

Accessibility for Children & Young People

Solihull SENDIAS service is based at Sans Souci Training Centre, which is not set up to cater for children on site. As such we are not able to accommodate meetings with parents/carers & their children at Sans Souci, without **prior arrangement** between the SENDIAS Manager & Sans Souci Facilities Manager; this will be arranged on an individual basis, looking at the needs of the family & Sans Souci Training Centre for each occasion.

Additionally these meetings can be very emotive for parents & it is rarely in the child's best interest to be involved in discussions about themselves as these meetings often focus on the negative's of 'what's not working', 'what their difficulties are' & 'what provision is needed'; these discussions can be distressing for the child.

Most children will access information, advice and support via their parents, however, some children, especially older children and those in custody may want to access information, advice and support separately from their parents. If a child expresses a wish to be involved or wants direct support from Solihull SENDIAS, we will ensure a meeting is arranged at a time & venue that is most convenient to the child (& their parents/carers).

Solihull SENDIAS are only able to meet parents & their children, when it is appropriate for the child to be present, either by prior arrangement at Sans Souci or at an alternative venue that is convenient & accessible to the family.

Young people are entitled to the same quality and level of information, advice and support as parents. Therefore young people are entitled to access information, advice and support from Solihull SENDIAS, either on their own or with their parents. Appointments with young people can be held either at Sans Souci by prior arrangement with Sans Souci's Facilities Manager or at an alternative venue that is convenient & accessible to the Young Person.

Parents of young people can still access information, advice and support on behalf of, or with, the young person. Solihull SENDIAS will be clear about the transfer of some rights and responsibilities to young people, and work sensitively with parents to help them understand their role.

In cases where the young person and their parents do not agree on an issue. Legally, it is the young person's decision which prevails, subject to their capacity. Where there are disagreements, staff providing information, advice and support will work impartially and separately with both the parents and the young person.