



Trafford Parent and Young People's Partnership Service (PYPPS) -

Independent, Advice and Support Service for SEND

Tribunal Policy

The SEND Code of Practice and the Quality Standards state clearly that parents and young people can access Trafford PYPPS for support at Tribunal.

Trafford PYPPS will prove their impartiality and arm's length nature of the service by ensuring that parents and young people get **good advice** and, if necessary, assistance without having to pay for it.

We will help to support the parent/young person by ensuring an ongoing conversation and relationship with the Local Authority before, during and after the Tribunal. Trafford PYPPS involvement will help to mitigate the effects of stress on a family, increase the possibility of settling before a tribunal and support the outcomes afterwards. Trafford PYPPS will support children, young people and parents in arranging or attending mediation meetings, appeals to the First Tier Tribunal (SEND) and where necessary assistance, exclusions and complaints on matters relating to SEN and disability.

With the agreement of the parent, carer or young person, this support may include Trafford PYPPS referring to other organisations that can offer advice and support e.g. IPSEA etc.

The Code of Practice is clear that Trafford PYPPS will represent the views of the parent/young person (who have had the benefit of their information and advice) but will not act as a legal professional and will always encourage parents and young people to represent themselves and be empowered to speak on their own behalf.

Trafford PYPPS is aware that this may not be possible, particularly for more vulnerable parents/young people who are otherwise unlikely to access a Tribunal e.g. those with learning difficulties, mental health issues or English is their second language etc. In the same way as a service would draft a letter for someone, we will have helped them put a case together, speak on their behalf, the same as in an exclusion meeting, mediation, meeting at school etc. **There may be occasions when it could be appropriate to be a representative (i.e. take on fully responsibility for speaking on the Parent / Young Person's behalf and completing all the relevant paperwork) for a Parent or Young Person but it is envisaged this would be in very exceptional circumstances.**

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Trafford PYPPS Manager and Caseworkers to reflect accurately the implementation of new working practices, based on the most recent legislation and national guidance.

The above has been read and signed by –

G. English

Manager
PYPPS

Date policy to be reviewed - September 2019

