents/carers and young people are represented on the steering group. Rochdale SENDIASS engages with relevant networks and organisations as an impartial facilitating service.

Rochdale Sendiass is funded by Rochdale Council and delivered by Barnardo's. The service is based away from the council services at Unique Enterprise Centre, Belfield Road, Rochdale, OL16 2UP.

All workers will be made aware of the Impartiality Policy and are required to inform the SENDIASS manager of any conflict of interest in relation to individual families; parent support groups, schools, nurseries, colleagues or other agencies. Workers are required to inform the SENDIASS manager of any personal or voluntary involvement in issues relating to education or SEN that might impact upon their work. The policy will be shared with the Local Authority and other agencies so that they are aware of it and understand it. The policy will be reviewed annually.