



# The SEND Guide



A guide for parents and carers with children or young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) or on the pathway for assessment living in Redcar and Cleveland.

This guide may also be useful if you have any concerns about your child's development.



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# **Welcome parents**

This guide has been produced for parents and carers by parents who understand how overwhelming and stressful it can be once you start on your SEND journey. As parents of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability we know how hard it is to find information from official sources and in a language that is simple and clear to understand. Hopefully this useful guide will have clear information which is relevant for all families living in the Redcar and Cleveland area, and can explain some of the professionals or services you will come into contact with.

This guide has been produced by SEND Family Voice and will be updated accordingly.

We hope you find it useful!

*SEND Family Voice*

Parent and Carer Forum for Redcar and Cleveland





As the recognised Parent and Carer forum (PCF) for Redcar and Cleveland we are funded by the Department of Education. We support parents and carers of children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities, those on the pathway for assessment or if you have a concern about your child's development. . Our main aim is to ensure the needs of our children are met. We bring together parent carer voices from across Redcar and Cleveland to improve engagement between services and families, to empower each other and influence policy and practice.

SEND Family Voice is run by a group of parents who all have children with different SEND needs. Between us all we have a wealth of experience when it comes to different neurodiversity's and our children's needs. We feel incredibly passionate about ensuring the services in our area meet the needs of all our children and young people. We want to make sure that each one of our families feel fully included, supported and empowered throughout their journeys in caring for someone with additional needs. As a forum our aim is engage, empower and influence and this is how we apply this to our working:

- **Engage** with families to find out their experiences and feedback to services and professionals to ensure the promotion of inclusive practice.
- **Empower** other families by sharing information and experiences.
- **Influence** and shape services through representation of families' voices, ensuring a local offer that is shaped by the needs of children and young people with SEND.

As well as supporting parents we also work at a strategic level with professionals at the Local Authority (LA), Health (NHS), and Social Care. We regularly attend meetings with professionals to ensure the services provided for SEND families meet their needs. We believe in having positive working relationships with families and professionals and we work hard to build relationships with everyone and promote honesty and transparency. We provide challenge to both professionals and parents to ensure the needs of the child are at the centre of everything we do.



As a forum we always aim to co-produce with professionals, however there are times when this is not appropriate. Detailed below are the four main ways to engage with professionals:

## **Information**

This is where you are informed of any decision making, systems and processes and are aware of what is happening.

*A good example would be the information that is available on the local offer.*

## **Consultation**

Families are asked for their views and opinions on specific issues.

*A good example of this would be surveys that we ask you to participate in or when you tell professionals about your experiences at our listening events.*

## **Engagement**

A smaller group of people come together to represent views and opinions. They then work with decision makers and service providers to present views and ideas of how they think something should work.

*A good example of this would be at our focus groups, where a smaller group of people may come and provide suggestions of how things could be improved.*

## **Co-production**

There is an equal part for forum members in decision making processes; design, procedures, systems and policies are worked on collaboratively.

*A good example of this would be the design of a pathway where multiple agencies came and made decisions together to benefit all.*

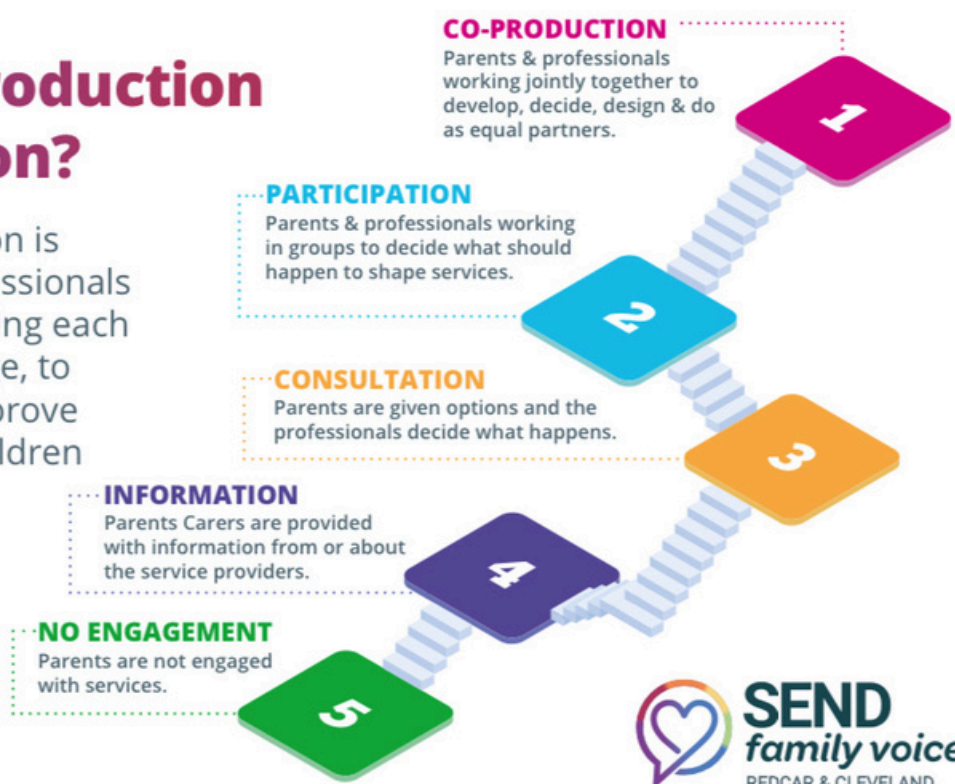
We have added a visual on the next page.

We have designed a co-production pledge, shown below, which details the different ways of working with professionals. We have presented this to the Local Authority, Health and Social Care to have this agreed between all parties. We have asked professionals to add their logos to this to accept the co-production pledge. This means all parties can hold another accountable in respect of SEND services.

## What Is Co-Production & Participation?

Parent carer participation is when parents and professionals work together, recognising each other's expert knowledge, to design, develop and improve services for disabled children in the local area.

As a parent carer forum, we strive to achieve co-production in all our work with education, health, social care and other partners in Redcar and Cleveland.



Once we have this agreed by all professionals we will advise accordingly and upload copies to our website and Facebook page and group.





As a forum we offer support via our Facebook page and group, coffee mornings and specific events. On our website, SEND Family Voice we offer a free membership which provides:

- Priority access to our monthly newsletter
- Early bird access to upcoming events, allowing you to book early!
- Eligibility for free giveaways.

We also offer a Your Voice function on our website which allows parents and carers to submit any issues, concerns or feedback regarding services which we can forward to the relevant professional. It has been agreed between the Local Authority (LA), Health (NHS) and social care the timescales for professionals to respond to parents and carers. These are as follows;

- A simple query will be replied to within 7 working days
- A more complex enquiry which requires investigation or two or more professionals to answer, will be replied to within 21 working days.

Currently all enquiries which are submitted are responded to much quicker than the timescales stated above.

As a forum we work hard to meet the needs of our families and deliver the best outcomes. We often undertake training to make sure we are providing the most up to date and correct information to our families. Forum members undertake safeguarding training each year as well as other courses which are relevant to support our families. We regularly ask for feedback from our parents and carers and adapt our ways to meet their needs.

scan the QR codes below to join our membership, view the website or Facebook.

Facebook



Membership.



Website.



# SEND Family Voice, Redcar and Cleveland Parent and Carer Forum

## What is a PCF?

A parent and carer forum is made up of a group of parents and carers who have children and young people aged 0 – 25 years with SEND. Their aim is to make sure that services in their area meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families.

## Who are SEND Family Voice?

SEND Family Voice, Redcar and Cleveland is the parent and carer forum for families in Redcar and Cleveland

We are based in the Civic Centre in Redcar opposite the swimming baths and library. We cover all of the Redcar and Cleveland area.

## What is SEND?

A child or young person has Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) if they have a learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support. We shorten this to SEND.

## Who funds SEND Family Voice?

We are funded by the Department for Education and supported by the National Network of Parent Carer Forums.

We are independent and do not work for any professionals. We undertake regular training to improve our services to families in the Redcar and Cleveland area.

## What do we do?

We engage with families' to find out their experiences and feedback to services and professionals to ensure the promotion of inclusive practice.

We aim to empower other families by sharing information and experience.

Influence and shape services through representations of families voices, ensuring a local offer that is shaped by the needs of children and young people with SEND.

