

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

This Directory provides details of services available to Disabled Children and their families and is funded through the Aiming High Short Breaks Transformation Programme. It is also available electronically through

<http://www.parentsconsortium.co.uk/otherservices.htm>

It is one of five covering the county of Kent and has been developed from a publication originally produced by SNAAP (Special Needs Advisory and Activities Project) based at Windchimes Resource Centre in Herne Bay.

These directories have been produced using SNAAP's original format. Thanks and acknowledgement is therefore conveyed to SNAAP for permitting their original format to be used in publication, as well as for their support in collation.

Every attempt has been made to ensure that the information in this directory is as comprehensive as possible but accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

Aiming High Short Breaks Programme

In 2008, Kent County Council was successful in its bid to become one of 21 Pathfinder local authorities across the country to be part of the *Short Breaks Transformation Programme*.

Short Breaks have been defined as:

- A wide range of short breaks, tailored to families' needs
- Available in the evenings, at weekends, and school holidays
- Culturally appropriate, sympathetic to race, culture, religion.
- Age appropriate
- Including sufficient provision to meet the needs of severely disabled children, including complex health needs.

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This status brought with it a significant level of funding to invest in the development of short break services.

The funding is to provide new and expanded services to meet the needs of children aged 0-18 and their families. Kent is required to significantly increase the range of short breaks for children with the following impairments:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Technology dependent
- Challenging behaviour
- Moving and handling needs
- Palliative care

The short breaks programme also includes breaks for disabled children who have not previously been eligible to receive a service from Kent County Council Disabled Children's Social Services.

Part of the Core Offer within the overarching "Aiming High" initiative is to make sure that sufficient information is available to families about local services to enable them to make informed choices. A directory is therefore being produced for each of the five Disabled Children Resource Centres across the county to ensure that families receive that information as part of the **Aiming High Core Offer**.

Disabled Children's Resource Centres

Kent County Council has reconfigured family support services for disabled children and their families over the past five years, so that they are co-ordinated and provided from five multi agency Resource Centres across the county.

INTRODUCTION

A Resource Centre comprises two elements: an overnight short breaks unit and an additional community unit for daytime, evening and weekend activities which are also termed short breaks. These may be on the same site or on two sites, as part of a campus.

The Resource Centres are:

Resource Centre	Overnight Breaks Unit	Geographical Coverage
1) Parents Consortium	Allsworth Court will become an overnight breaks unit following completion of building works in February 2010.. Rainbow Lodge	Dartford/Gravesham/ Swanley
2) Windchimes	The Beach Hut	Canterbury/Swale/ Dover/Thanet
3) Sunrise	The Den	Tunbridge Wells/ Tonbridge
4) Maidstone Multi-agency Multiagency Specialist Hub	Still to be identified	Maidstone
5) Ashford/Shepway Multi-agency Specialist Hub, Wyvern School	Fairlawn	Ashford/Shepway

INTRODUCTION

Short break activities are being developed along the lines of a "hub-and-spoke" model from these Resource Centres. Comparable services are being developed in the "spokes" or outlying areas. There is a vision for parents to eventually manage the short breaks activities delivered by each Resource Centres.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES

Kent County Council Children's Social Services

Introduction

Kent County Council Children's Social Services provides support for children in need. A child is defined by the 1989 Children Act as 'in need' if:

- He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him/her of services by a local authority;
- His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services; or
- He/she is a Disabled Child.

Any support provided is determined by an assessment of a child's needs. Children's Social Services work in conjunction with colleagues from other agencies such as the NHS to support children to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

These are known as the five 'outcomes' for children

How to contact them

A referral can be made to Children's Social Services by telephoning Kent Contact & Assessment Service on 08458 247 247

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES

Disabled Children's Service (DCS)

Some disabled children in Kent may be eligible to receive a service from the specialist Disabled Children's Service. These are children who have a disability that is permanent or long term, and that can be defined as:

- Severe or profound learning or physical disability, or
- Severe or profound social communication disorder, or
- Life threatening illness, or
- Complex medical need

Some children may have a combination of two or more of the above.

Following acceptance of a referral, an initial assessment of a child's needs will be carried out. The assessment will look at:

- The child's developmental needs
- The parenting capacity of the child's parents and carers to respond to these needs
- Relevant wider family and environmental factors.

If necessary, a further ('core') assessment of all the circumstances relating to the child or young person will then be carried out. This will involve a visit to the child's home. The assessment will include talking with the parent/s, the child, and anyone else who provides a significant amount of care for him/her. This includes talking with other professionals caring for the child. A care plan will then be written that sets out how the child's needs will be met. The parents' or carers' needs may also be assessed separately.

The transition period from child to adulthood is often a worrying time for young people and their parents. The Disabled Children's Service can help with this transition by linking young people with Kent Adults Social Services.

For very young children, DCS can link parents with early support services

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES

Children's Occupational Therapy Service

This is part of the KCC Disabled Children's Service. Occupational Therapists aim to enable children who are permanently and substantially disabled to make the most of their abilities, be as independent as possible, and gain control over the practical aspects of their daily life.

Following an assessment of a child, equipment may be offered. Advice can also be offered about other sources of help. Adaptations to the family home may also be recommended, which could be minor e.g fitting a rail or ramp, or entail more major work (see section entitled 'Adaptations to the Home' in Rights and Benefits section.

A referral can be made to the Children's Occupational Therapy Service by telephoning Kent Contact and Assessment Service on 08458 247 247.

Short Break Services

Depending on the level and types of need determined by the assessment, the Disabled Children's Service (DCS) might be able to offer a range of services.

These services may be provided directly by DCS. Or they may be provided through the method of a direct payment. A direct payment enables a parent/carer to make their own care arrangements. This might mean employing a personal assistant, or it might mean paying a service provider directly, e.g. for a summer play scheme or a befriender. Help with setting up a direct payment is available from the Children and families Direct Payment Support Service (see separate entry). Young people over the age of 16 yrs. may be entitled to a direct payment in their own right.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES

A pilot of a short breaks voucher scheme is taking place. If the pilot is successful, it will be extended. The vouchers can be exchanged for a service from a set list of services. To be eligible, a child must either be in receipt of at least one higher rate component of Disability Living Allowance, or be assessed for the scheme by a key professional involved in his/her care.

Emergencies

If you have an emergency occurring outside of office hours, you can contact the emergency out of hours social work team on 0845 762 6777.

Kent Carer's Emergency Card www.kentcarersemergencycard.org.uk

Carers are issued with a card which can be used as an instant source of identification in case of accident or sudden illness. In an emergency situation, anyone can telephone the number on the card and quote the number printed. The contact centre uses this number to access the carer's pre-arranged emergency plan and puts it into action. The service is free.

NW Kent Carers:

Allsworth Court, 40 St David's Road, Hextable Kent. BR8 7RJ
01322 662046

Deaf Children & Families Team

The Deaf Children & Families Team provides support and information for children and their families where there are issues related to deafness. This service is available to deaf and deaf/blind children up to the age 18 years and also hearing children of Deaf parents.

To make a referral to this team please contact County Duty Service on 08458 247100 or text phone 08458 247905 or you e-mail the team at deafserviceschildrenfamilies@kent.gov.uk

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES

Children's Disability Register

www.kent.gov.uk/cdr

The Children's Disability Register is a confidential computerised database containing details of children from birth to 18 years who have a disability. It is voluntary: you have the choice whether or not to register your child, and names can be removed at any time. We would encourage you to register your child, as the Register gives you the opportunity to let us know what kinds of services you would like to see provided. From this information we are able to highlight gaps in services and develop ways of filling those gaps.

You can register your child by completing a register application form. This is available online or from the Disabled Children's Service Register Co-ordinator on 08458 247 247.

Once you have registered your child, you will receive a regular update about services in your area, and other information that may be of interest to you.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Services

Introduction

There are many Health Services which you and your child may need. In this section we show who can help, depending on the age of your child, the various professionals available to help you, and the way in which you can access their services. If you have any concerns about your child's health or development, you can either contact your own GP, your health visitor if your child is under 5, or your school nurse.

Getting Help with your Pre-school child

Often, developmental issues only become apparent once a child is in a more social setting, such as a playgroup or nursery, at which point the playgroup leader may raise these issues with you. You may choose to discuss your concerns either with your own GP or health visitor or playground workers assigned to the playgroup/nursery.

Local Hospitals

Darent Valley Hospital
Darenth Wood Road
Dartford
DA2 8DA
Tel: 01322 428100

Gravesham Community Hospital
Bath Street
Gravesend
DA11 0DG
Tel: 01474 360500 (Minor injuries unit daily 9am - 9pm)

HEALTH SERVICES

Specialists who can help

General Practitioners (GP's)

Your family GP practice is staffed by qualified doctors. At any stage, you are free to request that your child sees a doctor who has had paediatric training. The role of the GP is to promote health, to prevent illness and to pick up and treat the signs of illness and other longer term conditions.

Health Visitors

Health visitors are involved with promotion of health and the prevention of illness. They have responsibilities for ensuring child health reviews are offered to all children under 5 at specific times and they have skills in detecting those children who will require extra help from health services and other agencies. In families where there is a child or young adult with special needs, the health visitor will provide extra support in partnership with parents/carers and in conjunction with other agencies.

Dartford Locality (Inc Swanley): 01322 622321

Helpline 9.30 - 11.30 am : 01322 622517

Gravesend Locality : 01474 534795

Helpline 9.30 - 11.30 am : 01474 324557

School Nurse

Each school has a named school nurse who can be contacted through the school. School nurses are also available for health advice and discussion with parents and can help and support parents and teachers with feeding issues. They also liaise closely with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) in schools and all other members of the statutory agencies as well as your health visitor. If you have any concerns about your child's health, development or well-being you should discuss these with your school nurse.

Gravesham School Nurse Team : 01474 563368

Dartford School Nurse Team : 01322 622516

Swanley School Nurse Team : 01322 614131

HEALTH SERVICES

Children's Resource Centre Community Paediatric Team - Darent Valley Hospital 01322 428238

There is a consultant led team of community paediatricians who are qualified doctors that work only with children and carry out assessments. Once your child has been assessed you may be referred on to another specialist or therapist.

Referrals are accepted from by your health visitor, GP, therapist, school nurse, hospital paediatrician or any agency involved with your child. Clinics are also held at:

Rochester Road Clinic, Gravesend - 01474 534795

The Oaks Clinic, Swanley - 01322 614131

Speech & Language Therapist (S<)

Children are seen by this service when they have difficulties with interaction, understanding and use of spoken language.

S< also help with eating, drinking and swallowing problems.

Therapy is set up to suit the child's individual needs and delivered individually, in a group or through a programme.

Anyone involved in the care of your child can refer to the Speech Therapist. Again clinics are also held at Dartford West Health Centre, Wrotham Road Clinic in Gravesend and The Oaks Clinic in Swanley.

Paediatric Physiotherapists

Help children from 0-19 years (whilst in full time education) and their families. Children are seen in various settings including home, clinics, at the Child Resource Centre, in nursery or at school. Paediatric Physiotherapists evaluate and treat children with varying conditions, frequently working as part of a multi agency team for assessment and review. They work with the child's parents in a way that will empower the parents to become significant partners in their child's development and/or rehabilitation. Wherever possible, physiotherapists work through play and activities of daily living. Referrals are accepted from professionals only

HEALTH SERVICES

Paediatric Occupational Therapists (OT)

OT's who specialise in working with children, aged 0-19, have a wide range of knowledge in children's development, illnesses and conditions/disorders. The 3 main aims they focus on are:-

- to assess and provide suitable special equipment where needed or refer on to appropriate services.
- to assess for activities of daily living, hand function and co-ordination development and provide treatment programmes where necessary.
- to assess for perceptual difficulties after using standardised tests and give advice to the children, carers and educational staff when appropriate.

O.T's again frequently work as part of a multi agency team for assessment and review. Referrals are accepted from health professionals only.

Specialist Needs Team

01322 622381

The aim of the service is to empower children with special needs and their families to enjoy and achieve an independent and balanced family life. We work with children from birth to 19 years of age, providing support both pre and post diagnosis, acting as an advocate for children and families during a potentially emotional and stressful time. Referrals must be made by professionals working with the family such as paediatricians, therapists, specialist teachers etc.

The Community Children's Nursing Team

01322 428473

Based at the Children's Resource Centre. Primarily, they are involved with children who have nursing needs which may be associated with disability but will also be involved when a child is discharged from hospital, but still requires nursing care. Referrals are taken from health professionals only.

HEALTH SERVICES

Other specialists and services that can help

Continence Advisory Service

01322 622355

Continence advice can be obtained through your child's school nurse or by contacting the PCT Continence Advice Team based at the Livingstone Hospital in Dartford.

Dental Care Clinics

01622 717776

Dental Care can be provided for children with special needs at clinics covering the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley areas. If you have a dentist who cannot treat your child, the dentist can refer you to the Community Dental Service. If you do not have a dentist, your GP, the school nurse or other healthcare worker can refer. Parents can also self refer to:

Evelyn Clarke, Clinical Director
West Kent Community Dental Service
Preston Hall Hospital
Maidstone
ME20 7NJ

Dietician

Advice and support on food and nutritional issues may be obtained from the paediatric dietician. When working with children with complex eating and nutritional problems, the paediatric dietician may work with a team of people such as doctors, psychiatrists, speech & language therapists and OT's. Any health professional involved in the care of your child can refer you to the dietician.

HEALTH SERVICES

Audiology & Vision

Your health professional may refer your child for further hearing and vision testing. If you have any concerns about your child's hearing or sight contact your GP or the Paediatrician involved in the care of your child.

For children over 3 with hearing concerns health visitors or school nurses can also refer direct to: Audiology Administrator at the Livingstone Hospital on 01322 622359. For those under 3 referrals can be made to Paediatric Audiology, Preston Hall, Aylesford, ME20 7NJ

Queries, Concerns and Complaints

PALS (The Patient Advice and Liaison Service)

01322 428382

email pals@dvh.nhs.uk

If you have a health related query or problem and you don't know where to turn to for help contact PALS. This service is provided by the NHS to help patients and their carers find their way through the local health service. PALS can help you find local support groups, chase hospital appointments, find you an NHS dentist and so on.

The number above is also the number to ring if you want to see someone face-to-face. PALS promise a prompt and friendly response.

Written correspondence should go to:

Pals, 2nd floor, Darent Valley Hospital, Darent Wood Road, Dartford, DA2 8DA

There is also a Customer Service Department for West Kent PCT who can be contacted on 0800 0850850 or by email to: customerservices@westkentpct.n

EDUCATION SERVICES

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Introduction

Up to 20% of all children, at some time, experience a special educational need. Children with special educational needs have a right to a place in a mainstream school if it is their parents' wish and provided it does not compromise the education of other children in the school. All schools are expected to provide for their needs and make reasonable adjustments to ensure their inclusion. Schools can call on the support and advice of a range of professionals and specialists who work in the locality, including Specialist Teaching Service, Educational Psychology Service, lead school and special school outreach and speech and language therapy services. For some children where mainstream schools cannot meet their needs, a special school place may be needed. Some special schools have links with mainstream schools to enable the children to learn and play together.

Some frequently used initials

CAF	Common Assessment Framework
LCSP	Local Children's Services Partnership
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
DCSF	Department for Children, Schools, and Families
LA	Local Authority
AEN	Additional Educational Needs
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SENCO	SEN Coordinator (school)
TA	Teaching Assistant
FLO	Family Liaison Officer
SENDIST	SEN and Disability Tribunal
EPS	Educational Psychology Service
IEP	Individual Education Plan

EDUCATION SERVICES

SLD	Severe Learning Difficulties
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulties
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulties
BESD	Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties
PSC	Profound, Severe and Complex
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
HI	Hearing Impairment
VI	Visual Impairment
DAMP	Deficits in Attention, Motor control & Perception
FE	Further Education (at a College)
HE	Higher Education (at University)

Definitions

Special Educational Needs: A child has special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty or a disability which calls for special educational provision to be made (provision which is additional to, or different from, the educational provision made for children of their age)

SEN Code of Practice: Provides advice to schools, settings and LAs on carrying out their duties to identify, assess and make provision for children with special educational needs.

Statutory Assessment: An assessment of a child's needs. It involves information being gathered by the LA from educational, medical, psychological and social services plus any other agencies that you wish to consult. The reports from these professionals help the LA decide if a statement is needed. If so, a proposed statement is written first on which parents are consulted.

