

13. CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Services for children with special needs are offered by a number of organisations including the NHS, Social Services, Education Services and Voluntary Organisations. Information in *Chapter 5, Social Services*, *Chapter 6, Health Services* and *Chapter 9, Learning Difficulty* in this pack may be of help also.

Education

If you think your child may be experiencing any learning difficulty at school then first talk to your child's teacher or head teacher. Many children, at some point in their school career, will have special educational needs of some kind. Most children's needs will be met by the mainstream school, sometimes with the help of outside specialists. In a few cases the Local Education Authority (LEA) will have to make a statutory assessment based on specialist advice.

Special educational needs

The LEA may then draw up a statement of special educational needs. This describes all the child's needs and all the special help that he or she needs. Children with statements often go to their local school. A child is considered to have special educational needs if they have learning difficulties and need special help. They may find it harder to learn than most children of their age or perhaps have a disability which makes it difficult to use educational facilities.



For example they may have difficulties caused by:-

- a physical disability
- a problem with sight, hearing or speech
- emotional or behavioural problems
- a medical or health problem
- difficulties with reading, writing, speaking and mathematics

If your child is not yet at school and you have concerns then speak to your doctor, health visitor or another professional you think may be able to help.

Further information can be found in the booklet "Special Educational Needs: a Guide for Parents and Carers" (Ref: DfES 0800/2001). It is available in other languages and the English version is also available in braille and on audio cassette. Contact: DFES Publications, PO Box 5050, Sherwood Park, Annesley, Nottinghamshire, NG15 0DJ. Tel: 0845 6022260. Email: dfes@prolog.uk.com Website: www.dfes.gov.uk

A booklet "*Where do I go from here?*", for parents and carers of children who are disabled or have special needs in West Sussex, is available from your local Social Services office, or from the Carers Support Service.

Action for Kids

A charity supporting severely disabled children and their families. It provides mobility aids not available on the NHS and work-related training for disabled young people aged 14-26 yrs anywhere in the UK. A family support service is also available.

Contact: Action for Kids, Ability House, 15a Tottenham Lane, London, N8 9DJ

Tel: 020 8347 8111 Fax: 020 8347 3482 Helpline: 0845 300 0237

Website: www.actionforkids.org Email: info@actionforkids.org

Cerebra - for Brain Injured Children and Young People

Commission and funds research linked with brain injury and neurological conditions in children. Also offers Parent Support, an information and support service for parents and carers of children with brain related conditions. Parent Support members can access an in-depth enquiry service, a parent-to-parent contact service, a newsletter, a postal lending library of toys and books, a sleep service and a grants scheme.

A freephone counselling service is also available, tel: 0800 043 9385.

All parent support services are free and you can access any of them through a Freephone telephone helpline: on 0800 328 1159 (Mon-Fri 9:30am-4:30pm); via post at Cerebra, Freepost SWC 3360, Carmarthen, SA31 1ZY;

or email: info@cerebra.org.uk Website: www.cerebra.org.uk

Challenging Behaviour Foundation

A registered charity offering information and support to parents, carers and professionals. The Foundation aims to set up a year round education and care facility providing a training service for parents, carers and professionals. An information pack is free to download from the website.

Contact Vivien Cooper: Friends Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1LS. Tel: 01634 838739 Website: www.thecbf.org.uk Email: info@thecbf.org.uk

Chanctonbury Community Playscheme

Summer play scheme which includes the Bognor and Arundel area for all children/young adults with special needs, who have been statemented. Ages 5-19 years. Does not cover Chichester District. Contact: Becky Batchelor on: 01306 627485.

Chestnut Tree House

Children's hospice for children and young people from 0-19 years of age with progressive life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses. Offers respite care, crisis care, day care, end of life care and bereavement support for children and adults.

Tel: 0845 450 5820 Website: www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk

Chichester Portage Service

A home visiting educational service for pre-school children with additional support needs throughout the Chichester District and Bognor Regis areas (not Arundel). Portage works alongside parents, offering practical help and ideas to encourage a child's emerging skills. These include moving, playing, being with people and sharing the routine.