## Who can get involved?

SEND Family Voice, Redcar and Cleveland Parent and Carer Forum is always looking for new members to join us!

The forum is open to parents and carers, family members, guardians and foster parents of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years (no diagnosis required)

If you live in Redcar and Cleveland and have a passion for SEND we want to hear from you.

## Where can you find us?

Office 20, Civic Centre, Ridley Street Redcar TS10 1TD

[info@sendfamilyvoicerc.com](mailto:info@sendfamilyvoicerc.com)

Facebook : SENDFamilyVoice R&C





# Information for Parents and Carers

Having a child with Special Educational Needs or disabilities (SEND) can be challenging if you don't know where to turn to for support. Some children are diagnosed at an early age and support is in place from day 1. However, this is not the case for all children with SEND. Sometimes these difficulties don't present themselves until children start school and then where do you turn to for support? What about children who mask in school?

These are the common questions we often get asked. Do you know who to contact in school to raise an issue if your child needs support in school?

As a first port of call we would suggest speaking to your child's teacher and raising your concerns with them. If it helps keep a diary of their behaviours, is there a common trigger or theme you can identify?

The school might put your child on a "watch and wait" list to see if these issues are happening in school too. Some children will mask in school and school staff might not see the behaviours that you witness at home. This can be frustrating and feel like you are not getting the help you need. However making school aware of the difficulties at home can help them understand any barriers to attending school. It is worth remembering if there is a need your child will display these behaviours at school once they feel safe. Keeping a diary until this point can help. Children will always be their true selves around parents and carers and feel safe and comfortable to display these behaviours. This may take longer to happen in school especially with new teachers / school years.

If you are on the pathway for assessment and need help there is the bubble of support and Family Support Service which is commissioned by the NHS and ran by Daisy Chain. There is more information about this further on in this guide.

There is also lots of information about services that are available for parents, carers and family members on the Redcar and Cleveland Local Offer. This is the most up to date record of services which you can access on the link below

<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/>



# Information for Parents and Carers

We have listed below the laws and guidance which schools have to follow and certain expectations on parents and carers too. We have detailed these below:

The SEN Code of Practice 0-25 years. This statutory code contains:

- details of legal requirements that you must follow without exception
- statutory guidance that you must follow by law unless there's a good reason not to

It explains the duties of local authorities, health bodies, schools and colleges to provide for those with special educational needs under part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

The Children and Families Act 2014 Part 3

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted>

The Equality Act 2010

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/85012/easy-read.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85012/easy-read.pdf)

If you ever feel overwhelmed or unsure where to turn to for support we are always at the other end of a message or email. Please feel free to reach out or drop by one of our weekly drop in sessions to seek support. There is always a hot drink and biscuit available as well as our fabulous pop up Sensory Shop with highly discounted items for families to purchase.



# Top Tips for Parents and Carers

## **1. Makes Notes**

When meeting with professionals there is usually a lot of information discussed, and it can be tricky to remember everything that has been said and agreed between yourself and the professional. A good tip is to take a notepad and make notes of important things that were discussed and also any upcoming appointments, procedures or referrals which the professional is making. This way you can keep track of what's happening and also follow up if a referral or appointment has not been made.

## **2. Keep documents together and keep copies**

Another good tip is to have a large envelope or folder to keep all letters and reports in about your child. This way all information is together in one place, especially if it is needed for appointments or completing paperwork. Remember if you need to send paperwork to a professional or with a document such as a DLA or PIP form always make copies and send the copies to the professionals, keeping the originals safe.

## **3. Dont be afraid to ask questions**

Although most professionals are really good at using simple and clear language, they can sometimes forget and still use abbreviations or acronyms. Don't be afraid to ask the professional what this means, this also applies to meetings - if something is discussed which you are unsure about, ask the professional to explain .

## **4. Photocopy DLA claims**

DLA and other forms to claim benefits can be difficult and time consuming to complete. A parent once told me they photocopy their claim and add bits over time ready for the next renewal. This would be a great idea for future paperwork that needs completing.



# Terminology made simple

Acronyms and abbreviations are often used by parents and professionals but sometimes it can be difficult to know what they mean. We have added the most common acronyms and abbreviations below.

ASD- Autism Spectrum Disorder usually referred to as Autism

ADHD - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

CAMHs - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

CIN - Children in Need

DP - Direct Payment

DSR - Dynamic Support Register

DS - Downs Syndrome

EHCP - Education Health and Care Plan

EP - Educational Psychologist

EY- Early Years

FASD - Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

FSM - Free School Meals

GDD - Global Development Delay

HE - Higher Education

HI - Hearing Impairment

HV - Health Visitor

ICB - Integrated Care Board (referred to in health terms)

IEP - Individual Education Plan

LA - Local Authority

LD - Learning Disability

MACH - Multi Agency Children's Hub

MDT - Multi Disciplinary Team

MLD - Moderate Learning Disability

MSI - Multi Sensory Impairment

PD - Physical Disability

PHB - Personal Health Budget

PMLD - Profound and Multiple Learning Disability

PT - Physiotherapy / Physiotherapist

OT - Occupational Therapist



# Terminology made simple Cont

RSP – Resource and Support Panel  
SLT – Speech and Language Therapist  
SENDIASS – SEND Information, Advice and Support Service  
SEMH – Social and Emotional Mental Health  
SEND – Special Educational Needs and/or Disability  
SENCo – Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator  
SLCN – Speech, Language and Communication Needs  
SLD – Severe Learning Disability  
SPLD – Specific Learning Disability  
SSP – SEND Support Plan  
SSP+ – SEND Support Plan Plus  
STS – Specialist Teaching Service  
SW – Social Worker  
VI – Visual Impairment

A Professional could be a doctor, member of staff at school, Nurse, Dietician etc  
\*This list is not exhaustive.

# Sensory Items

Some of the items shown below are great for sensory regulation. Items can be sourced from Amazon, EBay and other major retailers but we would suggest you check the packaging to ensure this is suitable for your child's age and weight.



Trintion Peanut  
Ball Kids Exercise



Sensory Swing |  
Therapy Swing ...



Tilcare Chew  
Chew Sensory  
Necklace – Bes...



Sensory  
Compression  
Blanket Sensor...



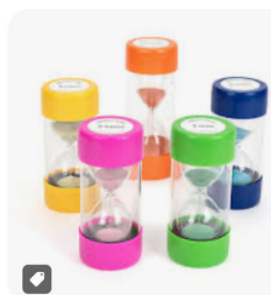
Children's Weighted Blanket



Wiggle Seat Little Sensory...



Spin Seat | SENstation



Blue Foldable Tent



The items available from our Sensory pop up Shop at our weekly drop ins.

# *Sensory Pop Up Shop*

**Sunflower lanyards £1**

**Radar Keys £2**

**Chew Toys £2 each**

**Small Fidget Toys 50p each**

**Large Fidget Toys £1 each**

**Wristbands £1**

**Ear Defenders £7**

**Worry Monster Bags £2**

**Laminated Now and Next boards £1**

**Laminated Routine Strips £1**

**Printed SEND Guide for Parents £1**

All items are for sale at a discounted price to members of SEND Family Voice. All proceeds go back into the forum to purchase more items.

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook has a light blue cover and a white page. The spiral binding is pink and is located at the top of the page. The word "Notes" is written in bold black text at the top of the page.

# Notes



Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, sometimes referred to as the LA, oversee Educational provisions in the area as well as Short Breaks.

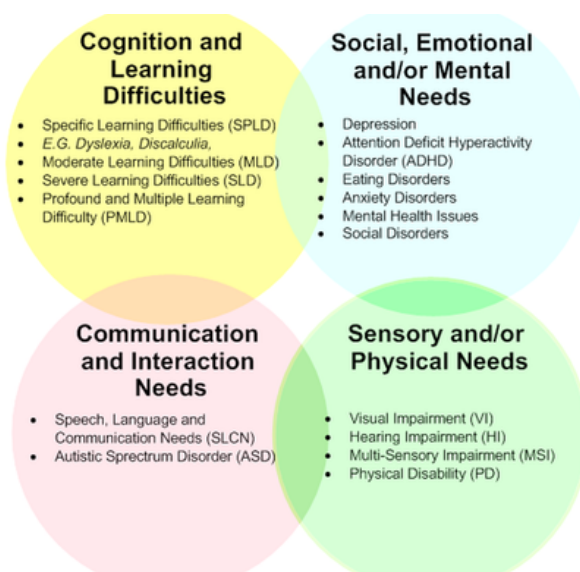
## Educational Services

The SEN Code of Practice : 0 to 25 years defines SEN as:

“A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.”