Educational Psychologists: promote child development and learning mainly with children and young people aged 0-19 years, through the application of psychology.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Work is carried out in partnership with individuals and groups of children, teachers and other adults. This can be at an individual, systemic or organisation level. Educational Psychologists also work with parents, carers and families, Local Authority Officers, Health, Social Services and other agencies.

Teaching Assistant: This is someone who works alongside a teacher in the classroom to support those children and young people who need extra help. Sometimes they work with children and young people who need some withdrawal time from the class.

Proposed Statement: This is a draft of the Statement of Special Educational Needs which is sent to parents for their comments, before the final Statement is issued. Parents have a right to meet LA officers before the proposed statement is made final.

Statement of Special Educational Needs: is a legal document, issued by the LA that sets out a child's special educational needs, the provision to meet those needs and the school that the child will attend.

Tribunal: The SEND Tribunal is an independent body that hears appeals made by parents against decisions made by the LA on Refusal to assess/reassess, refusal to issue a statement, content of Part 3 of the statement, Name of the school in Part 4, ceasing a statement, disability discrimination (these can be against the school also).

Special Needs Education and Disability Act (2001)

This act places a duty on all education providers to ensure that they have made reasonable adjustments to include a child with a disability or special educational need within an educational setting. This means that the focus is on schools to include disabled children in all aspects of school life.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Schools have to provide justification for not including disabled children on school trips, holidays and when accessing leisure opportunities.

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) www.kenttrustweb.org.uk

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Lead Professional functions are new processes all local authorities are required to implement with Children's Trust partners to strengthen integrated service delivery for children and young people. Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a key component in the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme. The aim is to identify, at the earliest opportunity, a child's or young person's additional needs which are not being met by the universal services they are receiving, and provide timely and co-ordinated support to meet those needs. The CAF is based on solution-focused practice principles and enables practitioners and families to work in partnership to start to bring around change at the first sign of difficulty. The focus is on prevention and early intervention and providing better support to parents and families. These are Lead Professional, Information Sharing and ContactPoint'

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Processes

The CAF is a separate process although it shares some common principles with School Action and Early Years Action (see page 23) in particular those of early recognition of needs and early assessment to inform appropriate interventions. Depending upon the concerns about a child, a child might be on School Action and Early Years Action or School Action and Early Years Action Plus and not have a CAF and vice versa.

Further Information - Leaflets www.dcsf.gov.uk/

Further information about (CAF) the role of the Lead Professional and ContactPoint can be found on the Department for Children Schools and Families website and leaflets for children, parents and professionals are available.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Pre-School - Getting Help before starting school

Specialist Teaching Service

If you have any concerns about your child's development before they start school you should talk to your GP, Paediatrician, Health Visitor, Pre-School Leader or any other professional who is supporting your child. The Specialist Teaching Service works alongside other professionals to provide the most appropriate support & advice for babies and very young children with special educational needs or disabilities.

Referrals can be made from Health professionals, Social Services or from the pre-school setting, if your child attends. Some children with complex needs may be referred to Early Support in order to plan the provision of coordinated, high quality child and family centred services. The Specialist Teaching Service continues to support children when they go to school.

Kent Portage Service

01892 633252

Portage is a pre school home visiting educational service for children who have additional support needs. Referrals from any parent or professional are taken through Early Support, the intake meetings are held every two weeks. Portage Home visitors work alongside parents developing individual educational activities for the family to carry out with their child. Portage also offers a weekly support group for families.

Parent and toddler groups

For children from birth upwards parents stay with their children and these groups are not registered with Ofsted.

For information about Sure Start Children Centre activities in North West Kent for pre-school children, see Leisure Section.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Pre-school playgroups

For more information on pre-school playgroups, nursery schools, Early Years Education, Childcare, breakfast and after school clubs contact:

Kent Children and Families Information Service:

08000 32 32 30

www.kent.gov.uk/cfis

Playgroups offer children a mixture of play, socialisation and early education. The Early Years' branch of Ofsted now inspects playgroups and their guidelines state that registered playgroups must be aware that some children have special needs and take steps to promote their welfare and development in partnership with parents, carers and other relevant people.

Funding by Kent County Council

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to free nursery education. Children are eligible for up to 2 years following their third birthday. The money is paid directly to the nursery education provider by KCC.

School years 5-19

If you have any concerns about your child's education the first thing to do is to talk to your child's class teacher. If you need more information, find out who the school's SENCO is and discuss your worries with them. You may also wish to talk to the head of year, head teacher, governor with responsibility for SEN or the chair of the governing body. The Partnership with Parents Service can support you with information or offer someone to go with you to meetings.

EDUCATION SERVICES

School Action and Early Years Action

To meet your child's special educational needs in school/setting, it may be possible to support your child at School/Early Years Action. This means the school/setting should provide interventions from within its allocated resources that are additional to, or different from, what other children need. The SENCO and class teacher will put together a special plan and targets for your child called an Individual Education Plan (IEP). You should be shown this so you can also help your child. Your child's progress will be reviewed to check targets are being met.

School Action and Early Years Action Plus

Where despite sustained intervention at School/Early Years Action level a child is still failing to make appropriate progress, the school/setting may seek more help from external specialists. Your child will have an IEP with targets and reviews and experts from outside the school will advise or help. This is called School/Early Years Action Plus.

Statutory Assessments

If your child still has difficulties, or they get worse, you may contact the LA and ask in writing for a statutory assessment. Address your letter to: West Kent Area Office, 17 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4UL

The LA will consider the need for a statutory assessment and if they think it appropriate, they will seek parental, educational, psychological, medical and social services advice. The LA will also seek advice from any professionals identified by you. The LA will send you a comprehensive information pack to help you understand and participate in the process.

EDUCATION SERVICES

You will be asked for written permission in advance of any assessments of your child and you have a right to attend all assessments and interviews that form part of the Statutory Assessment Procedure.

As soon as the LA begins to consider making an assessment they must:

- Tell you what they plan to do, including what happens in a statutory assessment and the time limits they work to.
- Give you the name of one of their staff who can give you more information (Named Officer).
- Tell you about the steps they will take if they decide to make an assessment.
- Give you at least 29 days to say whether you agree that they should assess your child.
- Give you details of the Partnership with Parents service who can offer you advice and support.
- Encourage you to give your views on your child's needs.
- Consider the opinions of your child where this is possible.

The whole process should be completed within 26 weeks, as follows:

6 weeks to decide whether or not to make an assessment.

10 weeks to make the assessment.

2 weeks for drafting and issuing the Proposed Statement.

8 weeks for finalising the Statement, giving details of provision including the school your child will go to.

If the LA decides not to make a Statement

They must notify parents giving their reasons. You have a right to appeal if you disagree.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Checking the Proposed Statement

Make sure it:

- lists all your child's needs and difficulties
- lists all the provision needed by your child
- specifies the number of hours of extra help
- gives details of any equipment your child needs
- is clear and understandable. Don't accept the Proposed Statement if you are unhappy with any part of it.

What to do if you are happy with the Statement

Write to the LA and inform them of your preferred choice of school for your child.

What to do if you are not happy with decisions or provision

Contact the LA at Kroner House, 01622 696717, and speak to your named officer (AEN Assessment Officer). They can arrange a meeting to discuss issues and resolve differences or mediation involving an impartial third party who will not take sides.

What happens after a child has a Statement?

There will be an annual review of the Statement.

Complaints and appeals

If you cannot resolve problems through discussion with the school SENCO, or LA Mediation you can appeal to a Special Educational Needs Disability Tribunal (SEND Tribunal). Appeals should be made within 2 months of being notified of the decision.

Partnership with Parents

01622 755515

www.kent.gov.uk/partnershipwithparents

Email: partnershipwithparents@kent.gov.uk

Funded by the DCSF & KCC it works with parents, schools and the LA and can offer advice and support in finding information, dealing with paperwork and meetings, and in overcoming differences where there is disagreement.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Schools

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning

The Kent School Database provides an online directory of Kent LA (Local Authority) schools. They can also be found on the KCC main website under Education and Learning.

Children not at School

www.kenttrustweb.org.uk

A child may not be in school for a number of reasons. You may choose to educate the child at home, or the school may have excluded them. The LA still has a duty to provide education and this may take the form of home tuition provided by a visiting tutor. In some cases the LA may offer a place in a Pupil Referral Unit. Many pupils in PRUs will have special educational needs and a significant number will have statements, usually for emotional and behavioural difficulties. If a mainstream setting is best, a short-term placement within a PRU to tackle immediate problems may aid smooth reintegration into another mainstream school. For pupils at stages 1-3 of the SEN Code, a period in a PRU might enable that assessment to continue.

Financial Assistance

Transport

LA's must provide free transport if it is necessary to enable the child to get to the nearest suitable school and it is over the statutory distance between the home address and school.

The statutory distance is up to 2 miles for pupils under 8 years and up to 3 miles for pupils from 8 to 16 years. Where the journey is within these distances, the expectation is that a child or young person walks to school, accompanied where necessary by a responsible adult. For pupils who live less than the statutory distance, where as a result of their special educational needs or disability (even accompanied by a responsible adult), their welfare or safety, or the welfare or safety of others, can not be guaranteed, free transport to school is provided.

EDUCATION SERVICES

The LA may provide a free bus pass or minibus or a taxi. If the parent agrees to take their child to school, the LA may give an allowance towards the cost of fuel.

Meals

Free school meals are available to pupils at a maintained or grant maintained school if they or their parents receive Income Support, Income-based Job-seeker's Allowance, support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, child Tax Credit (providing you are not receiving Working Tax Credit and your annual income for the household is below £16,040) or the guaranteed element of pension credit. Contact the Awards Team (for the whole of Kent) on 01303 224325/224337

Useful addresses and websites

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)

0808 800 5793

www.ace-ed.org.uk/index.html

Offer information and advice about state education for parents of school-age children. Issues can include exclusion from school, bullying, special educational needs and school admission appeals.

Independent Panel for Special Education Advice

0800 018 4016

www.ipsea.org.uk

Offer independent advice to parents who are uncertain or disagree with the LA's interpretation of their child's special educational needs. Can also help with appealing to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal, including representation when needed and free second professional opinions.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Kent County Council's website

www.kent.gov.uk

Provides information about Local Authority and Special Educational Needs.

Network 81

08450774055

www.network81.org/

A national network of parents working towards properly resourced inclusive education for children with special needs.

Parents Centre

www.parentscentre.gov.uk

Information and support for parents on how to help with your child's learning, including advice on choosing a school and finding childcare.

Pre-school Learning Alliance

020 76972599

www.pre-school.org.uk

Specialists providing practical support to early years settings. Services include publications, information & advice & training.

TeacherNet

www.teachernet.gov.uk

Provide a wide range of special education needs and disability advice and materials for teachers, parents and others working with children with SEN.

Further Information Section

Kent Children's Trust

www.kenttrustweb.org.uk

'Children's trusts are central to Government policy for improving children's services. They develop the local strategy for improving children's lives by delivering better services, including their health and wellbeing. Different Trusts work in different ways, depending on local circumstances. They focus on particular issues, like reducing under-achievement in early years or improving access to services for disabled children, and on new ways of working, like co-location of services and multi-agency "teams around the child".

EDUCATION SERVICES

Extended Schools

www.kenttrustweb.org.uk

Provide a range of services outside of school hours for school-age children, their families and the local community including childcare, activities and support for learning. Extended school services enable the wider community to make use of the school's facilities. Some schools may also offer services, such as information about healthy eating and nutrition or advice on managing finances - including debt counseling and availability of welfare and benefits. By 2010, all schools will provide or be able to signpost parents to a full range of services - some will be free, but others, like childcare, will be charged for.

Local Children's Services Partnerships

www.kenttrustweb.org.uk

There are 23 Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSPs) in Kent who play a central role in improving outcomes for local children, young people and families through integrated commissioning and front line delivery. Each LCSP has its own Local Children and Young People's Plan; they have also established their own LCSP Boards.

These local partnerships are developing a local plan for children's services and a multi-agency team to provide the early intervention and preventative support services required, many of which are likely to be accessed through schools, nurseries or children's Centres.

TRANSITION

Transition

All young people must start to consider their future education and career at around 14. For young people with special needs this is a crucial time as they need to consider what extra support they may need in their learning. All young people, and especially those with special needs, are entitled to further help.

Transition Plan

If your child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs, at the age of 14 they will be invited to attend their annual review. This review must include the drawing up of a transition plan which will include information from all professionals involved in supporting them, and with input from their parents/carers, to plan for their transition to adult life. The plan not only covers post-school provision but includes on-going school provision. Transition planning must also include, in conjunction with Health and Social Services:

- What the young person needs to become more independent
- What practical help or adaptation's may be needed at home
- What special health needs require on-going support
- What the young person and family want.

The Connexions Service is responsible for overseeing the delivery of this plan.

If your child has special educational needs but doesn't have a statement, they may still need additional support to plan their transition to adulthood. The Connexions Service have a responsibility to make sure all young people who have difficulty transferring to further education or training, have a needs and provision assessment in their final year of school.

If your child doesn't have a statement and isn't in contact with Connexions, you may want to arrange a meeting with them to discuss your child's options after 16.

Assessment of Needs

The Learning and Skills Act Section 140 assessment duty is a process to assess the needs, and the provision required to meet those needs, for people in their last compulsory school year if they have a Statement and if they are likely to leave school to pursue further training or Higher Education. An assessment may also take place for someone who has a learning difficulty, but not a Statement. This duty is also led by the Connexions service and strengthens the legal rights of young people during transition planning.

Connexions

www.connexionskentandmedway.co.uk

Provide information and independent advice to young people on school and college courses, different careers and the training that may be necessary. There is a Specialist Personal Adviser for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities that help young people find information and make informed choices; they can also attend review meetings.

Connexions Access Points (CAP)

Dartford 31-33 Hythe Street

01322 281214

Open: 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & 11am-7pm
Thursday

Gravesend 8/9 Berkley Crescent

01474 328443

Open: 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & 11am-7pm
Thursday

TRANSITION

Kent Transition Protocols

KCC have developed a new set of protocols, or ways to work, called Kent Transition Protocols. These will help young people and their families have a better experience of the move to being supported by Adult Social Services.

The protocols have three main aims:

- to make sure young people with complex needs who are moving from adolescence to adulthood get the integrated, continuous support they need
- to make sure young people are involved in decision-making and get the outcomes they are looking for through planning and services designed for the individual
- to establish when and how information should be shared between agencies and to help with strategic planning and commissioning services for the future

Transition to Adulthood

www.kent.gov.uk

Website has information about Transition in Kent including the Transition Strategy document, Handbooks for Parents and one for Professionals and The move to Adulthood - Planning for the Future (easy read version).

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

www.direct.gov.uk

EMA is there to help with your child's costs if they stay in full time education after 16. If your household income is less than £30,810 (currently for tax year 2008-09) then your child can get help with up to £30 a week towards the cost of books, travel or equipment. It is paid straight into your child's bank account.

Further Education (FE)

Dartford, Gravesend and Swanley Adult Education Centres

Main switch board: 0845 606 5606

Courses available under 'independent living' for young people and adults aged 16 and over.

Courses in the Independent Living Programme cover 'Towards Independence', 'Reading for Independence', 'Drama & Communication Skills', 'Computer Skills', 'Words, Numbers and Discussion'.

North West Kent College

www.courses.nwkcollege.ac.uk

01322 629400 - central reception

North West Kent College is a college of further and higher education located on sites across Kent in Dartford and Gravesham. As well as providing courses in many areas the College offers a specialist service available to all students with any kind of learning difficulty or disability. Support includes:

- Support from their deaf access team
- One-to-one specialist support including signer/interpreter
- Learning support assistants/scribes/readers in class
- Arrangements for access arrangements/extra time allowed where appropriate
- Specialist equipment or adaptations e.g. adaptations to computers, enlargement of printed materials for the visually impaired
- Personal care needs
- Welfare support needs
- Disabled vehicle drop-off points, wheelchair access, parking spaces and toilets at all campuses

TRANSITION

Kent Adult Education

www.kentadulteducation.co.uk

0800 074 1447 Helpline for advice and to arrange an appointment for enrolling.

Offer courses at North West Kent College that can help improve your reading & maths and offer English for speakers of other languages.

