

Would you like to make a difference?

**We are in need of
new volunteers to
help support
parents and
carers of children
with Special
Educational
Needs**





What is an IPS?

An Independent Parental Supporter is a volunteer who supports families with children who have special educational needs (S.E.N). They are able to give helpful advice and put families in touch with other professionals and agencies.

Sometimes children go through a process called Statutory Assessment to determine their special educational needs. This can be a stressful time for their families. It is at this time that parents/carers often need someone to help and support them. An IPS can offer vital support at this time, helping to guide the parents through the process.



All Independent Parental Supporters are given full training. There is a comprehensive in-house training package consisting of 12 sessions. This training package is then supplemented by termly update workshops.

All IPSs are required to undergo an enhanced CRB check.

Any expenses incurred by volunteers are paid.

When a parent/carer contacts the Parent Partnership office and would like support from the service, we try to match them with one of our volunteers.

An IPS may help a parent/carer with

- viewing schools
- completing forms
- preparing for school meetings and helping them to express their concerns during the meetings
- explaining the education system, the structures and roles of professionals and any confusing terminology
- annual reviews of statements and individual pupil funding
- signposting to any relevant literature or other organisations that may be able to help

An IPS may also

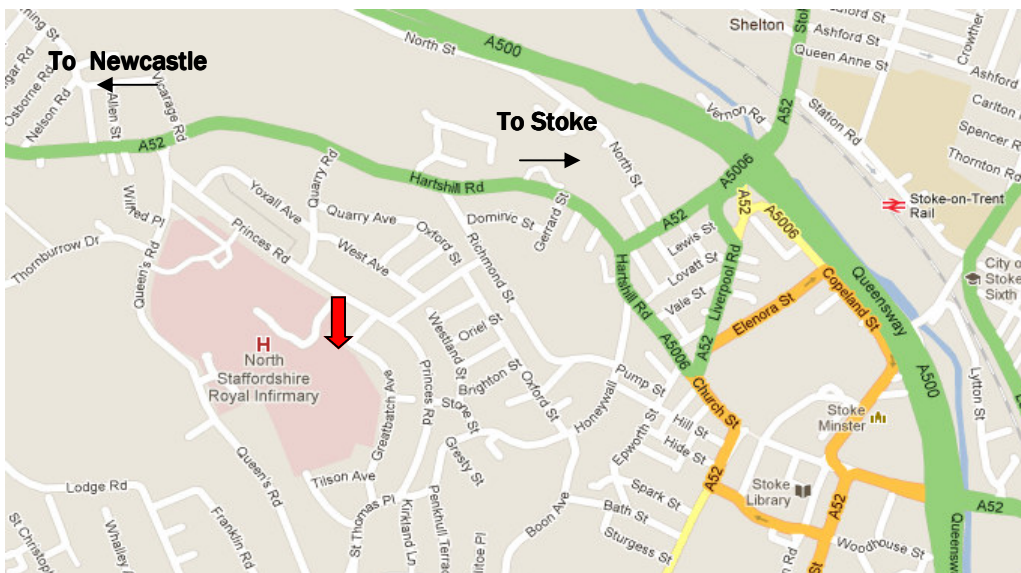
- help at parent/carer information days
- help out with administration work in the office

We help parents and carers to make decisions about their child's education and to enable them to become partners with professionals. We don't make decisions for parents.



How to find us

From Stoke: Join the A52 signposted Newcastle. Turn left into Princes Road (signposted Accident and Emergency Department). Go past the A&E Department and turn right into Mount Avenue. The entrance gates to the Mount Education Support Centre will be directly in front of you. Follow the signs for parking.



The Stoke-on-Trent Parent Partnership Service

Mount Education Support Centre

Mount Avenue

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Stoke-On-Trent

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**STOKE-ON-TRENT
PARENT PARTNERSHIP**

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