The SEND Code of Practice brought in Four Broad Areas of Need: Cognition and Learning; Communication and Interaction: Social, Emotional and Mental Health and Sensory and/or Physical.

For some children, they may have SEND in just one area where some have needs in more than one.



In Redcar and Cleveland we adopt the Graduated Approach when putting support in place for children. The graduated approach starts in the classroom. Teachers in school are continually assessing all learners, which informs their planning and implementation of their lessons. However, where a possible special educational need has been identified, this process will become more individualised and targeted at meeting the needs of the learner.

When a Special Educational Need (SEN) has been identified, the education setting should start a cycle of actions to make sure they put effective support in place. This cycle is called the 'Graduated Approach' and involves four stages:

## **Assess**

Teaching staff should work with the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) to assess your child's needs, so they can give the right support. They should involve you in this process and, wherever possible, seek your child's views. Sometimes schools will seek advice from a specialist teacher or a health professional. They should talk to you about this first.

## **Plan**

If the school decides that your child needs SEN support they must tell you. The school should talk with you about the outcomes that will be set, what help will be provided and agree a date for progress to be reviewed. This is often done through a SEND Support Plan or a Co-ordinated Support Plan .

## **Do**

Your child's teacher is usually responsible for the work that is done with your child, and should work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved. The school should tell you who is responsible for the support your child receives.

## **Review**

The support your child receives should be reviewed by the date agreed in the plan. You can decide together with the teacher if any changes are necessary to the support plan.



## Reasonable adjustments

Redcar and Cleveland have produced a guide for schools, parents, carers and other professionals to describe the support that should be made for our children in mainstream schools to meet their SEND needs – the Reasonable Exceptions in Mainstream School.

This guide meets the Department for Education's requirement for Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council to set out what special educational provision it expects schools to make available (SEND Regulations 2014, Schedule 2). This is known as 'ordinarily available provision'.

You can use the link below to access this document on the Local Offer website:

<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/local-offer-send/i-think-my-child-needs-help-school/reasonable-expectations-mainstream-school>

## Local Offer

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council also have a local offer which is a free information directory that shows what support or provision is available in our area for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 0 – 25 years old and their families.

There is lots of useful information about school settings, support for children / young people and families plus much more!

The Local Offer is required by law as part of the Children and Families Act 2014. You can view Redcar and Cleveland's local offer on the following link:

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/children-and-families-services/short-breaks-for-carers>

SEN Support can take many forms which could include:

- A specialised intervention programme
- New materials or equipment
- Working with your child in a small group
- Extra help from a teacher or learning support assistant(LSA)
- Helping your child to take part in class activities
- Supporting your child with physical or personal care (eating, getting around school, toileting or dressing).

## **SEN Support Plans**

A SEN Support Plan will accurately identify and detail the learner's educational need(s) and specify what support the school will put in place to ensure these needs are met. This should be reviewed on a termly basis in consultation with the parent and child. It should detail the outcomes they are seeking, the interventions and support to be put in place, the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, and a clear date for review.

A SEND plan should be considered by school when a child is needing more support than is needed by the majority of the children within the classroom despite quality first teaching being delivered. This should be a working document that is created by the class teacher (with the support of the SENDCo) and developed alongside parent/carers and the child or young person. The aim of a SEND Support Plan is to remove barriers to learning and to put effective educational provision in place.

Many schools use a SEND Support Plan in Redcar and Cleveland. Some may call it an Independent Learning Plan (ILP), an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Personal Learning Plan (PLP). They may also have a different format. It should include:

- Short-term SMART targets set by teacher in collaboration with parent/carers and child
- Teaching strategies/Interventions
- Provision/support
- The review date
- Success and/or exit criteria
- Outcomes of the support and next steps



If a child has a SEND Support Plan, it is usual that they should be placed on the school's SEND Register. Parents and Carers must be notified if learners are receiving special educational provision and are added to the SEN register. Schools should have a SEN registration form that they use to gather consent prior to placing the child onto the SEND register.

Once a child is on the SEND register, the school will be able to access SEND Notional Funding. This funding is not ring fenced and can be used by school to buy resources, deliver interventions, or access support. The High Needs Funding can be applied for via the Resource and Support Panel. The request for funding should be accompanied by completed costed provision map and RCBC (Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council) SEND ranges document (highlighted to show specific need). School should also send in any documentation that may show the range of need such as reports from other professional services.

Sometimes, the resources available in schools for SEN support cannot meet the needs of the child or young person with SEN and a more detailed plan is required.

### **SEND Support Plan Plus**

For a small number of children and young people for whom the SEND Support Plan has not been successful in meeting all of their needs, a SEND Support Plan Plus will be helpful especially when other services are working with the pupil.

Parent/Carers are central to the development process, along with the child or young person's voice and how they view their learning journey. The SEND Support Plan Plus will include contributions from other services such as CAMHS and/or Early Help. This will give us a more holistic view of the pupil's wider needs. The SEND Support Plan Plus is a working document and will be reviewed termly to ensure that it meets the needs of the Pupil as they grow and develop.

If a child or young person who has had a SEND Support Plan in place but continues to find it difficult to make appropriate progress despite this high level of support and funding, school should consider whether to make a referral for Statutory Assessment for an Education, Health, and Care

In such a case, you or your child's school can ask the local authority for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment which could lead to your child receiving an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP).

An EHCP is a legal document which describes a child or young person's educational needs, the support needed to meet their need and the outcome they would like to achieve. An EHCP also includes any health or care needs that have been identified and provision that is needed.

### **Asking for an EHC needs assessment**

The child's parent, a young person over the age of 16 but under the age of 25, and a person acting on behalf of a school or post-16 institution (this should ideally be with the knowledge and agreement of the parent or young person where possible) can request a statutory assessment for EHCP.

In addition, anyone else can bring a child or young person who has (or may have) SEN to the attention of the local authority, particularly where they think an EHC needs assessment may be necessary.

This could include, for example, foster carers, health and social care professionals, early years practitioners, youth offending teams or probation services, those responsible for education in custody, school or college staff or a family friend. Following a request for an EHC needs assessment, or the child or young person having otherwise been brought to its attention, the local authority must determine whether an EHC needs assessment is necessary.

The local authority must make a decision and communicate the decision to the child's parent or to the young person within six weeks of receiving the request.

## **Preparing an EHC plan**

When drawing up an EHC Plan the LA will take into account yours and your child's views, feelings and wishes and will prepare a draft version for you to look at. You will have 15 days to look at the EHC Plan and express your preferred preference which setting (nursery, school, college etc) you would like your child to attend. This could be a mainstream or special school setting. You can ask for help or support during this process. The LA have 20 weeks from assessment request to issue the EHC Plan including the name of the setting.

## **Reviewing an EHC plan**

EHC plans must be reviewed by the LA at least every 12 months by the date agreed in the plan.

Reviews will focus on:

- Providing information to the nurseries, schools or colleges to support the child's or young person's progress and their access to learning
- The special education provision made for the child or young person
- The health and social care provision made for the child or young person
- How suitable the EHC plan is for the child or young person
- New targets and/or outcomes for the coming year
- Any targets set by the nursery, school or college

Reviews must be undertaken together with the child/young person and their parent and take into account their wishes and feelings. If the needs of the child have significantly changed or there need to be a change of educational provision, sometimes we may have to undertake a re-assessment.

## **Personal budgets**

You are entitled to request a personal budget if your child has an EHC Plan or has been assessed as needing one, and you want to be involved in choosing and arranging some of the support for them. A personal budget can only be used to meet your child's needs in their EHC Plan.

For more information about SEN support you can contact Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council SEN Services by calling 01642 304503 or 01642 304561 or by emailing [SEN@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:SEN@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

## **SEND Transport**

If a child has special educational needs and is unable to make their journey from home to school without help, the Local Authority may provide travel assistance. Please look on the Local Offer for the current SEND Transport policy.

If transport is needed by a learner, school should complete an ATN1 form. If a learner is due to leave into the next transition phase, please can current SENDCo complete the ATN1 to ensure transport is in place for the start date.