Funding for Disability Support

The LEA (and not the DfES as is the case for HE) provides funding for Students in FE, if you require money for books/equipment/field trips etc., then you must apply direct to the college where you intend to study and ask them what funding you could receive from their college Learner Support Funds.

Higher Education (HE) - University places

Universities will make arrangements for students with disabilities to be able to attend lectures and classes, and have suitable accommodation for themselves and any carers they need to support them. Contact individual Universities for more details.

Funding for Higher Education

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)

www.direct.gov.uk

DSA's are grants to help meet the extra course costs students can face as a direct result of a disability or specific learning difficulty. The amount you get doesn't depend on your household income, is paid on top of the standard student finance package, and doesn't have to be paid back. They can help pay for:

- specialist equipment you need for studying - i.e computer software
- a non-medical helper, such as a note-taker or reader
- extra travel costs you have to pay because of your disability
- other costs - for example, tapes or Braille paper

Independent Specialist Colleges

There are a range of specialist colleges throughout the country which have experience of teaching students with special needs. They recruit nationally and often residential. The Learning and Skills Council has a duty to fund a specialist place for a student under the age of 19 whose needs cannot be met in local colleges, and has the power to fund a specialist place for a student between the age of 19 and 25 if evidence is provided that their needs cannot be met locally.

The Association of National Specialist Colleges

0117 923 2830

www.natspec.org.uk

Provide details of a wide choice of education and training to meet the needs of people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Online search facility.

Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

0870 900 6800

www.lsc.gov.uk

Responsible for funding education and training for young people over 16, including Further Education, work based training, sixth form and adult & community learning but not Higher Education.

After Transition

To help in discussions with Connexions and Social Services it may be useful to know about some of the places providing employment for adults with special needs. All placements require the support of a social service Care Manager.

Adult Day Opportunities Centres

Referral for a placement is by a social services care manager. Day centres offer training in independent living and work skills.

TRANSITION

Job Centre Plus

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

08456 060 234 - Job search Helpline

A Disability Employment Adviser can advise on employment/training options and benefits available for young people with disabilities.

Dartford, 61 Lowfield Street

01322 484500

Gravesend, 44-46 The Grove

01474 592600

Kent Supported Employment

www.kent.gov.uk

Works with local employers to ensure disabled people are proportionately represented in the workforce. Provide ongoing support to ensure people succeed. For more info contact:

Gravesend, Joynes House

01474 328664

Support and Advice

Contact a Family

0808 808 3555

www.cafamily.org

Provide fact sheet, information and advice on Transition, offer support and advice and can put you in touch with similar families.

EGAS (Education Grants Advisory Service)

0207 241 7459

www.family-action.org.uk

Run by Family Action, offers guidance and advice on funding for those studying in post-16 education. Provide online guide for sources of funding including loans, grants and benefits.

Transition Information Network

020 7843 6006

www.after16.org.uk

This is a website for parents, carers and people who work with and for disabled young people in transition to adulthood.

The Shaw Trust

01225 716 300

www.shaw-trust.org.uk

A national charity which support disabled people to prepare for work, find jobs and live more independently.

SKILL

0800 328 5050

www.skill.org.uk

National charity that provide information about education, training and work for disabled people.

Housing

If it is appropriate for a young person to live away from home, then it is very important that this has been included in the Transition Plan. There are several options that can be considered, such as a placement in a residential home or an independent living scheme. Such provision is available through statutory, voluntary and private sectors.

Your first point of contact should be your social worker although you can also look at different voluntary and private organisations. Your local authority housing department should also have details of specialist housing schemes and housing associations with accommodation in your area.

Direct Payments

Local Authorities can give payments, instead of services, to allow disabled people and carers to buy in the services they have been assessed as needing. When a child becomes 16 he or she can receive payments in their own right.

The amount you receive should be enough to allow them to meet all the costs involved. Any payments you receive must be used to pay for services to meet the assessed needs. For more information see the Direct Payment Section within Short Breaks.

TRANSITION

Housing Options

0845 4561497

www.housingoptions.org.uk

Provide advice and information for people with learning difficulties on accessing different types of housing.

Independent Living Fund (ILF)

0845 601 8815

www.ilf.org.uk

Can help severely disabled people to live independently at home, rather than in residential care by making payments so that they can employ personal assistants or agency workers to provide the support that they need to remain at home.

Work in partnership with Local Authority Social Services and only make payments to people who get Social Services support to the value of at least £16,640 per year (£320 per week).

This support from Social Services can take the form of direct services, for example a day centre placement, or money from a Direct Payment Scheme

Health

GP's should remain the first point of contact for any health related issues however; many paediatricians will continue to see their patients into adulthood particularly if there is a growth or development delay or rare disorder. It is important that a health professional is involved in the drawing up of the Transition Plan.

Disabled Living Foundation

0845 130 9177

www.dlf.org.uk

Provide free, impartial advice about all types of daily living equipment for disabled people including baths, toys and children's equipment, wheelchairs, hoists and beds.

TRANSITION

FPA (Family Planning Association)

0845 122 8690

www.fpa.org.uk

The UK's leading sexual health charity whose purpose is to enable people to make informed choices about sex and to enjoy sexual health. Produce 'Talking together about Growing Up' an illustrated workbook for parents of children with learning difficulties. Also produce 'Talking Together... About Sex and relationships' a follow up pack aimed at young people with learning difficulties aged 13+.

Disabled Parents Network

0300 3300 639

www.disabledparentsnetwork.org.uk

A national organisation for disabled people who are parents, or who hope to become parents, and their friends and family.

Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities

020 7803 1101

www.learningdisabilities.org.uk

Produce publications and booklets for people with learning disabilities including '*All about feeling down*' and '*Meeting the emotional needs of young people with learning disabilities*'

How It Is

0207 825 7422

www.howitis.org.uk

Visual symbols for use by children to express feelings, includes symbols useful around personal safety and sexuality.

Useful Websites

Brook Advisory Centre

www.brook.org.uk

0808 802 1234

Provide free and confidential advice on sex, relationships, contraception and pregnancy to young people under 25.

TRANSITION

In Control

www.in-control.org.uk

Run by disabled people this website has useful factsheets, information about personal budgets and support planning.

Get Paid

www.getpaid.org.uk

Produces useful Transition factsheet '*everything you needed to know but were afraid to ask*'.

Hands Off My Plan

www.handsoffmyplan.co.uk

Website that is run by people with learning disabilities, and gives good advice about person centred planning.

Like it is

www.likeitis.org.uk

Sexual Health (years 9,10 and 11 good but a lot on each page)

Mind, Body & Soul

www.mindbodysoul.gov.uk

Good for quick information gathering

Moving on Up

www.movingonup.info

Includes advice around learning and working; free-time, health and wellbeing, as well as money, housing, culture and news and events.

Trans-active

www.trans-active.org.uk

Information about transition for young people with learning difficulties. Has useful downloadable checklist for planning.

Transition Information Network

www.transitioninfonetwork.org.uk

Provide information on all aspects of transition.

Holidays

Information

Accessible Travel

01452 729 739

www.accessibletravel.co.uk

Take care of all your holiday needs for those less mobile including accessible holidays, equipment hire and transport.

Disabled Holiday Directory

01348 875592

www.disabledholidaydirectory.co.uk

Provide information on suitable holiday destinations including extra help and equipment needed.

Disabled United Travel

www.disabledunited.com

Arrange accessible holidays in the UK and abroad for disabled children, their carers, friends and families, with a variety of accommodation to suit individual needs.

Enable Holidays

0871 222 4939

www.enableholidays.com

Offer carefully selected overseas holidays for disabled people, their families and friends.

Holiday Care - Tourism for All

0845 124 9971

www.holidaycare.org.uk

For information on all types of holidays for people with special needs.

RADAR

020 7250 3222

www.radar.org.uk

The Royal Association for Disability & Rehabilitation compiles regularly updated fact sheets and holiday guides.

HOLIDAYS

Places and Organisations

Beamsley Project

01756 710255

www.beamsleyproject.org.uk

The Beamsley Project is an independent charity that provides holiday accommodation in the Yorkshire Dales for people with disabilities and their carers. The centre sleeps 24 people and the cottage six.

Bendrigg Trust, Cumbria

01539 723766

www.bendrigg.org.uk

Residential activity centre offering disabled people tailor made holidays. Activities include a specially designed climbing and abseiling tower, challenge & adventure course and a range of orienteering courses.

BREAK, Norfolk

01263 822161

www.break-charity.org

Provide special care services for children, adults and families with special needs - including holidays and short breaks care, children's homes, adult day care and residential assessments for families in crisis.

British Polio Fellowship

0800 018 0586

www.britishpolio.org.uk

The fellowship offer fully accessible holiday accommodation in Somerset to people with any kind of disability at very reasonable prices.

Calvert Trust

www.calvert-trust.org.uk

Have 3 centres that offer disabled activity holidays for all ages.

- Exmoor - Barnstaple, Devon EX31 4SJ - 01598 763221
- Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4QD - 01768 772255
- Kielder, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1BS - 01434 250232

HOLIDAYS

Camp Mohawk, Berkshire

0118 940 4045

www.campmohawk.org.uk

A summer daytime centre focusing on outdoor activities with sensory rooms, swimming pool & organised activities. Primarily for children with Autism it is ideally suited for young people age 8-18 years old.

The Daisy Chain Project, Blackpool

01253 761444

www.kensingtonfoundation.com

Provide free accommodation in a purpose built block of 10, 2 bedroom apartments each with own facilities for families caring for a sick or disabled child, coping with limited means in difficult circumstances or rebuilding their lives after the loss of a child.

Dukes Barn, Derbyshire

01629 733039

www.dukesbarn.org

Adventure opportunities for all, regardless of age or ability with specialist provision for deaf and disabled people.

East Dene Centre, Isle of Wight

01983 852374

www.allnatt.co.uk

Mansion house set overlooking the sea. Designed to offer families living with autism and associated behaviours the opportunity to holiday together with support and without judgement. A flexible programme allows parents to network whilst their children are safely engaged in activities including trampoline, swimming, zip wire and arts & crafts.

Holiday Cottages at Special School sites

www.krd.org.uk

Holiday accommodation on special school sites is currently being piloted in Kent and may be available more widely in the future. Families are able to customise a package to suit their needs. Information will appear on the 'Aiming High' website.

HOLIDAYS

Livability (formerly Grooms Holidays)

020 7452 2000

www.livability.org.uk

Offer affordable wheelchair accessible holidays in different locations across the country.

The Harriet Davis Seaside Holiday Trust

01834 814645

www.harriet-davis-trust.org.uk

Have 3 self catering holiday houses in Tenby which are fully equipped for families with disabled children. A fourth house has been specially adapted and equipped to cater for families with children with autism and other learning difficulties. The house sleeps 6 and is in Narberth.

The Lyneal Trust, Shrewsbury

01743 252728

www.lyneal-trust.org.uk

Holidays & Canal boats for people with disabilities. They have two boats & four cottages, specially designed & built for people with disabilities.

Kick Asthma Adventure Holidays

020 7786 5000

www.asthma.org.uk

Organise week-long adventure holidays for children and young people with asthma (and other related conditions)

National Autistic Society

Radlett Lodge School, Radlett, Hertfordshire

01923 854922

Provide a short breaks service at weekends and during school holidays for families across the London Borough and surrounding counties.

HOLIDAYS

Peter Le Marchant Trust, Loughborough

01509 265590

www.peterlemarchanttrust.co.uk

Have two boats which are used for providing very low cost day outings and holidays on waterways to disabled people of all ages

Petty Pool Outdoor Centre, Cheshire

01606 889097

www.pettypool.org.uk

An outdoor centre dedicated to providing holidays of a lifetime to young people with disabilities. Activities include canoeing, abseiling, orienteering and horse riding.

Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Activities Centre, Hampshire

023 8040 4844.

www.qe2activitycentre.co.uk

Provide self catering accommodation for up to 8 people in cabins. Can book as use as a base for exploring local attractions or as an activity holiday. Families or groups welcome.

Red Ridge Centre, Wales

01938 810821

www.redridgecentre.co.uk

Situated near the English/Welsh border, the centre offers residential courses with a wide range of activities to groups and individuals, regardless of ability.

Sense

0845 127 0060

www.sense.org.uk

Sense organise holidays for children who have at least one sensory disability and possibly other disabilities. Activities range from abseiling to white water rafting. There is no charge to the families and applications can be downloaded from website.

HOLIDAYS

Scout Holiday Homes Trust

020 8433 7290

www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/holhomes/

Inexpensive self-catering holidays for families with special needs, in chalets and caravans on existing holiday sites around the country. No Scout connection necessary

The Stackpole Centre, Pembroke

01646 661425

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Offers accommodation for groups, families and individuals, providing a leisure complex, theatre, art and music workshop for guests to arrange their own activity holiday.

Ty Glyn Davis Trust, Wales

01545 580708

www.tyglyndavistrust.co.uk

A purpose built holiday centre for children and young people with disabilities.

Vitalise (formerly Winged Fellowship Trust)

0845 330 0149

www.vitalise.org.uk

Provides short breaks for disabled adults, children and their carers at five accessible centres in Cornwall, Nottingham, Southport, Essex and Southampton.

Holidays Abroad

Access Travel

01942 888844

www.access-travel.co.uk

Arrange holidays for disabled people including accessible accommodation, special aids and adapted vehicles, insurance and nursing/care services.

HCPT - The Pilgrimage Trust

01788 564646

www.hcpt.org.uk

Each year they take thousands of children aged 7-18 with disabilities or special needs on a pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes in France. They also own a specially equipped holiday home, Hosanna House, in Lourdes for families.

HOLIDAYS

I need a holiday too!

0800 949 6801

www.ineedaholidaytoo.com

Provide a place for wheelchair accessible and supported holidays in Brittany, France. Services include a choice of completely accessible accommodation options, accessible transport for airport/ferry transfers and a door to door service for days out.

Supported-Holidays

0114 249 9988

www.supported-holidays.co.uk/

Supported-Holidays enable you to have your holiday of choice by supporting your planned tailored individual or group needs? Before you travel they will arrange for you to meet with one of their dedicated staff team who will be supporting you and any other companions. Their policy is to promote dignity, choice, rights and respect.

Organisations for Carers

The Kiloran Trust

020 7602 7404

www.kilorantrust.org.uk

Provide carers with a break in their West London house which is informal, friendly & relaxed. You can do sightseeing, shopping, visit friends; go to a West End show or just rest.

Margaret Champney Rest and Holiday Fund

01394 388746

www.theogilvietrust.org.uk

Offer grants to adults in need of a recuperative holiday. Application must come via a social worker or professional agency.

HOLIDAYS

Financial Help & Wish Granting

The AdCare Holiday Fund

020 7454 0454

e-mail: holidayfund@mencap.org.uk

Part of Mencap they give grants to individuals with a learning disability to go on holiday or help pay for a carer to go with you. Anyone with a learning disability can apply, but under 16s must apply to the Family Fund Trust first.

Dave Lee's Happy Holidays

01227 728240

www.daveleehappyholidays.org.uk

Provide holidays, short breaks and outings for disabled, sick and underprivileged children of Kent.

Dial a Dream

020 8530 5589

www.dial-a-dream.co.uk

Grants wishes to children aged 3-18 with life threatening and life limiting illnesses.

Dreamflight

01494 722733

www.dreamflight.org

Organise trips to Disneyworld, Florida for 8-14 year olds who are physically disabled or have been seriously ill.

Dreams Come True

01730 815000

www.dctc.org.uk

Charity that fulfils the dreams of children aged 2-21 who are suffering from a serious, degenerative or terminal illness.

The Family Fund

0845 130 4542

www.familyfundtrust.org.uk

Purpose is to ease the stress on families in the UK who care for severely disabled children under 16, by providing grants for holidays or short breaks.

HOLIDAYS

The Family Holiday Association

020 7436 3304

www.fhaonline.org.uk

Provide grants for low income families for holidays. Applications must come from social workers or similar professionals.

3H Holiday Fund

01892 860207

www.3hfund.org.uk

Organise subsidised group holidays for physically disabled children and adults with the support of volunteer helpers. Also provide grants to families on low income with a physically or mentally disabled dependant to have a modest UK holiday.

Happy Days

0870 770 0324

www.happydayscharity.org

Happy Days is a charity that provides special holidays for children who suffer from severe illnesses and disabilities.