Contact: The Coordinator at Chichester Portage Service, The Orchard Street Annexe, Orchard Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1DQ Tel: 01243 536182

Website: www.wsgfl.westsussex.gov.uk

Email: chichester.ed.portage.service@westsussex.gov.uk

Child Disability Team

Social Services have two Child Disability Teams based in the North and South of the County. Chichester District, Bognor Regis and Arundel are covered by the team based in Bognor Regis. They work with children with severe or complex physical or learning disabilities, including autism. Some of the ways they can help are with practical support, such as care in your home, equipment and adaptations to your home, social work support and short breaks (respite). You can contact them direct as they have their own help desk, which runs from 9.30am-12.30pm (Mon-Fri) Tel: 01243 642424 Email: cdhds.ss@westsussex.gov.uk

Contact a Family

Offers advice and support on a wide range of topics as well as providing a listening ear for parents and carers of children with all kinds of disabilities and special needs. Network of local parent support groups. Publications and factsheets. They also have a website which features a 'Dad's Zone' with useful information and contact for fathers of children with disabilities www.cafamily.org.uk General Freephone Helpline: 0808 808 3555 (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm and Mondays 5.30-7.30pm) Textphone: 0808 808 3556 Email: helpline@cafamily.org.uk or info@cafamily.org.uk

Dreams Come True

A registered charity endeavouring to fulfill dreams for children and young adults nationwide aged 2-21 years, who have a serious degenerative or terminal condition. Contact: Knockhundred House, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DQ. Tel: 01730 815000 or Freephone: 0800 0186013 Website: www.dctc.org.uk Email: info@dctc.org.uk

Family Fund

Helps families of severely disabled or seriously ill children with grants related to the care of the child including holidays, leisure, laundry equipment, driving lessons and more. Aims to help all families with an income of £23,000 pa or less. Tel: 0845 130 4542. Website: www.familyfund.org.uk

Fledglings

An independent non-profit making organisation, providing information on products for those caring for a child with special needs. Will source toys, educational games, information on products, beds, eating equipment, swimming aids and clothing. Tel: 0845 458 1124. Website: www.fledglings.org.uk Email: enquiries@fledglings.org.uk

Hyperactive Childrens Support Group - Chichester

Provides help, advice, information and support to parents of children who are, or are suspected of being, hyperactive and/or have ADHD. Provides a substantial amount of information on allergies and diet in relation to these conditions. Tel: 01243 539966 (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10.00am–12.30pm).

IPSEA

The Independent Panel for Special Education Advice is an advice line for parents of children with special needs covering all areas of assessment and statementing. It also provides support for parents appealing to the Special Education Needs Tribunal. Tel: 0800 018 4016. Website: www.ipsea.org.uk

Leucan

A self help/support group for parents of children and young adults with cancer, leukaemia or haematological conditions. Offers emotional support and practical advice for all the family. Organises social events. Covers Littlehampton to Shoreham. Tel: 01903 775756. Email: andrew.standing1@btinternet.com
Leucan, 9 Darlington Close, Angmering, BN16 4GS

Mencap See entry in Chapter 9, *Learning Difficulty*

Parents and Carers Support Organisation - PACSO

The charity exists to support parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities living in the Chichester, Bognor Regis and Midhurst areas. Free coffee morning for parents and carers are arranged twice a term. Saturday clubs and after school clubs to provide respite during term time. Family events and play schemes are also planned during school holidays. To find out dates of future events and for more information contact the facilitator, Ruth Stewart, on Tel: 01243 533353. PACSO, PO Box 58, Chichester, PO19 8UD.

Website: www.pacso.org.uk Email: admin@pacso.org.uk

Parent Partnership Service

This WSCC service provides impartial advice, information and support to parents and carers of children with special educational needs. Provides a Parental Supporter Scheme to parents and carers in need of assistance and support. Works with schools, the Local Authority, parents and other professionals to promote effective partnerships. Newsletters are produced twice a year. Yearly information events are organised.

Contact Parent Partnership Service, Ambassador House, Crane St. Chichester PO19 1TP. Helpline: 0845 075 1008 (Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm).

Website: <http://wsgfl.westsussex.gov.uk/pp>

Email: parent.partnership@westsussex.gov.uk

Parent Plus

A befriending service run by parents for parents of children who have been recently diagnosed with disabilities and special needs. Covers the Chichester District (including Midhurst and Petworth), Bognor Regis and Arundel areas.

Contact: Maria Dunkley Tel: 01403 257699 or 07804 529903

Website: www.earlyyears@springboardproject.com.

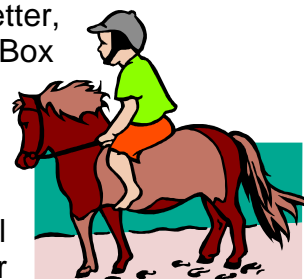
PHAB Club

Club for physically disabled and able-bodied people aged 5-55 years. Offers social, sport and leisure activities, weekends away and holidays.