### **Bus passes for reasons of disability (any age)**

If you feel you are eligible for free travel on grounds of disability you can also apply for a bus pass. We also offer companion passes for those who need help to travel by bus if they are eligible.

You can find out more information on the Local Offer on the link below.

<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/local-offer-send/my-child-needs-more-help-school/transport-children-and-young-people-send/bus>

## Short Breaks

Short Breaks are available for children and young people who have additional support needs and or disabilities and are intended to have positive benefits for both children and young people and their families.

Short breaks provide opportunities for children and young people:

- To spend time away from their parents carers;
- The chance to develop new friendships;
- To develop their independence;
- To take part in new experiences and to have fun doing positive activities such as swimming, youth clubs, day trips with friends and much more.

Short breaks aim to provide their parent carers with:

- A necessary and valuable break from their caring responsibility;
- A chance to rest and unwind;
- To spend time with other members of the family.

Short Breaks provision can range from a few hours a week to an allocated number of overnight breaks per year and anything in between.

Redcar and Cleveland's Short Breaks Offer is provided under 3 categories; Universal Services, Self-Referral Clubs and Social Worker Referral Services.

For more information please see the information on the next page, check the on the Local Offer using the link below or email [shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/children-and-families-services/short-breaks-for-children-young-people-and-their-families>

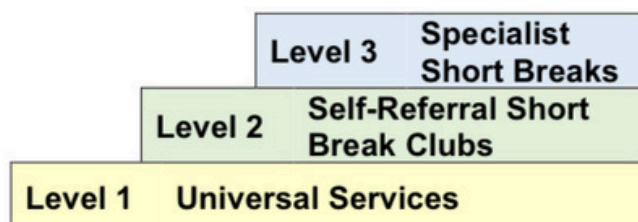
<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk>



## Short Breaks for Children and Young People who have Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND)

Short Breaks are available for children and young people who have SEND and are intended to have positive benefits for them and their parent carers. An overview of Redcar and Cleveland's Short Breaks Offer is outlined below.

### Short Breaks Staircase of Need



Families may access one level, a combination of levels or move between the different levels (level 3 is dependent on assessed need).

#### **Level 1 - Universal Services**

**All ages**

Some families are able to get a Short Break by using free or low cost local services which are not funded or commissioned by the Local Authority. Examples of these are; youth clubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, sport clubs and charity funded clubs. Organisations have a duty to make reasonable adjustments and must not treat a disabled person less favourably. Some universal services offer sessions specifically for children and young people with additional needs, however, not all universal services will be suitable for everyone.

#### **Level 2 - Self-Referral Short Breaks**

**5 years up to 18 years (may extend to 25 years if there is an assessed need)**

Our self-referral Short Breaks Clubs take place after school, on weekends and during school holidays and are specifically for children who have SEND. These clubs are commissioned and funded by the Local Authority. The clubs take place in and around Redcar and Cleveland, providing children and young people with an opportunity to meet new people and try a wide range of activities such as sports, arts and crafts, cooking, music and much more.

Families can refer themselves to this service without the need for a referral or a diagnosis but children/young people must have SEND.

In addition to the Clubs, families can also access the following additional self-referral Short Break Support; Stay and Play Holiday Sessions, Max Cards and the SEND Family Mailing List.

#### **Level 3 - Specialist Short Breaks**

**Birth up to 18 years (may extend to 25 years if there is an assessed need)**

Sometimes a child or young person may have more significant or complex needs due to their disability and/or family circumstances and will need more specialist support. Support may include one or more specialist services such as a personal assistant, overnight care in or away from the home, care in the home or in the community.

The level of support needed will be identified by a Social Worker Assessment and a request for services will need to be considered by a multi-agency panel. These services will be commissioned specifically for the child's/young person's needs or alternatively a family may prefer to request a **Direct Payment** to arrange the services themselves.

For more information please email [Shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:Shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk) or call 01642 771247



## **Early Help Youth & Community Service.**

The Join-Us service offers a range of youth group, after school and holiday activity sessions for children and young people with disabilities aged between 5 and 25 years of age. Providing small group support in the after school sessions or larger groups for those accessing the youth group provisions. Delivering a range of young person led activities which can include arts & crafts, cooking, sports, outdoor play, Lego, games consoles, music making, story time and messy & sensory play. Some of the sessions they host are detailed below and you can find more information by emailing or visiting the Facebook page:

Join-Us Short Breaks at 25K (Redcar), Guisborough & Eston Youth Centres

Join-Us Juniors at 25K Youth Centre and Join-Us+ at 25K Youth Centre

Join Us Short Breaks in the Holidays at 25K (Redcar), Guisborough & Eston Youth Centres

Join-Us Short Breaks in the Holidays at 25K (Redcar), Guisborough & Eston Youth Centres

email : [joinusshortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:joinusshortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/joinusproject>

## **Family Hubs**

Another service provided by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council is Family Hubs. Family Hubs and the wider network, offer help and support to families with children aged 0-19 years (25 with SEND). Family Hubs provide a range of services to support families which are detailed in termly planners for each area.

The following link provides more Information about Family Hubs and the programme timetable

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/family-hubs>

## **Portage**

The Early Years Area SENDCo coordinates the support provided by the Early Years SEND Practitioners, who were previously known as and sometimes still referred to as Portage. The team support children who have a significant delay in two or more areas of their development, from birth to school age.

Referrals are made to the Early Years SEND panel, which is chaired by the Early Years Area SENDCo, representatives from Specialist Speech and Language Therapy, Paediatric Physiotherapy and Health Visitor, agree outcomes of the referrals. This could mean a practitioner is allocated to support a family, access to Early Years funding or other support is offered via the panel members. It allows for a co-ordinated approach to ensuring support is given to enable the needs of the child to be met.

The Early Years SEND Practitioners offer support with home visits, individual teaching programmes, family Portage Groups, through early identification and assessment of children with special needs. Support is based on the principle that parents/carers are the key figures in the care and development of their child. Practitioners provide support and advice to settings and childminders on suitable resources, support with curriculum activities to promote inclusive practice. They can also advise on applying for support such as the Disability Access Funding (DAF) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

They offer key working which helps parents become more actively involved in making decisions and helps to coordinate the services around their child. The team are part of the multidisciplinary holistic assessment, Schedule of Growing Skills (SOGS) which is facilitated in partnership with colleagues from physiotherapy, speech, and language.

Practitioners plan the education pathways and can offer support to providers/parents regarding referral to initiate referral planning meetings (RPM'S) that are the beginning of the Education, Health, and Care needs assessment Plan (EHCP) process. Transition support is facilitated in both mainstream and specialist provision.

## **South Tees SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)**

The SENDIASS Service provides independent, impartial advice to parents/carers with a child aged 0-25 years old with special educational needs. They also provide advice to children and young people with SEN. They can help with education, health and social care.

SENDIASS services are open Monday - Thursday, 09:00-17:00 and Friday, 09:00-16:30.

You can reach SENDIASS by :

Kerrie Walker (SENDIASS Officer) [kerrie.walker@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:kerrie.walker@barnardos.org.uk) 07713787617

Joanne Alton (SENDIASS Officer) [joanne.alton@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:joanne.alton@barnardos.org.uk) 07934602584

Phone: 01642 310806

Email: [southteessendiass@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:southteessendiass@barnardos.org.uk)

For more information about any of the services provided by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council please visit their website:

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk>

[Redcar and Cleveland Local Offer](#)

<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk>

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## Notes

Health services in Redcar and Cleveland are provided by the NHS. We have provided some information about some of the professionals you may come across under the NHS on your SEND Journey:

### **Children's Epilepsy Service**

The Children's Epilepsy Service at The James Cook University Hospital offers a specialist service for children and young people with epilepsy. The team is made up of paediatricians, specialist nurses and medical secretaries. They provide specialist advice, support and information in all aspects of epilepsy care to children and young people, their parents and carers. Their service also helps people to understand modern epilepsy care through education and training.

### **Diabetes**

This service helps children and young people (up to 18 years) with type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes and maturity onset diabetes in the young. This service supports children and young people with multiple daily insulin injections and run a children's clinic, adolescent clinic, transition clinic, dietetic clinic and a high HbA1c clinic. The diabetes service also provide integrated specialist psychological support to all young people.