Holiday Endeavour for Lone Parents (HELP)

01427 668717

www.helpohls.co.uk

A national charity offering low cost and subsidised holidays throughout the UK for lone parents and their children.

Make A wish Foundation

01276 405060

www.make-a-wish.org.uk

Grants the wishes of children aged 3-17 suffering from life-threatening illnesses.

Merlin's Magic Wand Children's Charity

http://www.merlinsmagicwand.org/about_our_charity/our_aims.asp

Merlin's Magic Wand charity has been established to provide experiences for disadvantaged children. Applications for awards can come from individuals or from groups working with seriously ill, disabled or disadvantaged children. Please see Website for further information.

HOLIDAYS

Pearsons Holiday Fund

020 8657 3053

www.pearsonsholidayfund.org

Provide financial grants to assist disadvantaged children aged 4-16 to have holidays or take part in similar activities. Families have to be on benefit level income. Applications must be submitted by third parties i.e. social worker, health visitor or professional agency.

When you Wish Upon A Star

0115 979 1720

www.whenyowishuponastar.org.uk

Realises dreams for sick children up to the age of 16, also organise trips to Lapland.

Travel Insurance

All Clear Travel

0845 250 5250

www.allcleartravel.co.uk

Provide medical travel insurance for all who have pre-existing medical conditions, a disability or special need, whilst also offering standard insurance to cover family and friends.

Free Spirit Solutions

0845 230 5000

www.free-spirit.com

Offer a range of tailor made holiday insurance including cover for pre-existing medical conditions.

Terra Blu

01892 529429

www.terrablue.com

Provide travel insurance for people with disabilities and pre-existing medical conditions.

Venture Sure

0845 230 3521

www.venturesure.co.uk

Provide travel insurance for people with pre-existing medical conditions. Claim to have no exclusions or extra premiums for special needs.

SHORT BREAKS

Short Breaks

Short-term care provides an opportunity for parents/carers to have a break from caring. It can also give the child or young person opportunities to do new things, make new friends and to become more independent. There are several types of care available - family based short -term care and residential care

Aiming High Short Breaks
Transformation Programme
Disabled Children's Service, KCC
Kroner House
Eurogate Business Park
Ashford
TN24 8XU

☎ 01233 652125

✉ shortbreakspathfinder@kent.gov.uk

Direct Payments - CFPSS

Helpline: 01322 669245

www.cfdp.co.uk

Email: info@cfdp.co.uk

Following an assessment from Social Services for assistance or support, Direct Payments offers you a cash alternative enabling you to purchase your own care package. This option enables you to have more control and flexibility over the type of assistance, when it is provided, how and by whom.

The Children and Families Direct Payments Support Scheme is a support service for disabled children and their families who are interested in taking up direct payments. It is managed by The Parents Consortium, a parent-led voluntary sector organisation based in Hextable, Kent.

SHORT BREAKS

Crossroads

www.crossroads.org.uk

Maidstone and North West Kent Crossroads

The Lodge, Holborough Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5PJ.

01634 249090

Maidstone and North West Kent Crossroads is a voluntary organisation which provides trained, paid Carer Support Workers to give carers home-based regular or occasional breaks for a few hours. The relief care is free to carers and offered, where possible, at the time best suited to the family, this can be during the day, evenings or weekends. They work in a very flexible way as their help includes anything that the regular carer usually does. Referrals can be made by anyone, including carers themselves, to the Service Manager of the scheme by telephone or in writing.

Footprints (Kent Kids Miles of Smiles)

Stodmarsh Road, Fordwich, Canterbury CT3 4AP

01227 780796/785067

www.miles-of-smiles.org.uk

Footprints is a unique short breaks house with a holiday atmosphere for sick and/or disabled children between 3 and 18 years of age. Each room within the house is themed to include such fairy-tale stories as Cinderella, Aladdin, Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland, Sleeping Beauty and Pinocchio. An extension to the main building houses 4 bedrooms, enabling Footprints to provide a permanent home for 4 children. Footprints now has it's own unique sensory room with wheelchair access. The rear garden has a BBQ area, playground, lawn area and a large woodland area. They also have an adapted minibus suitable for wheelchairs. Children can be referred by their parents, relatives, friends or any statutory agency.

SHORT BREAKS

KIDS

www.kids.org.uk

Kids is a national Charity dedicated to helping children and young people with special needs and their families. They currently run a Saturday Club and Holiday Playscheme.

Link Scheme

0845 330 2968

www.kent.gov.uk

The Link Scheme is a service for families who have a child with a disability living in Kent. Link is for children of all ages up to the age of 18 years who have all kinds of disabilities. The child is linked with a volunteer carer who shares the care of the child who can visit their Link carer for as little as a few hours weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Rainbow Lodge

mandy.vallis@wkpct.nhs.uk

01322 272310

Rainbow Lodge provides residential short breaks for disabled children; it is a purpose built bungalow in Dartford that is jointly funded by Health & Social Services.

Rainbow Lodge has 6 beds, a sensory room, ball pool/soft play area, a large play room and extensive gardens which house a Go Kart Track, swings and climbing frame.

Disabled children access the facilities offered at Rainbow Lodge by referral by their social worker.

For more information on short breaks see Holidays section

SHORT BREAKS

The Parents Consortium

01322 665474 (direct dial to Leisure Dept)

rileyt@parentsconsortium.co.uk

From February 2010 the Allsworth Court Resource Centre will be operating a 6 bed residential short breaks provision. Details about Allsworth Court are available at:

www.parentsconsortium.co.uk

Voluntary Action within Kent (VSU Youth in Action)

The Groves Centre, Manor Grove, Tonbridge TN10 3DT

01732 366558

www.vsuinkent.org

Run short break weekends and various centre based activities, days out and after school clubs - see Leisure

Weekend Fun Club

This is a short break club for young people with learning disabilities. There are 2 age groups and the activities vary between centre based activities, days out and residential. They are unable to take severely physically disabled young people or those with extreme challenging behaviour - there is a 3 month trial period where they invite the young people to attend 3 sessions before they are invited to join a residential.

Leisure

Kent Children and Families Information Service

08000 32 32 30

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning

Kent Children & Families Information Service (KCFIS) has a freephone helpline offering free, impartial information and advice about childcare, early education, parenting, family life and issues that affect young people up to the age of 20. They have a large database of Ofsted registered childcare, including information on toddler groups, pre-schools, holiday clubs, breakfast and after school clubs.

Under 5s

Sure Start Children's Centre

http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/chc/chc_home.cfm

Each Sure Start / Children's Centre venue offers free sessions for the under 5's. Please contact your nearest Sure Start / Children's Centre for further information.

Gravesham Sure Start Centres:

New Beginnings (Shears Green) Children's Centre, Cornwell Ave:

01474 357569

Next Steps Children's Centre, Kings Farm School, Cedar Ave:

01474 364533

Riverside Children's Centre, Dickens Road:

01474 535301

Daisy Chains Children's Centre, Meopham Library, Meopham:

01474 814500

Little Gems Children's Centre, College Road, Northfleet:

01474 353872

Little Pepples Children's Centre, Ordance Road :

01474 327575

LEISURE

Dartford Sure Start Centres:

Oakfield Centre, Oakfield Lane:	01322 421168
Temple Hill Children's Centre, 2 Temple Hill Square:	01322 628296
Swanscombe Children's Centre, 37 Swanscombe Street:	01322 624230
Knockhall Children's Centre, Abbey Road, Greenhithe:	01322 624290
The Brent Children's Centre, Pilgrims Way:	01322 622594
Darenth Children's Centre, Green Street Green Road:	01474 700620
The Maypole Children's Centre, Franklin Road:	01322 552316

Swanley Children's Centre:

c/o The Simon Harrison Centre, Furness School, Rowhill Road,
Hextable: 01322 616470

Jo Jingles

01474 322123

www.jojingles.com

Provide a fun and creative introduction to music for pre-school children. Website has details of local classes.

Story Time (Pre-school age) and Baby Bounce & Rhyme Sessions (Up to 3years)

Run by local libraries, these are inclusive and free to attend.
Contact your local library for day and time and closest venue.

Dartford Main Library, Central Park:	01322 221133
Gravesend Main Library, Windmill Street:	01474 352758
Swanley Main Library, London Road:	01322 662570

School age Schemes

Sprints Youth Centre

Northfleet youth and community centre, Hall Road, Northfleet.
01474 351451

Integrated youth club provision, based on an assessment of the individual young person's needs. Run on Wednesdays from 7-9pm from 12 years until 25th birthday.

The Parents Consortium

www.parentsconsortium.co.uk

Allsworth Court Resource Centre, St David's Road, Hextable.
01322 668501 / 665474

The Parents Consortium is a charitable company who provide services to families, schools, hospitals, children's homes and other organisations who need our support. Parents Consortium membership is open to all parents and carers who have a disabled child aged 19 or under in the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley area.

Term time only clubs run at Allsworth Court:

- Rainbow club: Fortnightly Monday & Tuesdays, 4pm-7pm. A referral service from the disabled children's team is required to access this club.
- Youth Club: Wednesdays, ages 12years until 20th birthday, 5-7pm
- Kids club: Thursdays, ages 5years until 12th birthday, 4.30 - 6pm
- Music club: Saturdays, ages 5-19 years 10 - 11am & 11-12am
- Siblings club: Saturdays, ages 5-8 years 10-12noon & ages 9 - 13, 1-3pm.

Term time only club run at Sprints Youth Centre:

- Kids club: Wednesdays, ages 5years until 12th birthday, 5-6.30pm

LEISURE

Mencap (DGSM Your Choice)

01322 281833

www.dgsmyourchoice.org.uk

They provide services for children and adults with learning difficulties. Activities for children take place primarily during school holidays.

Voluntary Action Within Kent (VSU Youth in Action)

01322 294524

www.vsuinkent.org

Assist as volunteers with weekends and various centre based activities, days out and after school clubs.

Befriending/Mentoring

Me2

01634 281841

www.kentyouth.org

A social inclusion project within mainstream leisure, for young people aged 13-19 with any disability or additional need. They recruit train and support young people to be Inclusion Mentors who then help a young disabled person set and achieve inclusion based goals.

121 Youth Befriending Project

01322 294525

www.youthbefriending.co.uk

Aims to offer support and guidance to any young person at risk of social, emotional, geographical or behavioural isolation. They are able to help access activities and experiences, and work towards achieving satisfactory outcomes by providing an adult volunteer Befriender to those young people where they can appropriately meet the young person's physical and emotional needs.

Youth Projects

Kent Youth Service

01622 221678

youth.enquiries@kent.gov.uk

Youth workers are committed to the personal and social development of young people. They aim to support and encourage young people from a wide variety of backgrounds, creating a safe place for them to get the opportunity to gain confidence and face the challenges of life.

The Me2 inclusion project enables disabled children to access these activities.

The Bridge Youth & Arts Centre

The Dartford Bridge Learning & Community Campus

Birchwood Avenue

Dartford

Kent DA1 5GB

Email: caroline.mcnally-johnson@kent.gov.uk

Mob no: 07769 901549

8-12 Projects

Swanley Youth & Community Centre / New Ash Green Youth & Community Centre

01322 663912 / 01322 663912

Consist of a project leader, session workers and volunteers who are committed to giving young people the opportunity for them to access leisure, play & sports activities as well as giving support, advice and information.

Swanley 8-12's project meets Tuesdays and Fridays at Swanley Youth & Community Centre from 6.15 - 8.15pm. Please call 01322 663912 for details.

New Ash Green 8-12's project meets Wednesdays at the New Ash Green Youth and Community Centre from 6-8pm.

You have to live in New Ash green to attend this club. Please call 01322 663912 for more details.

LEISURE

The Junction

01322 662779

Swanley Youth Centre, St Marys Road, Swanley

Northfleet Youth Centre

Hall Road, Northfleet, DA11 8AJ

Social Clubs

Gravesham & Dartford Phab

01474 568655

A social club for disabled and non-disabled people from 16 years and older. They meet every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm at Gravesend Rugby Club, Milton Road.

Leisure Activities and Clubs

Cinema (Free tickets for Carers)

0845 123 1292

www.ceacard.co.uk

A national card scheme which is aimed at people with a disability who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or who are blind. People can apply for the card which entitles the holder to one free ticket for the person accompanying them to the cinema. The card is valid for 1 year and costs £5.50.

Create

020 7374 8485

www.createarts.org.uk

Organises unique, interactive music concerts specifically for disabled children and their families to hear live music, dance and create masks in a relaxed and friendly environment and is particularly suitable for children with communication, learning or sensory integration difficulties. Also run workshops with various organisations across Kent. Join mailing list for details on info@createarts.org.uk

LEISURE

Girl Guiding

General enquiries
Girl Guiding London and SE England

www.girlguiding.org.uk

020 7834 6242
020 8675 7572

Scout Association

0845 300 1818

www.scouts.org.uk

Air Cadets

Welcome members with disabilities. The Commanding Officer at your local squadron (Gravesend, Dartford, Longfield & Hextable) will be happy to discuss any concerns and offer advice. For ages 13 to 19.

www.aircadets.org

Kent Wing
01622 754188

www.kentwing.org

Sea Cadets

Dartford & Crayford
Gravesend

www.ms-sc.org

01322 225730
01474 334019

Army Cadets

Follow links on the website for local detachments or call the information hotline on 0845 600 7799

www.armycadets.com

Sesame

01322 668592

A group of parents of children and young adults with physical and associated disabilities, living in the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley area. Offers support, understanding and assistance to other parents learning to live with disability for the first time.

LEISURE

Sevenoaks District Council
01732 227492

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/youngpeople

Offers a wide range of activities and clubs both term time and during the holidays (some activities in Swanley and New Ash Green areas). To find out more information please call the above number or look on their website. They cannot provide 1-1 carers.

Holiday Playschemes

The Parents Consortium
01322 668501 / 665474

www.parentsconsortium.co.uk

Offers holiday activities to disabled children in the Dartford, Swanley and Gravesham areas.

Kidscamp is open to members of The Parents Consortium and runs from Allsworth Court Resource Centre, Hextable for young people who have a severe / profound impairment aged 5 - 17 years inclusive. It runs during the Easter and Summer holidays and offers 1-1 carers. This is a referred service from either the Leisure services department at the Parents Consortium, or your social worker.

The Summer and Easter Playschemes are open to members of The Parents Consortium and run at Cascades, Gravesend (5-7 years & 8-15 years) and White Oak Leisure Centre, Swanley (8-13 years). This holiday provision is for disabled children and young people who do not access Kidscamp.

Sports

KCC's Sports, Leisure & Olympics

01732 525389

www.kentsport.org

Help disabled people break down the barriers which can stop them enjoying various outdoor sport and leisure activities and aims to increase opportunities in outdoor and rural sport for disabled people in Kent. Follow the link on the website for a comprehensive guide to these activities. Contact Mike Bishop, Kent Sports Development Manager for Disabled People.

LEISURE

English Federation of Disability Sports

0161 247 5294

www.efds.co.uk

This is the umbrella organisation for disability sports in England and brings together the 8 National Disability Sport Organisations recognised by Sport England

Facilities in the area

Fairfield Leisure centre, Dartford	01322 224400
Cascades leisure Centre, Gravesend	01474 337472
Cygnets Leisure Centre, Northfleet	01474 337484
Swanscombe Leisure Centre	01322 386362
Becket Sports Centre, Dartford	01322 280646
White Oak Leisure Centre, Swanley	01322 662188

Registered Disabled concessions available. Contact for details.

Archery

Gravesend Archers

www.gravesend-archers.co.uk

For Adults and juniors. Contact website for more information

Cycling

Bedgebury Pinetum

www.forestry.gov.uk/bedgebury

Nr Goudhurst

An ideal place to cycle with a 9km circular all ability route, 12km of single track and a cycle skills area. There is something for all abilities. A range of adapted cycles can be hired here. Parking discounts available for disabled people.

Fencing

Gravesham Fencing Club

Cygnets Leisure Centre

01474 705323

For adults and juniors. Contact John Anderson on the number above for more details.

LEISURE

Football

Kent County Football Association Ltd

01634 812032 www.kentfa.com/Development/DisabilityFootball/

There are a number of clubs operating disability football in Kent. This site is up-dated regularly so check what is on in your area. Email: stephanie.gadd@kentfa.com

Swanscombe Tigers FC

peter@invisionuk.com

07961 311422

Please contact Peter Alloway on the above number for more information.

