

Let's Talk ASN is a FREE service for the parents of children with additional support needs who may require support in relation to a dispute or potential dispute with an education authority.

Who can use the service?

The service can be used by anyone who has the right to make a reference (a type of appeal) to the Additional Support Needs Tribunals for Scotland (ASNTS). You will usually be told by the education authority when you have the right to make a reference, but you can contact us to check the position if you are not sure.

Typically, the right to make a reference to the ASNTS would involve one or more of the following:

- ▶ a decision about a Co-ordinated Support Plan (or CSP);
- ▶ a placing request for a special school;
- ▶ a placing request for a mainstream school, where the child has a CSP (or is being considered for one); or
- ▶ the transition process from school to post-school provision.

The service covers parents (and carers) of children with additional support needs and also young people (aged 16 or 17) with additional support needs themselves.

What happens when I contact Let's Talk ASN?

When you contact the service (by phone or e-mail, please) we will discuss your case with you to consider your options and agree the most appropriate next steps. You will be allocated a specialist caseworker who will be responsible for your case, and will be your main point of contact with the Let's Talk ASN service.

Our aim is ensure that children and young people get the additional support they require. This may involve a referral to mediation or for independent adjudication. We may arrange for an advocate to come along to meetings at the school with you, where this will help to resolve matters. We will always try to resolve disputes at the earliest stage possible.

In some cases, it may be necessary to make a formal reference to the Tribunal, and we will help you to do this. We will arrange for someone to assist you during the Tribunal process. This will usually be your named caseworker. Often, Tribunal cases do not require a full, formal hearing as an agreement can be reached at an earlier stage. Where a hearing is required, your caseworker will be able to represent you.

The Let's Talk ASN service offers specialist independent advocacy throughout the process, and all cases are supervised by an experienced education law solicitor.

To contact the service or to find out more:

Let's Talk ASN, c/o Govan Law Centre, 18-20 Orkney Street, Glasgow G51 2BZ

letstalkasn@edlaw.org.uk | 0141 445 1955

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Govan Law Centre's legal work is undertaken by the independent legal practice of Dailly & Co. Solicitors.