### **South Tees Children's Continence Service**

South Tees Children's Continence Service accepts referrals of Children and Young People who live and are registered with GPs in the Redcar & Cleveland area.

They will provide assessment, treatment, and management of continence problems to meet individual needs. Patients may have problems with wetting during the day, being unable to wait to use the toilet, having to use the toilet very often, wetting during the night, waking frequently to use the toilet at night, difficulty getting to the toilet, repeated urine infections, bowel problems or constipation.

Referrals for the children's continence service are accepted from a health professional such as GP, Paediatricians, School Nurses, and Health Visitors.

<https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people/community/childrens-continence/>



## **Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service (OT)**

The Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service is a community-based service for children/young people aged 0-19 years old.

The service aims to:

- Enable children and young people to participate in daily life and improve their health and well-being. Daily life is made up of many activities including: self-care (getting ready to go out, eating, dressing), nursery/school activities (completing schoolwork, following school routines) and play/leisure activities (hobbies, sports).
- Maximise function and independence in conditions relating to physical disability, sensory difficulties, motor coordination difficulties and learning disability.
- Provide advice and/or provision of specialist equipment/adaptations which are needed to support the child/young person in their different environments.

Any professional can refer a child or young person to this service. You can find more information on the link below

<https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people/community/occupational-therapy/>

## **Paediatric Physiotherapy**

The Paediatric Physiotherapy Service is a community-based service for children/young people aged 0-19 years old.

The service aims to:

- Enable children and young people to reach their potential.
- Maximise function and independence.
- Promote normal movement.
- Prevent or limit contractures and deformity.
- Improve quality of life

A professional will refer to this department and you will find out more information on this link.

<https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people/community/children-physiotherapy/>





## **Children's speech and language therapy (SALT)**

Speech, language and communication are core life skills. Children and young people need communication skills so they can fulfil their potential in life.

The South Tees speech and language therapy team (SALT) aims to ensure that every child and young person in the South Tees region is offered the help and support they need to achieve this. The SALT service offer an open referral system. This means that we accept referrals from parents, professionals and children and young people. Most of our referrals come from health visiting teams, schools and nurseries. You can find more information on the following link

<https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people/community/speech-and-language-therapy/>

## **Children's Dietetic Team**

The children's dietetic team offer nutritional care and support to children and young people referred to from a healthcare provider for nutritional issues.

We are a team of six children and young people's dietitians and a dietetic assistant and we all work in both hospital and in the community. Referrals can be made by letter and will be accepted from consultants, GPs, school nurses, health visitors, and allied healthcare professionals You can find more information here:

<https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people/specialty/feeding-clinic/>

## **Community Services**

The NHS Foundation Trust provides a range of Paediatric and Community Children's nursing services for the local population. The service offers a range of clinics for children and young people from birth to 18 years old and depending on the clinic, a team of paediatricians, doctors, specialist nurses, community nurses or other members of the team are available.



Various clinics and interventions not limited to but include:

- diabetes
- epilepsy
- endocrine
- respiratory
- feeding
- general and urology surgery
- general paediatrics
- urinary tract infections
- constipation
- allergy
- gastroenterology
- neuro-disability
- dietetics
- neonatology
- cardiac echo screening
- BCG immunisations
- psychology for children and young people with diabetes
- blood sampling.

There are several consultants from other NHS trusts who provide specialist clinics for immunology, hepatic conditions, cystic fibrosis, paediatric nephrology, neurology, genetic conditions, paediatric respiratory and muscle disorders. Initial consultant appointments are overseen by specialist nurses on an ongoing basis.

In Redcar this service is provided by South Tees NHS Foundation Trust. Referrals to paediatrics are from GP.s, and other health professional . you cannot self-refer to the service.

More information can be found at: <https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people/specialty/>

<https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people/childrens-unit/>



## **0-19 Health Visiting & School Nurse Service**

The 0-19 Service consisting of the Health Visiting and School Nursing team is available via telephone Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 4.30pm and Friday, 8.30am to 4.00pm. You can contact the team by calling: 01642 444011

You can find more information about the services on the following link

**<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/local-offer-send/health-services-getting-help-children-and-young-people-redcar-and-cleveland-2/0-1>**

## **Children's Continuing Care (CCC) and Funding**

Some children and young people under the age of 18 may have very complex health needs. These may be the result of congenital conditions, long-term or life-limiting or life-threatening conditions, disability, or the after-effects of serious illness or injury. Their needs may be so complex, that they cannot be met by the services which are routinely available from GP practices, hospitals or in the community.

Continuing care is not needed by children or young people whose needs can be met appropriately through existing universal or specialist services through a case management approach.

A children and young people's health assessor and nurse specialist will assess a child's eligibility for CCC funding and will arrange a bespoke package of care to meet the complex health needs of the child.

Where a child or young person is eligible for CCC they can receive their bespoke package of care via a personal health budget (PHB), commissioned complex health care provider and through jointly commissioned packages with Local Authorities.

Continuing care should be part of a wider package of care, agreed and delivered in collaboration between health, education, and social care. More information can be found by visiting the following links:

[Continuing Healthcare - NENC Tees Valley \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/money-work-and-benefits/nhs-continuing-healthcare/)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/money-work-and-benefits/nhs-continuing-healthcare/>



## **CAMHS**

The child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) provides assessment and appropriate treatment or intervention for children and young people until they are 18. These services are for people who are experiencing mental health problems, with the aim of positive mental health promotion. The service is available to anyone with concerns. This includes parents, carers, school staff, health professionals and GPs, as well as children and young people worried about their own mental health.

## **Neurodevelopment Referrals**

Across South Tees, there is a 'needs led' neurodevelopmental pathway who aim to make sure you and your child are supported as much as possible, if you or a professional thinks that your child has a neurodevelopmental need. These are needs which are associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder (**ASD**) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (**ADHD**).

You need to get a referral from a professional such as a GP or Health Visitor, a teacher or a social worker. In Redcar and Cleveland, our professionals must call the Neuro Consultation Line prior to submitting a referral. The professional can be the person who knows the child best.

The Family Support Service have created a 'bubble of support' across your local area with many services which can offer advice, guidance or support.

[https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/myzhdpm5/south-tees\\_neurodevelopmental\\_pathway\\_guide\\_june-2022\\_final.pdf](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/myzhdpm5/south-tees_neurodevelopmental_pathway_guide_june-2022_final.pdf)



## **Family Support Service provided by Daisy Chain**

The Family Support Service is a support service for young people aged 0-18 years and families of those affected by neurodevelopment diversity, jointly commissioned by the CCG and local authorities for those who live in Tees Valley.

Their aim is to provide support and services for children, young people and their families who display traits associated with neurodevelopmental diversity: autism, sensory processing, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Parents/carers of those aged 0-18 years can access the service provided within their local authority area if they:

- Have concerns their child may have autism/sensory processing/ADHD/FASD
- Are undergoing diagnosis for autism/ADHD/FASD
- Have a diagnosis of autism/ADHD/FASD

This service is for families pre, during and post diagnosis

You can read more about the service and what they provide by clicking the link below:

<https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/FINAL-Family-Support-brochure.pdf>

To register with the Family Support Service, please use this link:

<https://daisychainproject.co.uk/family-support-service-contact-us/>



## **Early Help**

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any stage in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

In Redcar and Cleveland, we will work together to ensure that children, young people, and their families receive the right help as early as possible to support them to thrive and fulfil their dreams.

In order to do this, we have worked with our partners to develop a multi-agency Early Help Strategy for 2021-25. This sets out our collective principles and priorities for supporting our children and families.

You can access the Early Help Strategy plus more information by clicking the link below :

<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/local-offer-send/social-care-services-getting-help-children-and-young-people/early-help-service>

## **Children with Disabilities (CWD) Team (Social Care)**

The children with Disabilities team provides a social work service to children with severe and profound disabilities including learning and physical. Access to the service is by referral and subsequent assessment from the team. A referral should initially be made to the MACH (Multi Agency Children's Hub) by contacting 01642 130700. The worker will make a decision, based on the information provided, about which is the most appropriate team to complete the 'Assessment of Need'. A worker will then be allocated from the appropriate team to complete the assessment. For more information and the eligibility criteria see the link [below](#)

<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/local-offer-send/social-care/children-disabilities-cwd-team-social-care>

## **Learning Disability Team (Social Care)**

How will young adults aged 16 onwards be considered for an adult social worker?