Dartford Ladies FC

dartford.evolution@hotmail.com

07740 368564 Catherine Fitzpatrick or Brian Page on 07833 640800 evening and weekends only.

"Football for all" sessions. Open to children and young people with learning, sensory and physical impairments.

Gymnastics

DLJ Sportscoaching Gymnastics

07736 313082

Classes at Cascades Leisure Centre, Juniors only. Contact Danielle Jarvis on the number above for more details.

Martial Arts

Junior Martial Arts

01474 337472

At Cascades leisure centre. Please call the number above for more information.

Riding

Riding for the Disabled

0845 658 1082

www.rda.org.uk

RDA offer riding and carriage driving as a form of therapy for disabled people. RDA also organise holidays for members.

Arrow Riding Centre for the Disabled

Darenth Park Avenue, Dartford

01322 294390

Please call the number above for further information.

Sailing

Bough Beech Sailing Club

BandFstanley@aol.com

Based on 250 acres of reservoir nestling in the hillside between Edenbridge and Sevenoaks. All abilities are welcome at the Club and Bough Beech run specific sessions for disabled sailors or groups of disabled people. For more information please use the email above.

Skiing

British Ski Club for Disabled

01303 249182

www.bscd.org.uk

For information on your nearest venue, please use the contact details above.

Disability Snowsport UK

01304 241373

www.disabilitysnowsport.org.uk

Based at the Bowles Outdoor Centre, Tunbridge Wells, they ski once a month on Saturdays between 7pm and 9pm.

They try to cover all disabilities although if special equipment is required they need notice so it can be bought to the session.

Email: spikemalc7@hotmail.com or john.tully@siemens.com

LEISURE

Swimming

Kent Disability Swimming Squad

01732 525389

Open to anyone over 9 who can swim for 15 to 20 mins and wishes to receive additional coaching and training. Contact Mike Bishop at KCC Sports, Leisure and Olympics email: mike.bishop@kent.gov.uk

Multi-sport / activity sessions

Junior Multi-Sport Classes

01474 337484

Cygnets Leisure Centre, Tuesdays from 4.30 - 5.30pm. Special needs instructor available. Call above number for more details.

Northfleet Youth Centre (Sprints Youth Club)

01474 351451

Ages from 12-25. Wednesdays 7-9pm. Contact Nigel on the above number for more details.

Walking

Kent Rural Disability Sportslink Project

01622 605052

E-mail paul.panton@kent.gov.uk

Produce leaflets about walks between 0.5 and 5 miles in length: 'Walks for All in Kent and Medway' and intended for wheelchair users. They vary in gradient and quality of surface and there is a detailed description on each leaflet.

Wheelchair Basketball

Kent Crusader Wheelchair Rugby Club

01342 893601

Based at Cascades Leisure Centre and play fortnightly on Wednesdays from 12-3pm. If interested in playing, please contact Neil Roffey on the number above.

Your child's rights

You may find it helpful to know that the rights of disabled children and young people to play and leisure are enshrined in law.

The Children Act (1989)

Recognises that "children's need for good quality play opportunities change as they grow up but they need such opportunities throughout childhood to reach and maintain their optimum development and well being." The Act says that Local Authorities shall provide services to minimise the effect of disabilities on the lives of disabled children and give them opportunities to lead as normal a life as possible. Local Authorities must treat disabled children as children first and promote access for all children to the range of services.

The Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

Makes it unlawful for service providers to discriminate against disabled people by treating them less favourably than others. It also requires service providers to 'make reasonable adjustments' to policies, practices and procedures which might remove or alleviate any disadvantage a disabled person might experience when using their services. Part III of the Act has recently come into force and means that many service providers should have made permanent physical changes to their premises if these put disabled people at a disadvantage - this covers indoor and outdoor adventure playgrounds, leisure centres, play areas in public parks and playgrounds.

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Rights and Benefits

Helplines

Benefit Enquiry Line

0800 882200

A free helpline which provides advice and information for disabled people and carers on the range of benefits available.

Contact a Family

0808 808 3555

UK-wide charity providing advice, information and support to the parents of all disabled children.

CarersLine

0808 808 7777 - Wednesday & Thursday 10am -12pm and 2pm - 4pm

Staffed by experts and has years of experience of dealing with the problems carers face. Provides free and confidential information and advice on:

- benefits and tax credits
- carers employment rights
- carers assessments
- the services available for carers, and how to complain effectively and challenge decisions

Websites

Disability Benefits

www.disabilitybenefits.co.uk

Information on benefits including entitlement, claiming, how it is paid, how long for and rates.

Department for Work and Pensions

www.dwp.gov.uk

Information on all benefits.

Benefits and Work

www.benefitsandwork.co.uk

Information and guides that can help completing DLA forms.

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Benefits

Carer's Allowance

www.direct.gov.uk/carers

Carer's Allowance is a taxable benefit to help people who look after someone who is disabled. You do not have to be related to, or live with, the person that you care for.

You may be able to get Carer's Allowance if you are aged 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for a person who gets either:

- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance at the middle or highest rate for personal care
- Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
- Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension

You cannot get Carer's Allowance if you are in full-time education with 21 hours or more a week of supervised study or earn more than £95 a week after certain deductions have been made - for example Income Tax.

Claiming Carer's Allowance may affect any other benefits, allowances, pensions and entitlements you, or the person you care for, are receiving.

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Dartford Toll Crossing Concession

Telephone: 01322 280200

People who are exempt from paying vehicle tax can cross for free. Register your vehicle in the Exempt Vehicle Registration Scheme to take advantage of Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology. It is not mandatory to register in order to cross for free, but it will make the crossing quicker. Request an application form by email or telephone, or download one from the DART-Tag website.

www.dart-tag.co.uk/nossl/index.php?page=exemptscheme

Email: exemptions@connectplum25.co.uk

Disability Living Allowance

08457 123 456

www.dwp.gov.uk

This is a non-means tested benefit for disabled children. To claim for a child, they should be one or more of the following:

- aged 3 months or over & generally needs extra help or looking after
- aged 3 or over and has severe difficulty walking
- aged 5 years or over and needs extra help getting around out of doors

There are two components to this allowance:

Care Component:

Payable at three rates depending on how much care is needed.

Highest rate - For extra help during the day *and* night.

Middle rate - For extra help during the day *or* night.

Lowest rate - For extra help during part of the day or part of the night.

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Mobility Component:

Payable at two rates, depending on how much help is needed with getting around.

Higher rate payable for children 3 years and over: for a child who is unable to walk or has severe difficulty in walking; children who are deaf and blind; those whose health might suffer from the exertion of walking; those claiming the highest rate care component who have severe mental impairment or severe behaviour problems.

Lower rate for children 5 years and over: for a child who can walk but may need someone to supervise or guide them.

Premiums for people on Income Support

Income support is a means tested benefit to help people who either don't work or work less than 16 hours a week, and whose partner (if any) works less than 24 hours a week. Premiums are weekly additions to the personal allowances for groups of people who have extra needs:

- **Disabled Child Premium:** for each child (with less than £3,000 savings) who is getting disability living allowance (DLA) for care or mobility at any rate or who is registered blind.
- **Enhanced Disabled Child Premium:** For a child (with less than £3,000 savings) who gets DLA care component at the highest rate.
- **Carer Premium:** If you get Carer's Allowance (CA) for looking after a disabled person, you may be entitled to an extra amount included in your income support.

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Tax Credits

Child Tax Credit (CTC)

0845 300 3900

Can be claimed by anyone who has a dependent child. You may be entitled to the disabled child element for each child within the family on DLA or who is registered blind. Or severely disabled child element for each child within the family on the highest rate care component of DLA.

Working Families' Tax Credit

0845 300 3900

You qualify if you have a child (under 16, or under 19 and still in full-time education) and you (or your partner if you have one) are working at least 16 hours per week. You may also be able to get help towards approved childcare costs if you are a lone parent working at least 16 hours a week or for couples who are either both working 16 hours or where one partner works 16 hours and the other is incapacitated (or in prison).

Council Tax Reductions

Reduction in Band:

If your home has been specifically adapted to meet the needs of a disabled resident who is substantially and permanently disabled, you may be entitled to a reduction in your council tax band. Adaptations that qualify are either:

- A room (not kitchen or bathroom) mainly used by the disabled person
- An extra kitchen or bathroom to meet their needs
- Enough floor space for a wheelchair used indoors

25% Reduction:

If you are single but receive the highest rate of the care component of DLA and have a carer with you for at least 35 hours per week, they may be classed as a 'disregarded person' and you could be entitled to a 25% reduction in council tax under the singles person allowance.

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Blue Badge Scheme

The Blue Badge scheme provides a range of parking concessions for people with severe mobility problems who have difficulty using public transport. The scheme operates throughout the UK and in some European countries.

Who can have a blue badge?

You are automatically eligible to apply for a badge if you are over two years old and either:

- Receive the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance
- Are registered blind
- Receive a War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement

You may also be eligible for a badge if you are over two years old and either:

- Have a permanent and substantial disability which means you cannot walk, or which makes walking very difficult
- Drive a motor vehicle regularly, have a severe disability in both arms, and are unable to operate all or some types of parking meter (or would find it very difficult to operate them)

If you are a parent of a child who is less than two years old, you may apply for a badge for your child if they have a specific medical condition which means that they either:

- Must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around without great difficulty
- Need to be kept near a vehicle at all times, so that they can, if necessary, be treated in the vehicle, or quickly driven to a place where they can be treated, such as a hospital

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Adaptations to Home

If you have a disabled child up to 18 years old and your home is unsuitable, one solution is to make adaptations funded by a grant. The adaptations required will depend on your child's needs. These adaptations must be to make caring for your child easier or to increase your child's level of independence at home. An assessment needs to be carried out by a Children's Social Services Occupational Therapist based within Disabled Children's teams to determine your child's functional needs and assess your home environment. They determine that the request to access the grant is necessary and appropriate. They can then support your application for a Disabled Facilities Grant.

This is a local council grant to help towards the cost of adapting your home to enable you to continue to live there. A grant is paid when the council considers that changes are necessary to meet your needs, and that the work is reasonable and practical. The maximum amount payable in England is up to £30,000. The grant will only be paid on work assessed as necessary, and when the council are satisfied that the work has been carried out. Grants will usually not be provided retrospectively. Any proposed work must have planning permission and fall within building regulations.

Acceptable types of adaptations include:

- Gain better access to your home for the disabled person i.e. widening doors and installing ramps
- providing or improving access to rooms and facilities - for example, by installing a through floor lift or providing a downstairs bathroom / shower./ toilet.
- adapting heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

DFGs are not means tested so long as the grant is provided to meet the needs of a disabled child (under 19 years of age).

Families who need to adapt their home for a person over the age of 19 will have to go through a means test/ financial assessment. When aged 19 or over, the person with the disability is tested.

This test (based on a person's ability to pay) is intended to target help towards the most needy, and it looks at income, savings and expenditure. The grant awarded can then vary from 0 to 100% of the cost of the work assessed as necessary.

Who can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant ?

You can apply if the answer to the following four statements is yes:

- You or the child living in your property is disabled.
- You, or the child on whose behalf you are applying, are the owner or tenant of the property. Note: a landlord may apply on behalf of a disabled tenant.
- You are willing to certify that you, or the child on whose behalf you are applying, intend to occupy the property as your/their main or only residence throughout the 5 year grant period.
- You, or the child on whose behalf you are applying, live in England.

For more information, contact the Children's Occupational Therapy service based within the Disabled Children's Teams in West & East Kent .

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

For more information on Disabled Facilities Grants for children check the following websites

<http://www.livingmadeeasy.org.uk>

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/HomeAndHousingOptions/YourHome/DG_4000642

You can get information about Children's Occupational Therapy Services by telephoning Kent Contact and Assessment Service on 08458 247 247.

National Key Scheme (Public Toilets)

The National Key Scheme (NKS) offers independent access to disabled people to around 7,000 locked public toilets around the country.

These are available from your local borough council:

Dartford Borough Council

Tel: 01322 343434

Gravesham Borough Council

Tel: 01474 564422

Relief from VAT

Some gadgets and equipment designed solely for people with disabilities are zero rated for VAT. These include medical and surgical appliances, specialised articles such as special beds, lifts & hoists and installation costs of special equipment.

Certain building work such as improving access to a building, adaptations to a bathroom and the installation of a lift are also exempt from VAT. For further information contact 0845 302 0203.

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Vaccine Damage Payments

Vaccine Damage Payments Unit

01772 89 99 44

www.dwp.gov.uk

One-off payments for people severely disabled as a result of vaccination against certain diseases.

Water Meter Charges

Some people who have a water meter can request a capped bill if they receive specific benefits and can't avoid using a lot of water because they have three or more dependent children under 19 (in full time education).

This also applies if you have a medical condition specified by the government - contact your water company for more details.

Thames water

Tel: 0845 9200 800

TRANSPORT

Transport

Motability

0845 456 4566

www.motability.co.uk

The Motability Scheme allows you to use the higher rate mobility component of your child's Disability Living Allowance (DLA) towards hiring a new car or buying a new or used car or wheelchair on hire purchase (HP). You can apply after your child is 3 years old; schemes include:

- 3 year Contract Hire Scheme to lease a new car.
- 3, 4 or 5 year HP Scheme to buy a new car.
- 2, 3, 4 or 5 year HP Scheme to buy a used car or powered wheelchair.

You may have to make an advance payment for the car or wheelchair.

Contract Hire

Under the contract hire scheme you contribute the higher level mobility component of your DLA to Motability for a period of 3 years. In return, you obtain a new vehicle which is insured, maintained and serviced without further charge. The vehicles also have full RAC Breakdown Assistance. In addition, if you make no claims during the 3 years you are on the scheme and the car is returned in excellent condition you may be eligible for a £200 bonus.

Hire Purchase

Motability has negotiated discounts on a variety of new cars and they can be obtained using the HP scheme. All or part of the higher level mobility component (depending on the amount borrowed) is paid over to the Motability Scheme. If you buy a used car you must go to a Motability accredited dealer. The car must be less than 3 years old and have done less than 45,000 miles. It must pass an AA inspection which the dealer will arrange on your behalf and then carry out any repairs identified before supplying the car to you.

Bus services

Kent Karrier: Dial-A-Ride service

0845 094 4629

www.kent.gov.uk

A low-riser bus with facility for wheelchairs which takes you from your door to various destinations depending on where you live. You must be a member to join and membership costs £5 a year with a small fee payable each journey. A companion can travel with you (they do not need to be members) all they pay is the journey fee.

Application Forms available from KCC on 01622 605349

Arriva Buses

01892 520221

www.arrivabus.co.uk

Not all buses offer easy access so advised to call the local Travelshop with details of the specific bus/journey required.

General Enquiry Line 0844 800 4411

Concessionary Bus Permits

Dartford Borough Council	01322 343434
Gravesham BC customer contact centre	01474 337000
Sevenoaks District Council	01732 227000

Free permits available to disabled people, enabling them to travel free of charge after 9.00am on weekdays. A free companion permit is also available.

TRANSPORT

Rail Travel

Disabled Persons Railcard Office

0845 605 0525

www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk

Train operators provide a number of services for disabled passengers, for example, someone to meet the passenger from the train or a porter to carry bags. If possible, give 48 hours notice so the right help can be made available. When booking your ticket ask for the Disabled Assistance phone number for the train operator responsible for your journey. An adult travelling with a disabled child may be able to get a reduction on their fare.

Taxi companies

All Night Cars - Dartford

01322 221100

Please call above number stating if you need a wheelchair accessible taxi.

Mr & Mrs - Gravesham

01474 328328

Please call above number stating if you need a wheelchair accessible taxi.

Swantax - Swanley

01322 660777

Please call above number stating if you need a wheelchair accessible taxi.

Volunteer drivers

Tunbridge Wells Volunteer Bureau

01227 366434

Charge of 55p per mile from driver's home to client and on to appointment plus return journey if required. Unable to deal with specialist equipment and no adapted vehicles available. Minimum 2 days notice please.

TRANSPORT

Malling Volunteer Bureau

01732 843346

There is a Registration Fee of £10 per year payable to this Bureau but they will take accompanied children with wheelchairs. Charge of 50p per mile from the driver's home and they will wait up to one hour during appointments. As much notice as possible please. Office open 1000 to 1300.

