

## **SENDiass Mythbusting**

Sometimes parent/carers feel concerned about SENDiass ability to be 'arms length', impartial and confidential, as the service is funded by the Local Authority.

Below are explanations of the terms, to dispel myths and provide understanding of what it means to be 'arms length', impartial and confidential.

### **What does 'arms length' mean?**

As a statutory service, which means required by law, SENDiass must be funded by the local authority.

However, SENDiass must be 'arms length', which means the service acts independently without any due influence or control from the Local Authority or Clinical Commissioning Group.

### **What does impartial mean?**

SENDiass must be impartial, which means the service does not favour any particular impairment, disability or special educational need, nor does it campaign for any particular approach to education.

The information and advice SENDiass offers, is unbiased and will offer a range of options, based in law, which you can choose to take forward, as you wish.

### **What does confidential mean?**

SENDiass must be confidential, this means we do not share any information about you, with anyone else outside the service without your prior permission.

SENDiass does not apply a blanket consent. We will never communicate with anyone outside of SENDiass about your contact with us unless you give your permission for us to do so. In these circumstances we will always request your verbal consent before speaking to any one.

The only time we would share information with other agencies without your permission would be if we become aware that a child or young person or someone else may be at risk of serious harm or we are legally required to do so by the police or courts.