A referral should initially be made to the First Contact Team or Adults Access Team from the age of 16 (although the referral is made from 16 the young person will remain with lead support from Children social worker until aged 18).

Please telephone 01642 065070 for the single point of access. The single point of access worker will make a decision, based on the information provided, about which is the most appropriate adult team to complete the 'Assessment of Need' and support the young person's transition into adult services at age 18 years. A social worker will then be allocated from the appropriate adult team to complete the assessment of need for adult services from aged 18 inline with criteria under the Care Act 2014.

<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/local-offer-send/social-care-services-getting-help-children-and-young-people/learning-disability>

## **Kinship Care and Special Guardianship Order**

What is a kinship carer?

A kinship carer can be identified as anyone, outside of fostering and adoption, who is looking after a child that is not their own by birth. This may be a family member, or someone else who is in some way connected to the child.

What is a Special Guardian?

A Special Guardian is a type of kinship carer. A Special Guardianship Order (SGO) is a legal order where the court appoints the carer as the 'Special Guardian' of a child until they turn 18.

You can find out more information on the link below

<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/local-offer-send/social-care-services-getting-help-children-and-young-people/kinship-care-and>

## **Children & Young People's Disability Register**

The register is a database that holds information about children and young people with disabilities who live in Redcar and Cleveland. The Children's Act 1989 requires us to keep a register. The register helps us to plan and develop services for children and young people with disabilities, it helps us to know who we have and where they are. In addition to planning, the register also helps us to involve and inform families as well as keep in touch and share news and information.

Why should I sign up to it?

The register is used as a means for us to keep families updated with any new developments. Once you have added your child to the register, you will receive information regarding the short breaks offer as well as information on local and national services, charities and events that are relevant to children and young people with disabilities and their families. In addition to this, you may, from time to time be sent other information from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council that is relevant to you.

<https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/local-offer-send/social-care/children-young-peoples-disability-register>

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## Notes



# Benefits and Grants

We have listed the benefits below that can be applied for when raising a child with additional needs and as a carer of someone.

## **Child Benefit**

Anyone who is responsible for child who is under

- under 16
- under 20 if they stay in approved education or training

Only one person can get Child Benefit for a child. There's no limit to how many children you can claim for

Child Benefit: Eligibility and to make a claim see GOV.UK [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## **Universal Credit**

You may get more money on top of your standard allowance if you're eligible. If you have children: You could get an extra amount for your children if they live with you. You would get the extra amount until the 31 August after their: • 16th birthday • 19th birthday, if they're in eligible education or training – for example, they're studying for GCSEs, A levels, BTECs, Scottish Highers and SVQs or NVQs up to level 3.

You'll only get an extra amount for your first and second child. You will not get an extra amount for any more children unless:

- your children were born before 6 April 2017
- you were already claiming for 3 or more children before 6 April 2017

Other exceptions apply, for further details and to apply visit GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

## **Child Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**

DLA is the main benefit for children under 16 with a condition or disability. DLA helps to meet the extra costs that you might have because of your child's disability. To claim DLA for a child you need to be their parent or look after them as if you're their parent. This includes step-parents, guardians, grandparents, foster-parents or older brothers or sisters. You can apply by either:

- Printing off and filling in the DLA claim form
  - Phoning the Disability Living Allowance helpline and asking for a printed form 0800 121 4600
- You can find tips on completing the Disability Living Allowance form from Contact – [www.contact.org.uk](http://www.contact.org.uk)



## **Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support**

Housing Benefit can help you pay your rent if you're unemployed, on a low income or claiming other benefits. Housing Benefit is being replaced by Universal Credit for working aged people. If you're on a low income or receive certain benefits you can get help from your local council when paying your Council Tax bill – this is known as Council Tax Support. You can make a claim whether you own or rent your home and any award of benefit is dependent on your income and household circumstances. Changes to your household or circumstances such as moving house, the addition of a new child, an adult moving in or out of the property or changes to your earnings or benefits, can affect your Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support entitlement • Please note: If you're making a new Housing Benefit claim (and are of working age), you may have to claim Universal Credit instead.

## **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit to help with the extra costs of disability. It is for adults aged 16 to pension age. PIP is not means-tested and can be paid both in and out of work and replaces Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children when they turn 16. From the age of 16, payments of PIP will usually go directly to the young adult. The only exception to this is if they lack the mental capacity to manage their own affairs. If this is the case, you may be able to receive and manage benefits for them, acting as their appointee. The DWP will write to you when your child is 15 years and seven months and will explain what will happen and check whether your child has the mental capacity to deal with their own benefit claims, or whether they will need an appointee to act on their behalf. They will follow this up with a second letter once your child is 15 years and 10 months. Finally, the DWP will contact them shortly after their 16th birthday to invite them to claim PIP. If you have an older child over the age of 16 years, who is still getting DLA, the DWP is likely to invite them to claim PIP at some point in the future Children over 16 who are not already in receipt of DLA. The child (or you if you are their appointee) can claim PIP by phoning the PIP claim line on 0800 917 222

## **Pension Credit**

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. You might get extra help if you're a carer, severely disabled, or responsible for a child or young person. Pension Credit is separate from your State Pension and you can get Pension Credit even if you have other income, savings or own your own home. For more information and to apply see Pension Credit : GOV.UK [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## **Carers Allowance**

You could get £76.75 a week if you are aged over 16, not in full-time education or earning more than £139 net weekly and care for someone at least 35 hours a week and they get certain benefits. You do not have to be related to, or live with, the person you care for. You do not get paid extra if you care for more than one person and if someone else also cares for the same person as you, only one of you can claim Carer's Allowance. The type of care you provide – You need to spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone. This can include helping with washing and cooking, taking the person you care for to a doctor's appointments, helping with household tasks, like managing bills and shopping.

**Carer's Allowance: Eligibility** – GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) When you claim Carer's Allowance your means-tested benefit payments may change, but your total benefit payments will usually either go up or stay the same. Your Universal Credit payment will be reduced by the amount of Carers Allowance payment, but a carers element of £185.86 monthly will be included in your Universal credit so your 'total' benefit will increase. You do not need to receive Carers Allowance to qualify for the carer's element of Universal Credit but please seek advice regarding this.

If you get Pension Credit, your payments will increase by a carer premium of £42.75 weekly if you're eligible for Carer's Allowance. If you get Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support, you will have a carers premium included in your award which may increase the amount of your award.

## **New-style ESA & the Work Capability Assessment/LCWRA**

Why you should establish Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity (LCWRA) in advance. We recommend that you try to establish LCWRA when your child turns 16. This is a good idea for two reasons:

- 1.If your child stays in non-advanced education beyond the August after their 19th birthday, having a Work Capability Assessment (WCA) and being awarded LCWRA would rule out them having any work-related conditions that would make their claim and their course incompatible with receiving any Universal Credit
- 2.Establishing a LCWRA early or even just establishing a Limited Capability for Work (LCW) will help your child claim Universal Credit (assuming they get DLA or PIP) if they move from one course to another. This second point applies to students of any age and in education of any type – not simply those in non-advanced education who have passed the September after their 19th birthday. Establishing a LCWRA in advance will not only help your child get Universal Credit in the above scenarios but it also means that once Universal Credit is awarded, they will receive an additional payment called the LCWRA element from the start of their claim rather than having to wait 3 months for this extra amount to be added. LCWRA continued.

We recommend that when your child turns 16, you make a “credits only” claim for new-style Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) This will force the DWP to carry out a work capability assessment. This could establish in advance that your child has a LCWRA. Making a ‘credits-only’ claim for new style ESA won’t impact any Child Benefit, tax credits or any other benefits you currently get for your son or daughter as a dependent child. This is because a ‘credits only’ claim won’t result in any ESA payments. It merely leads to a Work Capability Assessment. Once you’ve lodged a claim for new-style ESA, you’ll get a decision telling you that your child does not qualify for ESA. Don’t be worried by this. A refusal is what you are expecting. They should send you a work capability questionnaire to complete. Once you receive the questionnaire, complete and return it. You can include any other supportive evidence you have. The DWP may decide to decide about your child’s capability for work based solely on the paperwork. Or they may ask your child to have a face-to-face consultation with a health professional. It can take several months for them to decide on your child’s capability for work. Eventually they should contact you to confirm their decision. If they accept that your child has a LCWRA, this decision will also be binding on Universal Credit when they make a claim for Universal Credit later. For further details please see [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) and search new style ESA.