Edenbridge Volunteer Bureau

01732 865353

A contribution for travel costs is requested as there is no formal charge per mile. Minimum notice for booking is 3 days. Accompanied children only. Office open 1000 to 1230.

Volunteer Centre Dartford District www.dartfordvb.org.uk

Tel: 01322 272 476

dartfordvb@care4free.net

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday: 9.30-1.30

Will take social service referrals and self-referrals.

There is a charge of 40p per mile from driver's home and return.

Volunteer Centre Swanley

www.swanleyvolunteers.org.uk

Tel: 0845 241 2180

info@swanleyvolunteers.com

Opening Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9.00-3.00 Friday: 9.00-1.00

There is a charge of 40p per mile from driver's home and return. They request £1 to cover administration costs and require at least 3-4 days notice.

TRANSPORT

Coach Travel

Buzzlines

01303 261870

www.buzzlines.co.uk

Coaches have low entry facility from the kerb although there are steps up into the coach. Wheelchairs are stored in the luggage hold.

Chalkwell

01795 423982

www.chalkwell.co.uk

Special 12 seater minibus which can be hired at weekends with facility for removal of 2/3 seats for secured wheelchairs.

The Parents Consortium

www.parentsconsortium.co.uk

01322 668501

Fully accessible 12 seater minibus for hire. Facility for wheelchairs to be locked securely into place on removal of 2/3 seats.

National Express

08717 818 181

www.nationalexpress.com

Disabled Persons Travel Helpline

Funding

Blue Badge Scheme

See Rights and Benefits section

Exemption from Road Tax

If your child gets the higher rate DLA mobility component, you should automatically be sent a road tax exemption form (DLA 403) from the DLA unit. It is important that you complete and return the exemption form to the address stated on the letter enclosed with the form.

If you don't receive a form, contact The Disability Living Allowance Unit on 0845 712 345

Fares to Hospital

If you are on Income Support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance or Pension Credit, you can claim help with travel costs to and from hospital for NHS treatment when escorting your child. You can obtain a refund of your fares directly from the hospital if you produce proof that you are in receipt of benefits. Ask for form HC5.

If you are not getting these benefits but are on a low income (if your child is 16 years or over it is their income that counts, not yours) you may still be able to get help.

Darent Valley Hospital: 01322 428100

Queen Mary's Hospital: 020 8302 2678

The Family Fund Trust

0845 130 4542

www.familyfundtrust.org.uk

PO Box 50, York YO1 9ZX

Can help with driving lessons for a severely disabled child's main carer if there is a car available. Help with transport expenses can be given if the child does not get DLA but has difficulty getting around.

London Congestion Charges

0845 900 1234

www.cclondon.com

Blue Badge holders are exempt from the £8 charge in central London. You need to register with Transport of London and make a one-off payment of £10.

TRANSPORT

Motability Finance Limited (MFL)

0845 456 4566

www.motability.co.uk

Motability provides some grants in cases of hardship. If you require a grant, it is important not to order the car or adaptations before any grant is made. Grants are given towards the least expensive suitable solution to meet your basic mobility needs and the amount will depend on individual circumstances. You will be expected to contribute a minimum of £200 towards the vehicle and/or adaptations.

Wheelchair Voucher Scheme

01622 713018

The NHS trust offers voucher scheme to help people buy a wheelchair of their choice. The wheelchair service may offer a voucher to the value of the wheelchair they would have provided. The voucher can then be used towards the cost of a more expensive wheelchair; you would have to pay the balance of the cost.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Aids and Equipment

Aids & Equipment

Able to Wear

www.able2wear.co.uk

0141 775 3738

Adaptive clothing for disabled people and wheelchair users of all ages. Also has a wide range of products for the disabled.

Acorn Educational

www.acorneducational.co.uk

01536 747485

Educational toys and games for early years children and those with special needs.

The Car Safety Centre

www.incarsafetycentre.co.uk

01908 220909

Specialise in all types of car seats, publishes a booklet entitled "Car and Bus Seating for Children with Special Needs" and has a showroom where all seats are displayed.

Coilers /No Tie Laces

www.hemihelp.org.uk/support_us/shop

Ideal for those who find it difficult to tie traditional shoe laces. Also have other useful aids such as pencil grips and pencils with triangular barrels for easy grip.

Conform UK

www.conformuk.com/hobbies_play.html

Sells play equipment and special needs games and hobbies such as easy to see playing cards and talking battleships and chess.

Convoid

www.themobilityaidscentre.co.uk

0800 0483 350

Supplier of lightweight folding wheelchairs and buggies for children with special needs.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Cotswold Cots

01993 842885

www.cotswoldcots.co.uk

Designs and makes beds, cots and playpens that restrain safely, to suit every need.

Cotton Comfort

Eczema clothing, for touch sensitive people.

www.eczemaclotthing.com

Crelling Harnesses for the disabled Ltd

01253 852298

www.crelling.com

Supply a range of harnesses for travel, stair lifts, buggies and walking reins.

Demand

01923 681800

www.demand.org.uk

Design and manufacture specialised equipment for disabled children and adults where no off-the-shelf solution exists, free of charge to the individual.

DCS Joncare

01235 523353

www.dcsjoncare.com

Manufacturer of children's equipment including trikes & power chairs, standing & walking aids, seating & car seats.

The Disability Equipment Register

01454 318818

www.disabilityequipment.org.uk

Lists second hand equipment for sale and wanted.

Disability Living Foundation

0845 130 9177

www.dlf.org.uk

Has an online advice and information service at www.livingmadeeasy.org.uk the site brings together information on every disability product available in the UK in one place.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Disabled Stickers

www.disabledstickers.co.uk

01522 688388

Offer a range of stickers and signs to promote disability awareness, for example to politely remind people they have parked in a disabled parking bay.

Dream Racer

www.dream-racer.com

Sells radio controlled model toys for children with physical disabilities.

Controllers are built into a baseball cap enabling users to drive their car by head movements. Also for PlayStation games, PC access, Soundbeam music systems and switch adapted musical toys and bubble machines.

Dribble Bandanas

www.dribble-bandanas.co.uk

Provide an alternative to bibs, these bandanas come in a range of sizes and colours.

The Elap Rotating Car Seat

www.elap.co.uk

0800 0433 159

Supply rotating car seats to fit virtually all vehicles.

Fledglings

www.fledglings.org.uk

0845 458 1124

Help by searching, demonstrating and ordering resources, particularly those unusual items which may not be easily available or designed specially for children with special needs.

Glow Shop

www.glowshop.com

0121 423 2000

Supplier of a wide range of UV lighting, glow in the dark and snap 'n' glow products.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

The Happy Puzzle Company

www.happypuzzle.co.uk

0844 848 2811

Range of puzzles and games suitable for children with special needs. Useful skills developed include fine motor & social skills, visual tracking and hand/eye co-ordination.

Hippocampe

www.hippocampe.co.uk

01725 519405

A lightweight, easily assembled 3 wheeled buggy that has a neutral buoyancy design allowing it be used in or out of water - including the sea. Also easy to use on sand.

Hippychick

www.hippychick.com

01278 434440

Child hip seats with built in back supporting belt.

Identikids

www.identifyme.co.uk

0845 125 9539

Produce a range of identity products for your child including cards and wristbands.

Jenx

www.jenx.com

0114 285 3376

Equipment including standing frames, seats and mobility aids.

JCM Seating Solutions

www.jcmseating.co.uk

01775 766664

As well as specialist seating, they offer an adjustable high-support car seat with swivel base for ages 3-11.

Kent Mobility

www.kentmobility.co.uk

01732 770251

Assessors & providers of disability & rehabilitation equipment.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Kid Sense

www.kidsense.co.uk

0116 275 1895

Supplier of 3 wheel all terrain buggies and strollers suitable for children with special needs up the age of 17.

Leckey

www.leckey.com

028 9060 2277

Special needs equipment including standing frames, static chairs and bathing equipment.

Medicalert Foundation

www.medicalert.org.uk

0800 581 420

Provide a bracelet or necklet, engraved with a personal ID number, medical condition(s) and emergency telephone number so vital medical information can be obtained quickly and easily.

MERU (Medical Engineering Resource Unit)

www.meru.org.uk

01372 725203

Design and manufacture a variety of equipment and devices to meet the individual needs of children when there is no commercially available alternative.

McClaren Major Buggy

www.maclarenmajor.com

01327 841300

Lightweight special needs buggy suitable for children up to 50kgs

Mike Ayres Design

www.mikeayresdesign.co.uk

01359 251551

Provides sensory products, soft play environments and sensory resources.

The Mobility Market

www.themobilitymarket.co.uk

Buy and sell used mobility & disability aids and equipment.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

The Novelty Warehouse www.thenoveltywarehouse.com
Sensory Toys for children with special needs at lower prices.

The Parents Consortium www.parentsconsortium.co.uk
01322 668501
Have available to hire a hippochair, mobile hoist and buggy for a nominal charge. Also stock a selection of library books which can be accessed by Parents Consortium members free of charge.

Piedro Footcare www.gilbert-mellish.co.uk
0121 475 1101
Provide specialist footwear for children with special needs.

Portaramp www.portaramp.co.uk
01953 714599
Portable, lightweight ramps for wheelchairs.

Rackety's www.racketys.com
01538 381430
Produce clothing for children with special needs that incorporate specially designed fastenings and modifications that make getting dressed a less stressful experience.

Red Cross - Gravesend Centre
01474 533235
Volunteers provide short-term loans of medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, for people with a disability or illness. Wheelchairs, commodes, back rests and bed cradles are the main items of equipment but bedpans and urinals are also supplied. There are no charges for these loans but donations are always appreciated. We also have a home delivery service available if you are unable to reach one of our centres.
Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 2pm - 4pm
Tuesday and Friday 10am - 12 noon

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Remap

www.remap.org.uk

0845 1300 456

Charity that has engineers who make one-off technical aids or modify commercial equipment.

ROMPA

www.rompa.com

0845 230 1177

Provide specialist play, leisure, therapy and sport equipment including sensory toys and equipment.

Salts Healthcare

www.salts.co.uk

0121 333 2000

Range of Paediatric orthotic and support shoes.

Second Skin

www.secondskin.com.au

0131 449 9497

Dynamic Lycra Splints designed to improve functional performance for people with neurological dysfunction.

Seenin

www.seenin.com

01434 634457

Produce range of garments for children with special needs including feeding aprons, dribble bibs & neckerchiefs.

Sense Toys

www.sensetoys.com

0845 2570 849

From educational toys for pre-school children to games for special needs children. Includes play tips and ideas for toys.

Sleep Safe

www.sleep-safe.co.uk

Anti-suffocation pillows offer protection against suffocation during seizures or breathing difficulties while asleep.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

TFH

www.specialneedstoys.com

01299 827820

Products include multi-sensory rooms, soft environment equipment, toys, switches and music.

The Sensory Company

www.thesensorycompany.co.uk

0845 838 2233

Design and manufacture multi-sensory equipment.

Spacekraft

www.spacekraft.co.uk

01274 581 007

Supply an extensive range of multi-sensory toys and equipment.

Sheerlines

www.sheerlines.net

01384 375600

Specialists in protection from cold, wind and rain they make garments, canopies and capes for wheelchair users.

Swanley Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Unit

www.swanleytherapycentre.org

01322 663042

High dosage oxygen therapy. Contact the above number for more details.

Tendercare

www.tendercareltd.com

01903 726161

Supply postural supportive pushchairs & buggies for all ages.

Togs 4 Special Sprogs

www.togs4specialsprogs.com

0796 3366 762

Create custom-made clothing and accessories for premature babies and children with special need aged 0-18.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Tough Furniture

<http://www.toughfurniture.com>

01588 674340

Furniture that is built to support those who suffer from behavioural challenges.

Wheelchair Ramps.co.uk

www.wheelchair-ramps.co.uk

01608 685039

Offer a range of lightweight, folding and easy to handle ramps.

Bikes & Trikes

Bike Care

www.bikecare.co.uk

01354 660049

Products include Tricycles, adult stabilisers, tricycle tag-alongs, back rests, self-balancing pedals and special brake levers.

Companion Cycling

www.companioncycling.org.uk

07961 344545

A charity which enables people with special needs, regardless of their age or ability, to cycle on specially adapted cycles in peaceful surroundings of Bushy Park in South West London.

Good Designs

www.disabledcycling.f2s.com

01248 713624

Supply robust bicycle stabilisers that can be adjusted to vary the amount of support provided so balance can be gradually gained.

London Recumbents

www.londonrecumbents.com

0208 299 6636

Supplier of special needs bikes and trikes. Test-drive or hire for an hour, day or week. Centres in Dulwich & Battersea Parks, London.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Mission Cycles

01622 815678

www.missioncycles.co.uk

Range of tricycles for children with balance problems.

Quest 88

01952 463050

www.quest88.com

Supply adapted bikes, trikes & Ko-Karts.

Tomcat Trike

01452 616900

www.tomcatspecialneeds.co.uk

A custom built special needs trike with rear steering control.

Triad Theraplay Ltd

0141 876 9177

www.triad.com

Supplier of tricycles for children with special needs.

Wise Wheels

01295 770806

www.wisewheels.co.uk

Range of tricycles suitable for all ages including tandem bikes.

Car Seats

Britax Ltd

01264 386034

www.britax.co.uk

Offer a larger car seat for children with special needs. The Traveller Plus is for children who need extra support & is suitable for 15kg-36kg (approx 4-11yrs) costing approx £500. You may be able to get help towards the cost.

Cole Enterprise - Flight Travel Chair

01306 745333

www.travel-chair.co.uk

Specially designed to enable disabled children, aged 3-11, to travel in the seat of a plane. British Airways, JMC, Monarch & Virgin can provide this chair free of charge to passengers. Otherwise, you can hire it from £125.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Horacek Lars Car Seat
0552 784814

www.ottobock.co.uk

Car seat with swivel and sliding motion and tilt in space suitable for ages 2-10 years

JMC Seating Solutions
01733 405830

www.jcmseating.co.uk

As well as specialist seating, they supply an adjustable high-support car seat with swivel base suitable for children aged 9 months to 12 years.

R82 UK
0121 561 2222

www.r82.com

Produces the Panda car seat which provides support for disabled children with swing out frame enabling the parents to turn and slide the seat in and out of the car.

IT

Ability Net
0800 269 545

www.abilitynet.org.uk

Charity which assists disabled people to make the most out of using computers. Will assist at home or school & produce factsheets.

The Aidis Trust
0207 426 2130

www.aidis.org

A charity which provides specialised computer equipment to disabled people to improve independence and quality of life and provide the freedom to communicate.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Computers for the Disabled

www.cftd.co.uk

01268 284834

Provide new and 2nd hand computers & parts to disabled people.

Find a Voice

www.findavoice.org.uk

01233 640443

Offer advice and help about communication aids. Provide training and has a resource library with switch toys, simple aids, training videos and useful books. Outreach service now available at locations throughout Kent.

Inclusive Technology

www.inclusive.co.uk

01457 819790

Supply special needs software and accessories.

QED (Quality Enabling Devices)

www.QEDLtd.co.uk

0239 258 0600

Supply Special Needs communication aids, software and accessories.

The Sequal Trust

www.the-sequal-trust.org.uk

01691 624 222

Provides communication aids for severely disabled people with speech/movement difficulties.

Widgit Software Ltd

www.widgit.com

01926 333680

Provide everything needed for working with symbols. Has large range of software for children with special needs.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Insurance of equipment

Fish Insurance

www.fishinsurance.co.uk

0500 432 141

Provide range of insurance cover including manual and electric wheelchairs.

Help with Funding

Action for Kids Charitable Trust

www.actionforkids.org.uk

0845 300 0237

Provides grants for equipment and mobility aids for children and young people with physical and mental disabilities.

The Buttle Trust

www.buttletrust.org

0207 828 7311

Grants provided include essential items of furniture and equipment and, on occasion, fund short-term therapy costs.

Cerebra

www.cerebra.org.uk/grants

01267 244216

Offer grants to help disabled children who have a brain related condition or injury, either of physical nature, a learning disability or both. Helps buy equipment such as specialist car seats, power wheelchairs, sensory toys and trikes.