National Tel: 020 8667 9443. Email: info@phab.org.uk Website: www.phab.org.uk

Reach

Provides contact and support for carers of children with upper limb deficiency. Information on what to do and where to go for advice on treatment be it artificial limbs, appliances or necessary surgery. Produces a newsletter, information leaflets and holds regular meetings. Contact: Reach, PO Box 54, Helston, TR13 8WD. Tel: 0845 130 6225 for details of activities in your area. Website: www.reach.org.uk



Riding for the Disabled

Riding for disabled people, and rural work and training for people of all ages with learning disabilities. Areas covered - Chichester, Bognor Regis, Singleton and Midhurst. Meets on alternate Tuesdays at Hunters Lodge, Hunston between 2pm and 3.30pm. Tel: 01243 780651

Southdown Family Centre

Provides support for parents and carers of children with autism and their siblings aged between 5 and 13 years old. Sessions are held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month and activities include play, drama, art, cookery, multi-sensory and music. Children are left at the Centre offering respite to parents and carers. Families need to book in advance to attend and need to be members of the society. For more information Tel: 01903 882666.

Sussex AD/HD Support Group

A support group for parents and carers of children with AD/HD living in Sussex. Issues a bi-monthly newsletter full of information on AD/HD and other special needs. Holds support group meetings usually once a month, details of which are advertised in the newsletter. Provides factsheets on a range of subjects as well as seminars for parents and professionals on subjects of relevance. There is a 24-hour Helpline offering a listening ear. Tel: 07519 280950
Sussex AD/HD Support Group, PO Box 150, Crawley, W. Sussex, RH11 0ZQ
Website: www.sussexadhd.org.uk Email: info@sussexadhd.org.uk

Sussex Autistic Community Trust

An independent, not for profit organisation, which aims to provide a range of opportunities for young adults with autistic spectrum disorders. It provides the care, education, recreational opportunities, occupational and living environment they need to live a rewarding and fulfilling life. Contact: Sussex House, R/O 19 High Street, Battle, TN33 0AE. Head Office: 01424 773366.
Website: www.sact.org.uk Email: enquiries@sact.org.uk

Sussex Autistic Society

Provides a support service which offers information and advice to families, carers and professionals in Sussex. Offers a Family Centre and a Youth Service for teenagers and Adult Social Group for people with Asperger's Syndrome. Also offers an outreach respite service. For more information contact: 01903 882666 (Mon-Fri 9am-3pm). Or write to: 1 London Road, Arundel, BN18 9BH
Website: www.sussexautisticsociety.org Email: info@sussexautisticsociety.org

Sussex Snowdrop Trust

A charity covering the Chichester District, Arundel, Midhurst, Billingshurst and Emsworth areas which supports children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. Provides equipment and general support such as care from nurses or

specially screened volunteers and periods of respite to people who have care of very sick children. Works alongside palliative care team.
For more information, contact the Admin Office at: 3 Kingley Centre, Downs Road, West Stoke, Chichester PO18 9HJ. Tel: 01243 572433.
Email: sussexsnowdrop@btconnect.com
Website: www.thesussexsnowdroptrust.com

Sussex Otters

A swimming group for people with disabilities. See entry in Chapter 15, *Other Illnesses and Disabilities*

The Family Fund Trust

Government funded but independently administered service focussing on easing the stress on families caring for a very severely disabled child under 16 years. Provides grants and information related to the care of the child. Publications available and a number of information sheets. Covers the whole of the UK. Contact: The Family Fund Trust, 4 Alpha Court, Monks Cross Drive, Huntington, York, YO32 9WN. Tel: 0845 130 4542 (Mon-Fri 9-5)
Website: www.familyfundtrust.org.uk
Email: info@familyfundtrust.org.uk



Wellspring Newsletter

Wellspring is a free, regular newsletter for children and young people with disabilities and their parents and carers across West Sussex. For more information contact: The Editor, Wellspring c/o 26 Goldsmith Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 8ER. Tel: 01903 859929 Fax: 01903 777601 Website: www.wellspringwestsussex.org.uk
Email: info@wellspringwestsussex.org.uk

West Sussex Childcare Information Service

Provides free, confidential information and guidance on all aspects of childcare for children aged 0-14 years (16 yrs for those with additional support needs). Also has information on family support services, unregistered childcare, toy libraries, leisure, out of school clubs and more. The Service can also help anyone thinking of working with children or wanting information on a course or conference related to childcare.

Contact: West Sussex Children's Information Service, Early Years and Childcare Service, St James Campus, St James Road, Chichester, W. Sussex, PO19 7HA. Telephone: 01243 777807 Mon-Thurs (8:30am-5pm), Fridays (8:30am-4.30pm). Fax: 01243 520825. Website: www.childcarelink.gov.uk
Email: childrens.info.service@westsussex.gov.uk