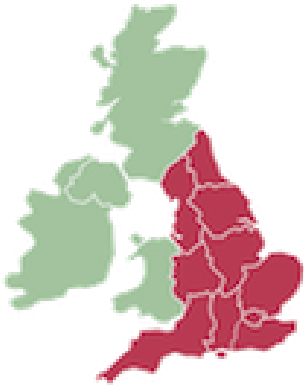


Independent Support Evaluation Report

What is Independent Support?



It is a national Programme that started in September 2014



It was designed to help parents, children and young people with the new Education, Health and Care plan process



The National Development team for Inclusion were asked to evaluate the Independent Support Programme from September 2014



We are pleased to share the report findings with you

Key Messages from the Report



Independent Support is highly valued by young people, parents and professionals



It is particularly valued when it supports people with planning and decision making



It is best when it is personalised to individuals



People trust it and it can help make change in people's lives

Other Findings



Feedback from people who have used independent support was mostly positive.

Nearly all people who have used Independent Support found the service useful or extremely useful



For Independent Support to work it needs to be flexible and continue over a period of time



Children and young people are still not being listened to enough

More needs to be done to make sure children and young people are listened to about their hopes and goals



Some parents and carers said they felt more empowered over the course of the Programme



Independent Support is different across the country

Some areas were better than others in developing plans that reflect the hopes and goals of young people.



Access to independent support also varies



Independent Support staff have had lots of training opportunities which have been very good

Key Elements of Independent Support



There are six key elements which help to make good Independent Support

These are:



1. Supporting children and young people to have a voice



2. Making sure that everyone across the country can access Independent Support



3. Independent Support is value for money



4. Independent Supporters are the right people for the job



5. Independent Support is offered with other support services in the area



6. Information about what works well is used to keep improving Independent Support

Recommendations from the report



Better systems to record whether Independent Support helps people need to be put in place



More needs to be done to help young people express their goals and ambitions in Education, Health and Care Plans



Independent Support should be ongoing. Contact should be regular between families and children and young people and the Independent Supporter



There should be more training opportunities for Independent Supporters



Independent Support should have better links with other organisations and services that support children and young people

Who are NDTi?



The National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) is the organisation leading this research.

NDTi is a 'not for profit' organisation that aims to make things better for people who need support.



To find out more about NDTi :

please call 01225 789 135



or visit our website:

www.ndti.org.uk