Children Today Charitable Trust

www.children-today.org.uk

01244 335622

Makes grants towards equipment including electric wheelchairs, walking aids, educational toys, communication aids, trikes and adapted car seats.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

The Child Care Action Trust www.thechildcareactiontrust.org.uk
0845 2300 195

Provides equipment not available from the NHS, social services or affordable by their families, such as walking frames, special needs car seats, communication aids and 2nd skin suits.

Get Kids Going! www.getkidsgoing.com
020 7481 8110

Give disabled children and adults up to the age of 26 the opportunity of participating in sports such as tennis, athletics, skiing etc, by providing them with specially built sports wheelchairs.

Newlife Charity www.newlifecharity.co.uk
01543 462 777

Offers equipment grants to severely disabled and terminally ill children. Grants can vary from a wheelchair or a bed to a communication aid and therapy equipment shed.

React Charity www.reactcharity.org
020 8940 2575

Help improve the quality of life for financially disadvantaged children with life-limiting illnesses by reacting quickly to their needs. Can provide a wide range of equipment from specialist wheelchairs, beds, baths, and mobility aids, to essential everyday items like washing machines and tumble dryers.

Variety Club www.varietyclub.org.uk
020 7428 8100

Help towards wheelchairs, trikes and buggies for children up to the age of 19.

AIDS AND EQUIPMENT

Whizz Kidz

www.whizz-kidz.org.uk

020 7233 6600

Give disabled children and young people independent mobility by providing customised wheelchairs, tricycles and other specialised mobility equipment.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

Certain aids and equipment for disabled people are not subject to VAT if they are designed solely for use by a disabled person. Declaration forms can be downloaded online.

We do not endorse any of these companies or their products.....

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Local Organisations

Information

Citizens Advice Bureau

www.nacab.org.uk

Dartford 01322 224686

Gravesend 01474 361239

Swanley 01322 664949

Free independent advice and information on a range of issues including legal rights, housing rights, welfare benefits and debt counselling.

Dial-North West Kent (Disabled Information Advice Line)

01474 321761

www.dialuk.info

Free, confidential and reliable advice on all aspects of disability including: equipment, mobility, housing, leisure and welfare benefits.

Disability Information Services in Kent (DISK)

01303 226464

www.thisisfolkestone.co.uk/disk.htm

Provide information to carers, family and service providers.

Volunteer Centres

Dartford 01322 272476

Gravesend 01474 322729

Swanley 01322 669292

Local volunteer and advice centres.

Support

Carers Support Service

01322 662046

North West Kent Carers Support, Allsworth Court, St Davids Road, Hextable, BR8 7RJ

Provide wide range of services to Carers including support groups, benefits advice, outings and activities.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Carers' Relief Service

www.carersreliefservice.org.uk

01474 536062

The Social Education Centre, Haig Gardens, Gravesend, DA12 1NE

A service for adults (16 years or over) with learning disabilities. Aiming to provide a personal, flexible service based on the carer's individual needs. Support can include, befriending, shopping, swimming and attending clubs and activities.

Cerebral Palsy Care

www.cerebralpalsycare.co.uk

01634 220330

The Learning Centre for Disabled Children, Bradbury House, View Road, Cliffe Woods, Rochester, ME3 8UJ

Helps children of under 5 years with cerebral palsy and similar motor disorders achieve their full potential.

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation

www.thecbf.org.uk

0845 602 7885

C/o The Old Courthouse, New Road Avenue, Chatham ME4 6BE

Provide information and support to parents and professionals caring for individuals with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour.

Contact a Family

www.cafamily.org.uk

0808 8083 555

Telephone support for parents of disabled children.

Cruse Bereavement

www.cruse.org.uk

0844 477 9400

Helps bereaved people to understand their grief and cope with their loss. Provides support information and advice. Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley - Telephone 01474 360690

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Crossroads Caring for Carers - Maidstone and North West Kent
01634 249090

Provides trained carer support workers to offer practical support to carers. Can take over the carer's role enabling them to take short breaks each week.

Deaf Services Bureau (DSB)

Email: deafserviceschildrenfamilies@kent.gov.uk

Kent County Council Children and Families, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. Voice: 01233 898515 Minicom: 01233 898513

The Bureau provides a range of services to deaf and partially hearing people of all ages. They offer advice and information on issues relating to deafness and assessments for support and specialist equipment. Anyone who has been diagnosed as deaf or partially hearing can request an assessment.

Evolve - 121 Young Carers

www.youthbefriending.co.uk

08448 007121

Young Carers are children or young people who look after someone in their family who has an illness, a disability, a

mental health problem or substance misuse problem. Offer fun activities, workshops, clubs and short breaks activities.

Epilepsy Network

01474 351673

Gives direct help, information and support to people with epilepsy and their families.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Family Action Dartford

01322 275095

Delivers and manages support services for families in the Dartford Borough including parenting groups and support groups.

Family Matters

Helpline 01474 537392

Counselling service for children and adult survivors of sexual abuse and rape. Confidential helpline, offers support and face to face counselling.

Father's Club

01322 668501 and ask for the Information Service.

The Father's Club provides support and guidance to fathers and grandfathers of children with an autistic spectrum condition. Monthly evening meetings in Hextable, Maidstone and Folkestone.

Find a Voice

www.findavoice.org.uk

01233 640443

49 Beaver Lane, Ashford TN23 5NU

Offer advice and help finding suitable communication aids, also have a resource library with switch toys, training videos and useful books.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Gateway in Kent

Gateway is the new way for citizens to access public and voluntary services with the added convenience of being in a town centre or high street location across Kent. Comfortable, modern places make it easier to reach specialist, voluntary and charitable agencies. Services include:

- information and self help, including free internet, service directory, payment kiosk
- routine advice and transactions, including bus passes, refuse, parking, licensing
- surgeries by agencies such as Hi Kent, Connexions, NHS and registrars for births and deaths
- cross agency services, including council tax, benefits, planning, housing, library, adult education and occupational therapy

Information on Gateway locations and the roll-out programme can be found at:

www.kent.gov.uk

or you can watch the Gateway DVD by clicking

www.kenttv.com/gatewayexperience

Headway SE London/NW Kent

020 8319 7148

Bostall House, Goldie Leigh Hospital, Abbey Wood, London.

Headway House offers a variety of services to survivors of brain injury and their carers.

Hi Kent

www.hikent.org.uk enquiries@hikent.org.uk

01622 691151

Aims to enable hearing impaired people overcome the socially isolating aspects of being or becoming deaf, by provision of information, environmental equipment, deaf awareness training for relatives, carers and professionals and sign language courses. Hi Kent is available to individuals and family, carers and professionals.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Homestart

01322 225100

www.home-start.org.uk

Offers free support, friendship and practical help to families with at least one child under five.

KASBAH (Kent Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus)

01474 536501

www.kasbah.org.uk

Provides support services for people, carers and families affected by Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus throughout Kent.

Kent Association for the Blind (KAB)

www.kab.org.uk

01622 691357

Provides a service sensitive to the needs of those who are visually impaired by helping them to attain the highest level of independence. They offer counselling, information and advice on all matters concerning sight loss.

Kent Autistic Trust

01634 405168

www.kentautistic.com

Specialise in services for people with autism and offers information, advice and support to families and carers. Run support groups throughout Kent.

Kent Children's Trust

Email: Stephen.sherrell@kent.gov.uk

07920 526570

Offers parenting support programmes including Webster Stratton Incredible Years which is aimed at parents of children aged 0-12 years with moderate to severe behavioural difficulties.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Kent Deaf Childrens Society

<http://www.kentdcs.org.uk>

07982 682772

Self help and self funded group run by parents, in partnership with professionals and other organisations. Offer friendship, advice and support to families across Kent.

The Kent LINK (Local Involvement Network)

01303 297050

E-mail: info@kmn-ltd.co.uk

An independent network of local people and community groups working together to influence and improve Kent's health and social care services.

Kent Wide Down Syndrome Group

www.kentds.org

07787 947142

Email: info@kentds.org

Support, fundraising, social events, training and specific project that benefit their children and young adults.

Link Scheme

0845 330 2968

For disabled children up to 18 years of age. Linked with a volunteer who can care for child/young person for a few hours or whole day.

Mencap - Your Choice (Dartford Gravesham and Swanley)

01322 293312

www.dgsmyourchoice.org.uk

Registered charity established to support people with learning disabilities and their carers on many issues including housing, education and employment.

MIND - Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley

www.dgsmind.co.uk

01322 291380

Works with people with mental health problems. Amongst its aims are to reduce isolation and distress, increase self confidence and self esteem.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The NAS EarlyBird Programme

Contact The Parents Consortium : 01322 668501

Works in partnership with parents to help them understand their child's autistic spectrum disorder, develop their child's communication & apply practical strategies to manage their child's behaviour.

Netmums

www.netmums.com

Volunteer run, community based site providing information and advice on being a mum with young children.

OAASIS - Office for Advice, Assistance, Support and Information on Special Needs

www.oaasis.co.uk

01590 622880

Is a free SEN information service of Cambrian Education. Provides information to parents, carers and professionals on many of the major learning disabilities all related SEN issues. Can provide details of short breaks/holiday centres, independent special schools and various publications to download for free.

OASIS Counselling Centre

www.oasisdartford.org.uk

01322 294430

To serve the community by providing a free counselling service to anyone experiencing difficult life events.

Parents Consortium

www.parentsconsortium.co.uk

01322 668501

Supporting disabled children and their families. Membership open to all parent/carers with a disabled child aged 0-19 living in the Dartford, Gravesham or Swanley areas.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Samaritans - Bexley and Dartford

020 8301 1010

35 Glynde Road, Bexleyheath, DA7 4EU

A confidential, emotional support service available 24 hours a day for people experiencing distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide.

Sencio Community Leisure

www.sencio.org.uk

01732 747305

Contact: Rebecca Bowen - Disability Access Officer

Rebecca.bowen@sencio.org.uk

Sesame

01322 668592 or 01322 553862

A group of parents of children and young adults with physical and associated disabilities living in the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley area. Offer support and understanding as well as a range of social events.

Sense

01622 831345

www.sense.org.uk

A support group for parents and those caring for people who are deaf/blind living in Kent. Provides a link with services offered by Sense nationally which includes information, training and holidays for children/people who have a sensory impairment.

Simon Paul Foundation

01322 615165

Enabling physically disabled people to lead independent lives. Provides information and advice, advocacy, independent living workshops amongst their services.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Sure Start Children's Centres

Children's Centres are service hubs where children under five years old and their families can receive seamless integrated services and information

Each centre will offer different services but may include:

- Integrated early education and childcare
- Support for parents - including advice on parenting, local childcare options and access to specialist services for families.
- Child and family health services - ranging from health screening, health visitor services to breast-feeding support.
- Helping parents into work - with links to the local Jobcentre Plus and training

VSU - Youth in Action

www.vsuinkent.org

Recruits young volunteers from schools, colleges and other community-based centres and supports them in a wide range of volunteer activity, which benefits their local community. For more information about Dartford area call Tony: 01322 294524

Walk Tall

01322 370606/0845 270 8130

Works with young people as well as adults and provides a holistic package of self-development opportunities. Strategies include drama, sports, mentoring, accredited learning and counseling.

Women's Aid - Dartford and Gravesham

01322 384792

Aim to provide temporary refuge for women and their children who have had to flee their own homes due to Domestic Abuse. Also aim to provide support and advice to any woman in the community who needs their services.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

National Organisations

Action for Sick Children

www.actionforsickchildren.org

0800 0744 519

Aims to ensure that sick children always receive the highest possible standard of care by offering advice on GP's, Out Patient appointments, going into hospital & helping children deal with pain.

ADDISS (Attention Deficit Disorder Information & Support Service)

020 8952 2800

www.addiss.co.uk

Provide information & support to anyone who needs assistance and has books covering all aspects of ADHD & related disorders.

AFASIC (Association for Speech Impaired Children)

0845 3 55 55 77

www.afasic.org.uk

Help children & young people with communication impairments by providing information, training and publications.

Allergy UK

01322 619898

www.allergyuk.org

Provide information on all aspects of allergy & food intolerance. Helpline provides practical advice and support to manage symptoms. Website has useful factsheets and articles.

BIBIC

01278 684060

www.bibic.org.uk

Offer practical help to families caring for children with conditions such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, developmental delay, traumatic & acquired brain injury & specific learning difficulties such as ADHD, dyslexia & dyspraxia.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The Bladder and Bowel Foundation

0845 345 0165 (nurse helpline)

www.bladderandbowelfoundation.org

Provide information and support for people with bladder and bowel disorders, their carers, families & healthcare professionals.

The British Dyslexia Association

0845 251 9002

www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

Provides information & training on Dyslexia and has online shop with useful resources such as books, writing and IT equipment.

BLISS

0500 618 140

www.bliss.org.uk

Supports parents of premature babies by offering guidance and information at a critical time in families lives.

Brittle Bone Society

08000 282 459

www.brittlebone.org

Offers help, advice and information to people affected by Osteogenesis Imperfecta.

Calibre Audio Library

01296 432339

www.youngcalibre.org.uk

Provide the pleasure of reading to people with sight problems, dyslexia or physical disabilities. A free nationwide postal service of recorded books provided on MP3 format, CDs, or ordinary cassettes.

Carer's UK

0808 808 7777

www.carersuk.org

Provides carers with information and advice and offers a wide range of free booklets on all aspects of caring.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

CAB helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing information and advice.

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Cerebra

Parent Support: 0800 32 81 159

www.cerebra.org.uk

Counselling: 0800 04 39 385

Supports families caring for a child with a brain related condition. Services include; information and advice, a sleep advice service, Speech Therapy, help to set up wills and trusts, grants for equipment, a free holiday home, postal lending library as well as a telephone counselling helpline.

Cerebral Palsy Care

01634 220540

www.cerebralpalsycare.co.uk

Offer Conductive Education for children under five who have Cerebral Palsy or similar motor disorders, helping them to learn to do things that most babies and children do naturally.

Changing Faces

0845 4500 275

www.changingfaces.co.uk

Supports and represents people who have disfigurements to the face, hand or body from any cause by providing personal support for children, young people, adults and families.

Child Brain Injury Trust

0845 601 4939

www.cbituk.org

Provide information and advice for anyone affected by childhood acquired brain injury as well as offer small grants to enable them to take part in social activities.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Child Death Helpline

0800 282 986

www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk

For anyone affected by the death of a child of any age, from pre-birth to adult, under any circumstances, however recently or long ago. Open from Mon to Fri 10am to 1pm, & 7pm to 10pm.

ChildLine

0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

A free 24hr helpline for children and young people providing a counselling service for any child with any problem whether they're feeling scared or out of control, lonely, worried, having problems at school or just want to talk to someone.

Children's Heart Federation

0808 808 5000

www.childrens-heart-fed.org.uk

Provide information and support for parents whose child has a heart disorder.

Climb (Children with Inherited Metabolic Diseases)

0800 652 3181

www.climb.org.uk

Provide information, advice and support on all metabolic diseases to children, adults, families & professionals.

The Compassionate Friends

0845 123 2304

www.tcf.org.uk

Helps bereaved parents & their families offering understanding, support & encouragement to others after the death of a child.

Contact a Family

0808 808 3555

www.cafamily.org.uk

Provide information & factsheets to families of children with any kind of disability, special need or long term health need. They can also put families in touch with each other or local groups.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Council for Disabled Children

020 7843 1900

www.ncb.org.uk/cdc/

Is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England. CDC works to influence national policy that impacts upon disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN) and their families.

Cry-sis

08451 228 669

www.cry-sis.org.uk

Provide self-help and support for families with excessively crying, sleepless & demanding babies. (7 days a week 9am-10pm)

Cystic Fibrosis Trust

0845 859 1000

www.cftrust.org.uk

Provide information, advice & support to people with cystic fibrosis and their families. Produce publications & offer grants.

Department for Children, Schools and Families

Aiming High for Disabled Children - *better support for families*

Is the Government's transformation programme for disabled children's services in England. This document sets out the vision behind the programme and the key improvements that Government wants to see developing and continuing in services and support for disabled children and their families.

The programme is led jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DH).

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/healthandwellbeing/ahdc/AHD/

Depression Alliance

0845 123 23 20

www.depressionalliance.org

Produce publications covering various aspects of depression. Offer information and guidance and have local self-help support groups which meet monthly in Gillingham.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Downs Heart Group

0844 288 4800

www.dhg.org.uk

Offers support and information relating to heart conditions associated with Down's Syndrome.