**Please seek advice as this is a complex area.**

### **Council Tax discounts and reductions**

You may be able to reduce your council tax bill if you are eligible for certain discounts or reductions. The criteria is not based on household income. For further details please see [www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk) for further details.

### **Other financial support**

#### **Water bills**

A range of help is available from Northumbrian Water such as a 50% discount for low income families.

#### **Support with energy costs**

Various schemes and discounts are available to help with energy costs. Check your supplier websites for more details.

#### **Broadband**

Sky TV and Virgin Media also offer reductions for families claiming certain benefits such as Universal Credit. You can find out more details by checking the providers websites.

### **The Family Fund**

If you have a disabled or seriously ill child under three, and you would benefit from access to a car, the Family fund mobility support programme could help.

Support for Families with Disabled Children (SFDC) – Through the Support for Families with Disabled Children programme you can apply for items that will help meet your child's additional support needs and make family life easier – You can request a kitchen appliance like a fridge, cooker, or washing machine, clothing or bedding for your child, sensory or play equipment, technology items such as tablets and laptops, or even a much-needed family break

Please see the website for more information. [www.familyfund.org.uk](http://www.familyfund.org.uk)

### **Caudwell Children**

Caudwell Children has always been shaped by listening to the people we support; the children and families who face incredible challenges just to get the same opportunities as everyone else.

Founded in 2000 in Stoke-on-Trent, we have gradually developed our range of services to meet the needs of our beneficiaries and increased our reach to help as many children as possible

For more details please see the website for more information. <https://www.caudwellchildren.com/>

### **Merlin Magic Wand**

We're Merlin's Magic Wand, an international children's charity dedicated to creating magical experiences for children who need them most. We do this in partnership with every Merlin Entertainments attraction on the planet (how exciting!), through our three magical programmes:

Magical Days Out

Magic On Tour

Magic Spaces

You can apply via their website, <https://www.merlinsmagicwand.org/>

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook has a light blue cover and a white page. The spiral binding is pink and is located at the top of the page. The word "Notes" is written in bold black text at the top of the page.

## Notes



# Useful Information

Lots of venues and attractions offer fast track and accessibility for children and young people with SEND. If you are visiting an attraction it may be worth while checking their website or contacting them to see what they offer for disabled guests and carers. Some venues offer a free carer with a disabled child whilst others may offer discounts. Airports are usually good in providing special assistance which allows the whole family free allocated seating and priority boarding.

## **Radar Keys and Changing Places Accessible Toilet**

The RADAR key is part of the National Key Scheme (NKS), giving thousands of people with disabilities and health conditions independent access to locked public toilets around the country. These can be purchased from most retailers such as Amazon and EBay.

Changing Places toilets have been provided to meet the needs of people who cannot use other public toilet provision. Each venue is free to use, is fully compliant, and registered with the Changing Places Consortium. A radar key is usually needed to gain access. Changing Places Toilets in Redcar and Cleveland are located at the following areas:

- Fountain Street, Guisborough
- TunedIn! Redcar
- Skinningrove Beach, Skinningrove
- Cat Nab, Saltburn
- Redcar Leisure Centre
- Moore Street, Redcar



## **Blue Badges**

The aim of the scheme is to help disabled people with severe mobility problems to access goods and services, by allowing them to park close to their destination. The scheme is open to eligible disabled people irrespective of whether they are travelling as a driver or as a passenger. You can find out more information and apply for a blue badge using the following link :

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/roads-and-parking/blue-badge-scheme>

## **CEA Cinema Card**

The CEA Card is a national card scheme developed for UK cinemas by the UK Cinema Association (UKCA).

The card enables a disabled cinema guest to receive a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema.

The card is also one way for cinemas to make sure they look after their disabled guests. If you require an adjustment to visit a cinema because of your disability, cinema staff should make them for you whether you have a CEA Card or not.

You can find out more information and apply for a CEA Card on the following link:

<https://www.ceacard.co.uk/>

## **Concessionary Bus Passes**

If you feel you are eligible for free travel on grounds of disability you can apply for a bus pass from Redcar and Cleveland Council.

You will be required to include any relevant evidence online using either a photograph or a PDF document and you may be subject to an assessment by an occupational therapist to be performed at the Independent Living Centre in Middlesbrough. This assessment will be used to determine entitlement to a pass. We also offer companion passes for those who need help to travel by bus if they are eligible. You can find out more information and apply using the following link:

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/roads-and-parking/bus-passes>

## **Max Cards**

The Max Card is the UK's leading discount card for families of children with special educational needs and disabilities. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council are pleased to confirm following a successful pilot, Max Cards are available upon request (eligibility applies) to local SEND families.

Families can use their Max Card at venues across the UK to get free or discounted admission. The scheme is designed to help families save money on great days out at castles, zoos, bowling and much more.

To find out more information and apply for a Max Card, please use the following link:

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/children-and-families-services/max-cards>

## **Nimbus Card**

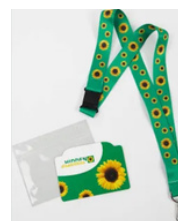
We developed the Access Card in response to frustrations shared by disabled people and live music promoters in how disability was evidenced, and how needs for reasonable adjustments were communicated. For disabled people, the frustration was in repeatedly sending in personal documents which bore no direct relation to the needs of the individual.

For the venues, it was frustration in interpreting these documents and the additional admin burden it placed on their staff.

Our goal was to produce a single consistent method of communication between customer and provider; therefore simplifying the process for both.

Since its initial development, the card is now widely accepted at major event venues across the UK And beyond, and even more widely taken simply at face value. You can find more information and apply for a card using the following link:

<https://www.nimbusdisability.com/services/access-card-and-nos/>



## **Sunflower Lanyard**

Some disabilities, conditions or chronic illnesses are not immediately obvious to others. For some people, this can make it hard to understand and believe that someone, with a “non-visible” condition genuinely needs support. Some people question whether you have a disability because you don’t look ‘like you have a disability’.

That is why we created the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower - to encourage inclusivity, acceptance and understanding.

It is a simple tool for you to share that you have a hidden disability voluntarily. Simply by wearing the Sunflower, you’re just letting everyone know that you might need extra help, understanding, or just more time. You can find out more and apply for a Sunflower Lanyard using the following link:

<https://hdsunflower.com/uk/>

## **Discount for Carers**

Discount for Carers is a great website where you can signup for a free account and receive codes for discounts for all major retailers including holidays and travel. Signup on the link below.

<https://discountsforcarers.com>



# Local Support Services

There are a couple of services located within Redcar and Cleveland that provide support to children and young people and their families.

## **Autism Parents Together (Tees Valley)**

A local charity that aims to support families throughout diagnosis and beyond. They run events, training and have a very supportive community on social media.  
[autismparentstogether.org](http://autismparentstogether.org)

## **Carers Together**

Carers Together Foundation is an organisation dedicated to improving carers' quality of life: they put carers first. They listen to carers, give them a voice, provide information, practical and emotional support and promote carers' rights. They are a registered charity and limited company, established by and for carers in 2003.  
(01642) 488977  
[carerstogogether.co.uk](http://carerstogogether.co.uk)

## **Daisy Chain**

We support and empower autistic and neurodivergent individuals through the provision of holistic person-centred services, whilst promoting training, wellbeing, inclusion and acceptance regionally and nationwide. Our site is 5.5 acres and houses our Day Centre, gardens, allotments, a farm and much more!  
<https://daisychainproject.co.uk>

## **MAIN**

Our aim is to create a stable and secure organisation, that continues to produce a high-quality service delivered by a team of competent, trained, knowledgeable, and dedicated people. These services will be underpinned by a clear business model fit for the current funding environment.  
<https://iammain.org.uk/>

## **The Grenfell Club**

Is a club for children, young people and adults with learning and physical disabilities, who host coffee mornings for parents and carers once a month.  
<http://www.grenfellclub.org/>



# Helpful Websites – Local

## **Senses Wellbeing Centre**

Our venue is accessible, achievable and affordable allowing our community to come together to raise hearts and spirits. The Wellbeing Centre will host a full timetable of fitness sessions for everyone. We will welcome adults, children, active seniors, anyone with Special Educational Needs, Additional Needs, Disability and seated sessions that are dementia friendly. We are specifically targeting our audience to encourage every age and ability.

