IASS is a confidential service. Service users include children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability and their parents and carers.

Service users have a right to expect that information they share with us will be respected and not passed on to others without their permission, including to family members, schools, health service and Westminster City Council (WCC) including Bi-borough Council service.

We use information to:

* help us to carry out our work offering information, advice and support
* get statistics which help us make decisions such as how to use staff where they're needed
* to work out how well the service is working and whether different groups of people are using the service

Any information shared with the us is protected in compliance with the Data Protection Act and under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information please read our privacy policy available on [www.iasswestminster.co.uk/privacy](http://www.iasswestminster.co.uk/privacy)

As IASS we will not share information without your consent except where:

* we have reason to believe that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is at risk of harm. This may be if a member of staff or a volunteer is told about actual abuse, or they themselves suspect it or if they're told by a third party of suspected abuse
* illegal activity threatens the safety of staff or service users

We will release data we hold directly to the young person where they're over the age of 16, or their parent or carer for any request we receive under the Data Protection Act. Our information will not be part of the information the City Council (WCC) sends.

Any young person who is of the right age, maturity and capacity (the guide is someone 13 years old and over of typical development and capacity) can request copies of their records and can refuse consent for anyone else to access their records. This includes refusing access by parents or carers.

This policy makes sure that you as a service user can have confidence in the confidentiality of the information they provide.

We encourage you to share relevant information with school staff and other services or individuals where it's in the best interest of the child or young person to do so. As IASS we won't share any information without permission.

As IASS we will:

* respect your right to privacy as a service user
* respect your right to contact us anonymously and in confidence as a service user
* adhere to our commitment to principles of confidentiality in our relationship with you as a service user
* give priority to child protection issues and deal with them in accordance with safeguarding policy
* make sure we let you know your rights in relation to the data we hold about you and the release of this data
* make sure all our staff and volunteers receive training in confidentiality issues and a copy of this policy
* make you aware of this policy when you first approach our service and let you have a copy if you ask for one
* ask your permission to record personal details and to store data in the electronic case management system when they first approach us
* take referrals from anyone other than children or young people or their parents or carers only if we have permission for this to happen
* make any documentation we hold on the parent or carer or their child or young person available to you on request, unless it's been provided by the child or young person and they don't agree to it being shared in this way
* ask for permission from parents or carers before contacting other professionals or services involved with the family or who may be involved with the family in the near future, except in circumstances relating to child protection

**Recording and sharing information**

At Westminster IASS we use an electronic, cloud-based case management system that is not shared with WCC/Bi-borough. Our database meets legal requirements and WCC standards for data protection.

IASS officers will keep case notes for each referral they've received on the central database. Case notes normally include:

* basic personal details of the referral that's been made to us
* a brief summary of case progress
* agreed action
* final outcome when one is reached

The IASS officer involved will decide the level of detail they need, but it should be enough so that a colleague can take the case over if anything happens. We will only keep personal contact details with your permission. We will normally keep hold of documents until the young person's 25th birthday when they will be destroyed.

If we're processing your personal data with your consent, you have the right to withdraw that consent. If you change your mind or if you're unhappy with how we're using your personal data, let us know by contacting the IASS line manager.

The information, personal details and records of service users are not provided to WCC/Bi-borough in service audits or feedback. Anonymised data is used where necessary for audits or analysing themes that the Local Authority should be aware of to improve the experiences of service users.

**Storage of information**

IASS officers are both office-based and work remotely form their homes, most information is stored electronically on the secure database. Any paper-based documentation provided to IAS are scanned and added to our secure database and hard copies disposed of in confidential waste bins in accordance with WCC policy. We have a lockable filing cabinet for staff to store any paper-based notes and correspondence. All IASS documentation are stored securely in this cabinet which must be kept locked.

We use WCC hardware and software for electronic-based documentation such as emails. The hardware and software have all the necessary security safeguards and archiving facilities that the data protection law requires, and they also keep your information confidential.

We require all staff to adhere to the WCC ICT security policy and standards. You can ask us to get a copy of these from the WCC staff intranet. Our IASS manager organises appropriate training for all staff. Staff are responsible for making sure they follow all the correct procedures and protocols to keep electronic data safe and secure.

**Review of this policy**

We review this policy annually. We also review it if there are changes in the laws about data protection. Our IASS manager and/or the IASS Advisory Board review this policy, depending which is more appropriate.

We let people know when we issue an updated version of this policy. These include:

* SENDIASS officers
* WCC/Bi-borough Council
* other agencies

Our SENDIASS officers will make sure that parents or carers of any active cases at the point of policy update are aware that an updated version of the policy is available. We can supply a copy or direct them to the IAS website.

Questions about this policy should be raised with the IASS Manager.

**Please READ the confidentiality statement below:**

**Confidentiality Statement and Consent**

I have read the policy and I understand that information about myself/my child will be

* Processed for limited purposes
* Not kept for longer than necessary
* Kept securely

**Do we have permission to save it on our secure database?**

⬜ Yes ⬜ No

**Keeping in touch** – How would you like us to contact you regarding information on SEND Law & events?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]  I would like to receive communication by email

Yes [ ]  No [ ]  I would like to receive communication by telephone

Yes [ ]  No [ ]  I would like to receive communication by mobile text message

Yes [ ]  No [ ]  I would like to receive communication by post

In order to help you/ your child, we may need to contact other professionals, such as schools, colleges and Local Authority services. Do you give permission for us to contact these professionals? Please tick the below for whom you give us permission to contact:

[ ]  LA: SEN team/Education Services [ ]  Education Setting/provider

[ ]  Health Service [ ]  Legal services

[ ]  Social Care [ ]  Parent Carer Forum

[ ]  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [ ]  Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Child/Young person**

**Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Name of Parent:**

**Signed Dated \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_**