The Downs Syndrome Association

0845 230 0372

www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

Supports people with Downs Syndrome, their families and carers as well as those with a professional interest.

Dyspraxia Foundation

01462 454 986 (10am - 1pm Mon - Fri)

www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

Supports individuals and families affected by dyspraxia.

Kent contact: Joff Atkinson joff.atkinson@blueyonder.co.uk

The Dyslexia Institute

01732 352762

www.dyslexia-inst.org.uk

Provide support and services for people with dyslexia and literacy difficulties. Centre in Tonbridge provide Assessments & training.

Epilepsy Action

0808 800 5050

www.epilepsy.org.uk

Provide a wide range of information and advice about epilepsy.

Equality & Human Rights Commission

0845 604 6610

www.equalityhumanrights.com

Supports disabled people by providing them with information and advice about their rights under the DDA.

ERIC (Enuresis Resource & Information Centre)

0845 370 8008

www.eric.org.uk

Provide information and support on childhood bedwetting, daytime wetting, constipation and soiling.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The Family Fund

www.familyfund.org.uk

The Family Fund gives grants to low-income families to meet the additional needs of caring for a severely disabled child such as specialist toys, holidays, driving lessons & washing machines.

Family Fund Extra

www.familyfundextra.org.uk

Become a member of Family Fund extra and you will receive discounts on products and services from leading high street retailers and organisations, such as 10% discount from Comet and 5% from Argos. Also receive free energy saving lightbulbs.

Family Rights Group

0800 731 1696

www.frg.org.uk

Offer advice and support for families whose children are involved with social services.

Fragile X Society

01371 875100

www.fragilex.org.uk

Provide support and information for families whose children and relatives have Fragile X

ICAN - Helping Children Communicate

0845 255 4071

www.ican.org.uk

Information and advice on communication for children with learning difficulties

HemiHelp

0845 123 2372

www.hemihelp.org.uk

A membership organisation supporting children and young people with hemiplegia, and their families

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Hyperactive Children's Support Group

www.hacsg.org.uk

01243 539966

Provide support, information and a range of literature to help ADHD/Hyperactive children.

Kids

0207 359 3635

www.kids.org.uk

Offers a range of projects and support for disabled children and their families.

Lets Face It

01843 833724

www.lets-face-it.org.uk

Offer friendship, link families and build courage to face life regardless of how or why a face is disfigured.

Listening Books

020 7407 9417

www.listening-books.org.uk

Provide selection of audiobooks, on MP3, CD or via internet, to people who find it difficult or impossible to read due to illness or disability.

Mencap

0808 808 1111

www.mencap.org.uk

Provide information & advice for people with learning disabilities.

Muscular Dystrophy Campaign

0800 652 6352

www.muscular-dystrophy.org

Provide people with neuromuscular conditions and their families information and advice about their conditions.

The National Autistic Society

0845 070 4004

www.nas.org.uk

Offer practical help and advice for people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, their families and carers.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

National Blind Childrens Society

www.nbcs.org.uk

Provide information and advice for children with visual impairments as well as offer grants for communication equipment. Also have 'Direction Point', a Guide to Services.

National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy

01342 831342

www.ncype.org.uk

Provide information and support for children and young people with epilepsy and other neurological conditions.

National Deaf Children's Society

0808 800 8880

www.ndcs.org.uk

Helpline provides clear, balanced information and support for families of deaf children, deaf young people and professionals working with families. Also provide grants and loan equipment.

Parent Place is an online discussion forum which allows families of deaf children to post questions or comments. You can find it at: www.ndcs.org.uk/parentplace

The National Literacy Trust

020 7587 1842

www.literacytrust.org.uk

Provide support & information to help improve reading & writing

Newlife Foundation for Disabled Children

0800 902 0095

www.newlifecharity.co.uk

Provides support for parents of disabled children aged up to 18. Helpline provides qualified Nurses who offer comfort, support and guidance as well as offer grants for equipment.

The Nystagmus Network

0845 634 2630

www.nystagmusnet.org

Self-help group providing support for people with nystagmus, an eye condition characterised by rapid, jerky eye movements.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

One Parent Families

0800 018 5026

www.oneparentfamilies.org.uk

Specialist advice service for lone parents caring for a child with a disability or long-term health problem.

Parentline Plus

0808 800 2222

www.parentlineplus.org.uk

Offer free, 24 hour confidential helpline to anyone parenting a child on any issue that is affecting them.

Respond

0808 808 0700

www.respond.org.uk

Helpline for people with learning disabilities, their families, carers and professionals affected by trauma and abuse

Rethink

0845 456 0455

www.rethink.org.uk

A leading national mental health membership charity, working to help everyone affected by severe mental illness recover a better quality of life.

Rett Syndrome Association UK

01582 798910

www.rettsyndrome.org.uk

07970 546653 - Out of hours family helpline

Offer information, practical help, friendship and support to people with Rett Syndrome, their families and carers.

Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)

0303 123 9999

www.rnib.org.uk

Confidential helpline offers information, support & advice. Website has information about specific conditions & useful advice.

Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID)

0808 808 0123

www.rnid.org.uk

Offer information, training, fact sheets, leaflets, publications and information about equipment and products.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Samaritans

08457 90 90 90

www.samaritans.org.uk

24hr confidential & emotional support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair. Can also e-mail anonymously.

Scope

0808 800 3333

www.scope.org.uk

Offer support, information, campaigning & news for people with Cerebral Palsy & related disabilities.

Sibs

01535 645453

www.sibs.org.uk

Provide support & information for people who grow up with a brother or sister with disability or chronic illness.

The Special Needs Handbook will be full of handy, helpful tips, ideas and solutions for day to day problems encountered by people living with or supporting a child or adult with special needs.

The Special Needs Handbook

0207 443 5156

mail@specialneedshandbook.com

The Special Needs Handbook will be full of handy, helpful tips, ideas and solutions for day to day problems encountered by people living with or supporting a child or adult with special needs

STEPS

0871 717 0044

www.steps-charity.org.uk

Provide support & advice to families of children with lower limb abnormalities including club feet, hip problems, amputations and orthotic support.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

TAG (The Arthrogyrosis Group)

01737 813527

www.tagonline.org.uk

A national support group for people, or families with children, who have the condition Arthrogyrosis (stiff joints).

Unique

01883 330766

www.rarechromo.org

A source of information, mutual support and self-help to families of children with any rare chromosome disorders.

Vision Aid

01204 64265

www.visionaid.org.uk

Offers practical help & advice to families of children with sight difficulties.

Winston's Wish

08452 03 04 05

www.winstonswish.org.uk

Offer practical support and guidance to bereaved children, young people and their families.

Working Families 'Waving not Drowning'

0800 013 0313

www.workingfamilies.org.uk

For parents who work, or want to work, and who have children with disabilities by providing a network of help and information including details of flexible working rights.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Legal Advice

AVMA (Action for Victims of Medical Accidents)

0845 123 2352

www.avma.org.uk

Provide support, legal advice, referral to specialist solicitors and help through the NHS complaints procedure.

The Community Legal Service

0845 345 4 345

www.clsdirect.org.uk

A Government initiative designed to ensure that everyone has access to good quality legal advice and information. The CLS is for anyone who needs legal help.

The Disability Law Service

020 7791 9800

www.dls.org.uk

Provide free legal advice and representation for disabled people, their carers and families.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Useful Websites

- Able (formerly Disability View)** www.ablemagazine.co.uk
Information on issues such as disability, holidays, sports and benefits. Produce regular magazine.
- AiA Allergy induced Autism** www.autismmedical.com
Information about diet & parent forum
- After 16** www.after16.org.uk
Provides information for people with a wide range of abilities and disabilities including; details of where to live, further learning, finance and advocacy.
- Asthma UK** www.asthma.org.uk
Provides information and advice on all aspects of asthma.
- AuKids** www.aukids.co.uk
A quarterly magazine produced by a parent and a speech therapist. Contains ideas and inspiration for parents of children under 10 with an autism spectrum disorder.
- Autism-Aspergers** www.groups.yahoo.com/group/autism-aspergers
Support groups for parents of kids with Autism and Aspergers
- Autism Independent UK** www.autismuk.com
A wide range of information and links.
- Autism Resources** www.autism-resources.com
Information and links regarding Developmental Disabilities, Autism and Asperger's Syndrome

USEFUL WEBSITES

Being a Stepparent

www.beingastepparent.co.uk

Website that focuses on extensive advice for step parents and their families, includes section on being a step parent of a child with special needs.

Benefits Advisor

www.benefits-adviser.direct.gov.uk

Online calculator that enables you to work out what benefits and tax credits you are entitled to.

Benefits and Work

www.benefitsandwork.co.uk

Downloadable step-by-step guide that can help with completing DLA forms.

British Allergy Foundation

www.allergyfoundation.com

Provides up to date information, advice and support to help people with allergies

Caring with Confidence

www.caringwithconfidence.net

Aims to help carers make a positive difference to their life and that of the person they care for. Work through online sessions that will help you assess your caring role.

Changing Places

www.changing-places.org

Provides information for those who cannot use accessible toilets and need changing facilities. Lists all current facilities in the UK and also those planned.

Charity Commission

www.charitycommission.gov.uk

Searches for all charities, ideal for fundraising searches.

Childrens Disabilities Information

www.childrensdisabilities.info

Information for children's disabilities and special needs.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Coping with Stress

Coping with the stress of having a child with a disability can be tough at times and you or your child may suffer from anxieties, phobias or depression. The following websites can offer specific advice on these subjects:

No Panic	www.nopanic.org.uk
No More Panic	www.nomorepanic.co.uk
Anxiety Care	www.anxietycare.org.uk
Anxiety Alliance	www.anxietyalliance.org.uk

The Couple Connection

www.thecoupleconnection.net

Relationship strengthening tool for couples, includes a section on issues that can crop up when there is a child with additional needs.

Direct Enquiries:

(The Nationwide Access Register)

www.directenquiries.com

Search for accessible facilities & venues anywhere in the UK.

Direct Gov

www.direct.gov.uk

The latest and widest range of public service information.

Disability Now

www.disabilitynow.org.uk

Has a large database of information about disability issues and campaigns. Also produce national disability newspaper.

Disabledgo

www.disabledgo.com

Website providing detailed local information about access to public places

Do to Learn

www.dotolearn.com

Printable activities which promote independence to individuals with special needs.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- The Downs Syndrome Educational Trust** www.downsed.org
UK based charity that works to advance the development and education of individuals with Downs Syndrome.
- Disability Benefits** www.benefitshelpline.com/disability
Information on benefits including entitlement, claiming, how it is paid, how long for and rates.
- Disability Equipment Register** www.disabilityequipment.org.uk
Lists second hand equipment for sale and wanted.
- Dyspraxia Foundation** www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk
Helps people understand and cope with Dyspraxia
- The Dystonia Society** www.dystonia.org.uk
Provide support for people with Dystonia.
- Easyhealth** www.easyhealth.org.uk
A website aimed at people with learning difficulties that pulls together accessible health information and makes it easier for people to use with clear & simple language and illustrations.
- Ehlers Danlos Syndrome** www.ehlers-danlos.org
Ehlers Danlos Support Group
- Equip for Life** www.equipforlife.org.uk
Buy and sell used disabled equipment.
- Food Matters** www.foodmatters.com
A useful website for anyone with a food allergy, food intolerance, food sensitivity or on a restricted diet.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Formative Fun

www.wiseowltoys.co.uk

Products are appealing to all children but are particularly useful where a child has a specific learning difficulty.

HE Special

www.he-special.org.uk

Group of families who home educate children with SEN. Website provides information and discussion mailing list.

Home Education Advisory Services

www.heas.org.uk

Provide telephone advice line and other resources for parents who choose to teach their children at home.

(Invisible) Disabilities in the UK

www.geocities.com/dolfrog/index.html

Provides information, support & help links for all families who cope with disabilities

Learning 4 R Kids

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/learning4rkids

UK support group for parents/carers of kids with learning difficulties

Kent Resource Directory

www.krd.org.uk

This on-line directory brings together information about services, activities, support and guidance for children and young people, aged 0 -19 years, parents and practitioners across Kent.

Kent Trust Web

www.kenttrustweb.org.uk

The Extranet for Kent's Children Families and Schools

Living with ADHD

www.livingwithadhd.co.uk

Information and support on ADHD

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Mental Health Foundation** www.mentalhealth.org.uk
Information for anyone affected by mental health problems.
- Mobility Information Service** www.mis.org.uk
Offer advice about buying a car, wheelchair or scooter, information about adaptations, tax and parking badges.
- Multikulti** www.multikulti.org.uk
Provide accurate and culturally appropriate translations of information, advice, guidance and learning materials.
- National Autistic Society** www.autism.org.uk/infosheets
Provide on line information sheets
- National Children's Bureau** www.ncb.org.uk
Services and support for C&YP with disabilities and SEN.
- National Debtline** www.nationaldebtline.co.uk
Free, confidential & independent helpline 0808 808 4000
- National Health Service Website** www.nhs.uk
Official site of the NHS. Get expert information on conditions, treatments and local service.
- Net Doctor** www.netdoctor.co.uk
The UK's leading independent health website
- Netmums** www.netmums.com
Netmums: an online parenting organisation with over 1/2 a million members, mostly mums. Netmums is a family of local sites that cover the UK, each site offering information to mothers on everything from where to find playgroups and how to eat healthily to where to meet other mothers.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Need a Loo

www.needaloo.org

Listing public accessible toilet facilities with maps reference.

NHS Direct

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Find out about illnesses, tests and treatments plus lots more.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

www.ocdyouth.info

Information for young people with OCD

Paltalk

www.paltalk.com

Talk to friends and family over the internet. For those who can't type.

(The) Parent Centre

www.parentcentre.gov.uk

Information and support for parents on how to help with your child's learning, including advice on choosing a school and finding childcare. Includes special needs section.

Patient UK

www.patient.co.uk

Offers a range of services including leaflets on health and disease, self/help/patient support groups, a directory of UK websites on diseases and relevant health issues.

Peach

www.peach.org.uk

Parent-led charity promoting early behavioural intervention for young children with autism.

Peta UK Ltd

www.peta-uk.com

Design & manufacture a range of special needs scissors, garden & kitchen tools.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- (The) Personal Assistants Network** www.panet.org.uk
An information site provides information and guidance for Personal Assistants (P.A.s), people who employ them or would like to. Help with information on Direct Payments and budgets.
- Pharmacy & Drugs** www.rxlist.com
Internet medicine index, providing information on prescription medicine, herbal and homeopathics.
- Play Helps** www.roma.testbench.co.uk
Roma Lear provides instructions on how to make toys for children with special needs.
- RADAR** www.radar.org.uk
Represents opinions and concerns to policy-makers and legislators and campaigns to promote equality for all disabled people.
- Reverb-UK** www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/reverb-uk
Online support group for parents of deaf children.
- The Sibling Support Project** www.siblingsupport.org
Online support group for brothers and sisters of people with disabilities.
- Special Abilities** www.learningdisabilities.org.uk
Advice, information and support for parents of children with disabilities.
- Special Friends Online** www.specialfriendsonline.com
Online community for people with learning difficulties, their parents, carers and volunteers.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Special Kids in the UK www.groups.yahoo.com/group/specialkidsintheuk

Support & information group for parents with special kids of all disabilities

Speech Teach UK www.speechteach.co.uk

Downloadable resources include educational, speech related therapy activities, parents information, clip art and animations

Talking Point www.ican.org.uk

Information about speech, language and communication difficulties in children.

The Henry Spink Foundation www.henryspink.org

An independent charity providing accessible, useful and unbiased data on treatment and therapies for severely disabled children.

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers www.carers.org

Provides information, support and practical help to carers

ToGoGo www.togogo.info

Information on local leisure for all ages and abilities in Kent.

Toy Directory www.toydirectory.com/specialneeds.htm

U.S site detailing toys & activities for children with special needs.

Treating Autism www.treatingautism.co.uk

Provides information on developments in the biomedical and therapeutic world, have a lending library and special offers with essential suppliers, run local groups, organise parent to parent events and conferences.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Young Minds

0808 802 5544

www.youngminds.org.uk

Committed to improving the emotional well being and mental health of children and young people and empowering their parents and carers.