

## Appendix 1 - Question from members of the public and responses

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Dr Selfe, Leominster	Can the scrutiny committee make detail available as to how the Local Offer and the SEN service meets the obligations contained in the Children and Families Act s3(57) and will it commit to scrutinise arrangements, as part of its work programme, for the independent support service ahead of proposed government funding taking effect in April 2019?	Chairman of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
<p><b>Chairman's response</b></p> <p>The obligations contained in the Children and Families Act s 3(57) covers the resolution of disputes between the Local Authority and parents and carers. The Council's SEN Team refer to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Service (SENDIAS) in their standard letters to parents and carers and offer this service as the means of resolving disputes. The Council's Local Offer can be found through the Council Website search facility. This also provides information about SENDIAS. The Council is currently in the process of reviewing its information, advice and dispute resolution arrangements to ensure that they meet national expectations.</p> <p>The Independent Support Service is a service commissioned nationally through one of the Government's delivery partners. As such it is beyond the remit of Herefordshire Council's Scrutiny Committee. Our understanding is that there will be new national arrangements commissioned for the period April 2018-March 2020.</p> <p>It was explained that there was an opportunity to meet with Les Knight, Head of Additional Needs, to discuss the matter.</p>			
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p>Over 1,000 children in Herefordshire are subject to Education Health and Care Plans which are very difficult and complex for already beleaguered parents who need help and advice. SENDIAS at the Council is staffed by one part time employee and cannot be considered independent as the employee is a Herefordshire Council member of staff. What would be the provision in the interim between funding ceasing for the service in March and new government funding in April 2019.</p>			
<p><b>Response to supplementary question ( provided by the Director Children's Wellbeing)</b></p> <p>The Council had information that the new service would be in effect from 2018 not 2019. It was suggested that this was a matter which could be looked into with Les Knight. In respect of the independence of the member of staff involved in SENDIAS it was noted that although employed through the Council the individual was independent of the special educational needs service; this was a further issue which could be explored with Mr Knight.</p>			