<https://www.senseswellbeingcentre.co.uk>

## **SNAPS – Special Needs Activities with Parent Support**

Throughout the year we provide opportunities for families of special needs / disabilities and neurodivergent children, young people and adults. We do this by arranging fun activities and events for all ages and for all the family to join in. We also offer Parent / Carer sessions, activities and support groups and SNAPS Plus fun activities for ages 18+ with parent / carers

<https://www.snapsteesvalley.co.uk>

## **STARS – Sensory Teaching Advisory and Resource Service**

STARS Sensory Support Service, known as STARS, is funded by the council to provide hearing and/or vision support for learners (0 –25 years). The STARS team have qualified teachers who are specially trained in supporting learners with hearing and/or vision loss.

<https://fis.middlesbrough.gov.uk/kb5/middlesbrough/fsd/service.page?id=sYzlgowvyRA>

## **We Care You Care**

Help and support for all carers living across the South Tees area.

[wecareyoucare.info](http://wecareyoucare.info)



# Helpful Websites – Local

## **Woods and Waves**

At Woods & Waves children and young people have the opportunity to connect with nature, use tools, enjoy the warmth of a campfire, complete scavenger hunts, engage in nature-based arts and crafts and so much more.

The sessions are very flexible and child-led, participants are encouraged to follow their own interests and ideas, free play and exploration are a big part of the Forest School approach.

<https://m.facebook.com/woodswavesforestandbeachschool/>





# Helpful Websites - National

## **Action Cerebral Palsy**

is working to ensure that every child and young person in the UK with cerebral palsy has access to the best possible intervention, care, education and support to meet their complex and changing needs

<https://actioncp.org>

## **British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD)**

A charity that exists to improve the quality of life of all people with a learning disability.

<https://www.bild.org>.

## **Barnardos**

We make sure children, young people feel safer, happier, healthier and more hopeful, by running over 800 specialist services across the UK, and campaigning to change the way the system works for the better.

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/who-we-are>

## **Cerebra**

We're the national charity dedicated to helping children with brain conditions and their families discover a better life together. Listening to the needs of these families helps us inspire the most helpful research and innovation.

<https://cerebra.org.uk>

## **Contact**

A national support charity for families with disabled children. They can help you with information or advice, questions about your child's condition or you can join one of their helpful workshops.

[contact.org.uk](https://contact.org.uk)

## **Down Syndrome Association**

WE WALK ALONG LIFE'S JOURNEY WITH THOSE WHO HAVE DOWN'S SYNDROME FROM BIRTH TO OLD AGE.

We are a national organisation, committed to improving quality of life for people who have Down's syndrome, promoting their right to be included on a full and equal basis with others.

<https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk>



# Helpful Websites - National

## **IPSEA**

A charity that offers free and independent legally based information, advice and support to help get the right education for children and young people with SEND

[www.ipsea.org.uk](http://www.ipsea.org.uk)

## **MENCAP**

Information, advice and support for parents and carers of children with learning difficulties.

[www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)

## **National Autistic Society**

A society that works for autistic people. To change attitudes by improving public understanding of autism and helping businesses, local authorities and government to provide more autism-friendly spaces, deliver better services and improve laws.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/who-we-are/our-mission-vision-and-values>

## **National FASD**

People with FASD live lives of courage. With diagnosis and the support they deserve, they can shine. Things are changing in the UK but the risks of alcohol in pregnancy are still too little known. We encourage everyone to work together to reduce the rates of FASD and to increase awareness.

<https://nationalfasd.org.uk>

## **National Deaf Children's Society**

We give expert support on childhood deafness, raise awareness and campaign for deaf children's rights, so they have the same opportunities as everyone else

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk>

## **RNIB**

RNIB is committed to helping blind and partially sighted people.

<https://www.rnib.org.uk>

## **Scope**

We're Scope, the disability equality charity in England and Wales. We provide practical information and emotional support when it's most needed, and campaign relentlessly to create a fairer society.

<https://www.scope.org.uk>

In this section we have listed SEN sessions in Redcar and Cleveland area.

Venue	Date & Time	Contact Details
Boroability	Every Wednesday 5pm - 6pm	Loftus Cricket Club Loftus TS13 4LG
Guisborough Family Hub	Sensory Play Sessions Once a month on a Saturday 10am - 12pm	Facebook : Guisborough Family Hubs
Kirkleatham Museum Redcar	Every Sunday 10am- 11am and Every Thursday 3pm - 4pm during school holidays	Facebook : Kirkleatham Museum
Land of Iron Skinningrove	See Facebook Page for quieter times and days	Facebook Land of Iron
Move Together	Mondays - Home Educators Saltburn Community Hall 1pm - 2pm Tuesdays - Boosbeck Village Hall 4.30pm - 5.30pm Wednesdays - Loftus Family Hub 10am - 12pm	Tees Dance <a href="http://www.teesdance.org.uk">www.teesdance.org.uk</a>  Facebook : Tees Dance

Venue	Date & Time	Contact Details
Redcar Swimming Baths	Every Sunday at 9am	Facebook : Redcar Leisure Centre
Regent Cinemas Redcar	Autism Friendly Screening First Sunday of every month	<a href="https://www.merlincinemas.co.uk">https://www.merlincinemas.co.uk</a>
Senses Wellbeing Centre Skelton	Various sessions and events all week. See Facebook or website for more details	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Senseswellbeingcentre">https://www.facebook.com/Senseswellbeingcentre</a> <a href="https://www.senseswellbeingcentre.co.uk/">https://www.senseswellbeingcentre.co.uk/</a>
The Play Factory Skelton	Mondays and Thursdays 5pm – 6pm	Facebook : Play Factory Skelton
Tuned in!	Various sessions and events see Facebook for more details	
Woods and Waves Forest and Beach School	Various sessions and events see Facebook for more details	Facebook : Woods and Waves
World of Play	First Sunday of every month	Unit 4 West Coatham Lane Dormanstown Redcar Tel : 01642 756800 <a href="mailto:info@worldofplaylimited.co.uk">info@worldofplaylimited.co.uk</a>

## SEN Sessions outside of Redcar and Cleveland

Venue	Date & Time	Contact Details
Crazy Corner Thornaby	Please see Facebook page	Facebook : Crazy Corner Thornaby
Dolphin Centre Darlington	Every Sunday from 10am	<a href="http://www.healthydarlington.co.uk">www.healthydarlington.co.uk</a>
Lucky's Play Barn Stokesley	Every Sunday 3pm - 4.30pm	Facebook Luckys Play Barn
Jump360 Hartlepool	Tuesdays at 5pm term time and Wednesdays at 10am during the school holidays	Facebook : Jump360 Hartlepool
Pendragon Northallerton	Various sessions throughout the week	Facebook : Pendragon Northallerton
Showcase Cinema Teesside Park	very Sunday Morning at am	<a href="https://www.showcasecinemas.co.uk">https://www.showcasecinemas.co.uk</a>
Silver Lining Sensory Middlesbrough	Various sessions - see Facebook group or website	<a href="https://walkerandharrisoncare.co.uk/silver-lining-sensory/?">https://walkerandharrisoncare.co.uk/silver-lining-sensory/?</a>

Venue	Date & Time	Contact Details
The Fun Shack Portrack Lane, Stockton		Facebook : The Fun Shack Stockton
The Play Factory & Laser Tag Thornaby	Play Factory - Sunday Mornings 9.30am - 10.30am Laser Tag - Last Thursday of every month	Facebook : The Play Factory Thornaby



A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook has a light blue cover and a white page. The spiral binding is pink and is located at the top of the page. The word "Notes" is written in bold black text at the top of the page.

# **Notes**

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook has a light blue cover and a white page. The spiral binding is pink and is located at the top of the page. The title "Useful Contacts" is written in bold black text at the top of the page.

## **Useful Contacts**



If you notice an error in this document or a service in Redcar and Cleveland which would like to be included please let us know by contacting us:

SEND Family Voice, Redcar and Cleveland  
Office 2A Civic Centre  
Ridley Street Redcar  
TS10 1TD

[info@sendfamilyvoicerc.com](mailto:info@sendfamilyvoicerc.com)

