



Preparation for a Mediation Session – Parents & Young People

This information sheet is to help you prepare for the mediation / disagreement resolution meeting that has been arranged with your local Council. It may help you to focus on the issues that are most important to you.

Mediation is a 5-stage process and consists of:

1. An introduction by the mediator
2. Information gathering
3. Agenda writing
4. Option exploration
5. Agreement writing

The most important points for you on the list above are points 2 and 4.

Point 2 - gives you some uninterrupted time to speak about the issues and concerns that you have. It may help you to prepare for what you might say, so that it is concise and covers what is really important to you and why. Things to consider could be:

- a) What difficulties does your child / a young person (YP) have at nursery/school/college and home and how is it affecting them / you?
- b) Why do you think that the decision made by your Council does not meet the needs of your child / a YP?
- c) What support do you think will meet the needs of your child / a YP?
- d) How would having an assessment for an EHC* plan / changing the EHC plan / your child going to a school of your choice - make things better for your child / a YP?

Point 4 - it is good to be aware that this stage is there to promote creativity around solutions to the issues. Sometimes alternative proposals are put forward for consideration and a willingness to listen and consider different options is what can make mediation successful. We believe that people have a great ability to problem solve. Sometimes there can be many different solutions that can solve the same problem. So please be as creative as you want in this stage.

*EHC – Education Health Care Plan