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Section 19 advisory and support services

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Independent advice and support

We recognise that parents may seek advice from independent organisations when they have concerns about their child's education or attendance.

The following services may offer guidance and support:

- [CAMHS](#) (Child and adolescent mental health services) – for assessment and support relating to mental health needs
- [SENDIAS](#) (Special educational needs and disabilities information advice and support service) – provides impartial advice to parents and young people about SEND matters
- [ADHD North West](#) – offers support and information for families of children with ADHD

These organisations may provide advice about education, attendance and potential support options, including Section 19.

However, Section 19 is a statutory decision made by the council based on legal criteria and a full review of the available information. Advice from external services does not automatically mean that Section 19 provision will be agreed.

We strongly encourage parents to:

- Share any advice or reports from advisory services with their child's school
- Continue working with the school and relevant professionals to explore support within school wherever possible
- Ensure that any referral for Section 19 includes all relevant professional information so the council can make a fully informed decision

Our aim is always to ensure that children receive suitable education while working collaboratively with families, schools and professionals.

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