

Detailed Minimum Standards Self-Assessment

This appendix provides the detailed self-assessment of Barnsley SENDIASS against the Minimum Standards for SEND Information, Advice and Support Services. It is based on evidence presented in the SENDIASS Annual Report 2025–2026 and the associated alignment review. Ratings indicate the level of assurance evidenced: **Green**—clear evidence of alignment; **Amber**—partial alignment or further documentary assurance required; **Red**—significant evidence gap or non-alignment.

Standard	RAG	Evidence and assessment	Assurance gap or next action
1.1 Joint commissioning	AMBER	Partnership working is evidenced across education, health and social care, with established local governance links.	Confirm a current written joint commissioning agreement that directly references the Minimum Standards and provides continuity and stability.
1.2 Co-production, capacity and resources	AMBER	Parents, carers and young people contribute through the annual survey, Facebook Live discussions, workshops, drop-ins and the Strategic Management Group. Staffing has returned to the approved structure, and 1,430 cases received 2,448 interventions.	Strengthen systematic recording of participation by children and young people and complete a formal annual capacity and demand analysis.
1.3 Year-round flexible service	GREEN	A 24-hour answerphone, email, Facebook Messenger and online request form are available. Response times are published weekly, with enquiries ordinarily answered within 48 hours.	Retain evidence of year-round opening, callback arrangements and signposting to the national SEND helpline.
1.4 Dedicated, ring-fenced budget	GREEN	The service is centrally funded for 4.5 full-time-equivalent posts and operational costs. Its budget is ring-fenced and managed flexibly by the SENDIASS Manager.	Continue budget monitoring and retain annual evidence of the allocation, delegated management and use of underspend.
1.5 Arm's-length, confidential and identifiable service	GREEN	The service is free, impartial and confidential, with distinct contact routes and an established public identity. More than 95% of survey respondents agreed that the service operated at arm's length from the local authority.	Continue clear public information and repeat this measure in future surveys.
1.6 Awareness of the service	AMBER	Social media, Facebook Live sessions, local events,	Develop a targeted awareness plan and

		partnership work and branded materials support awareness. Around 5% of survey respondents felt wider awareness was still needed.	monitor referral sources, demand, response times and capacity.
1.7 Governance arrangements	GREEN	The Strategic Management Group meets three times yearly, scrutinises reports and includes service-user and stakeholder involvement. Its Terms of Reference have been reviewed.	Maintain representative membership and records of attendance, challenge and decisions.
1.8 Annual development plan	GREEN	The 2026–2027 Service Development Plan includes actions, leads, timescales, success measures and RAG monitoring.	Review progress at each governance point and retain evidence against completed actions.
2.1 Dedicated service manager	GREEN	The full-time SENDIASS Manager is dedicated solely to the service and leads delivery, strategic planning, management and quality assurance.	Continue evidencing the dedicated role and quality assurance responsibilities.
2.2 Regional and national engagement	GREEN	The manager attends regional IASS meetings, participates in national benchmarking and contributes to local and regional learning.	Record examples showing how regional and national learning changes local practice.
2.3 Influence on local policy and practice	GREEN	The service contributes to strategic boards, the Local Area inspection, the SEND Data Dashboard and partnership activity. Work with social care has strengthened referral pathways for kinship carers.	Record specific policy or practice changes arising from SENDIASS intelligence.
3.1 Full education, health and social care IAS offer	AMBER	Casework covers SEN Support, placement, mediation, Tribunal, EHCP processes, health and social care through several contact routes. CRM records are held under each child or young person's name.	Report activity separately for children, young people and parents, and make the full education, health and social care offer more explicit.
3.2 Branded accessible information	AMBER	The service uses branded promotional materials, digital channels, social media, events and live sessions to share information.	Complete and retain an accessibility audit covering formats, reasonable adjustments and promotional materials.
3.3 Stand-alone accessible website	AMBER	An online request form is linked to the SENDIASS website, supported by other digital information routes.	Audit the website against required content, accessibility, signposting, Local Offer links and complaints information.

3.4 Advocacy and self-advocacy	GREEN	Feedback evidences support to understand rights, challenge decisions, prepare paperwork and participate in meetings. Children and young people describe help to express their wishes and secure support.	Add outcome-focused case studies showing increased independence and self-advocacy.
3.5 SEND Tribunal support	GREEN	Tribunal support is provided before, during and, where needed, after an appeal. Tribunal demand is monitored through quarterly reporting.	Continue monitoring volume, complexity, officer time, support stages and outcomes.
3.6 Training for families and professionals	AMBER	SENDIASS delivered topic workshops through social media and face-to-face sessions and presented at local events and support groups.	Map the formal training offer by audience and topic and report attendance, feedback, learning and gaps.
4.1 IPSEA legal training	AMBER	Experienced staff have completed required legal training. New staff receive structured induction, buddying and supported practice and are expected to complete required legal training within 12 months.	Maintain a compliance matrix confirming completion of all required levels within 12 months.
4.2 Feedback informs development	GREEN	Continuous casework feedback and an annual survey of 68 responses across 21 questions directly inform the Service Development Plan.	Introduce a visible “You Said, We Did, Difference Made” record, including feedback from children and young people.
4.3 Supervision and continuing professional development	GREEN	Staff receive monthly supervision, interim one-to-one support, structured induction, buddying, team development and National IASS Network training.	Formalise and report supervision coverage, case review, reflective practice, quality assurance and continuing professional development.

Overall assurance conclusion: The evidence indicates a positive overall position, with clear strengths in governance, strategic leadership, flexible contact arrangements, advocacy, Tribunal support, feedback-led improvement, supervision and continuing professional development. No standard is assessed as Red. Amber ratings mainly reflect the need for stronger documentary assurance or more systematic reporting for joint commissioning, capacity analysis, awareness, accessible information and website content, the breadth of education, health and social care reporting, the formal training offer and time-bound IPSEA compliance monitoring.