

Caring

Nearly 14 - Information for young people with disabilities and their parents



Neath Port Talbot
Castell-nedd Port Talbot
County Borough Council / Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Making a difference Gwahaniaeth er gwell

This leaflet is about the work which Social Services does with disabled young people and their families.

It tells you about what help you can get from us and from others and how to get hold of it. It also explains how we can help you and your son or daughter plan for adult life, during the years from fourteen onwards which are the time of transition to adulthood.

You may also like to read;-

The full multi-agency “Transitional Policy”. This is available on request from Social Services.

The “Next Step,” a leaflet on benefits, allowances and sources of help for young people with disabilities.

“After age 16, what’s new,” a book giving more detailed information for young people with disabilities.

The last two are available free to parents and carers from The Family Fund, PO Box 50, York, Y01 2ZX.

This leaflet is also available in large print, in Braille and on tape or computer disk.

Phone 01639 873014 for copies.

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Who do we work with?

The Social Services Child Care (Disability) Team work with children and young people with all sorts of disabilities and some who might have more than one disability. Most of the young people we work with have:-

- severe learning disabilities: or
- severe or complex physical disabilities: or
- severe visual or hearing impairments: or
- both visual and hearing impairments: or
- any of these disabilities, where the family is struggling to cope.
- Autism, ADHD (diagnosed).

We also work with young people with less severe disabilities or with families having a crisis. Every family is different and we try to be very flexible in the help that we give. Of course, many disabled young people do not need any help from us at all.

Just because a child has had a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), it does not necessarily mean that we will be involved. We will only work with children and young people who have particular needs which we can help with. We may take the advice, with your consent, of a doctor (your GP or a specialist) to decide whether we will be able to help.

What do we do?

Social Workers in our Child Care (Disability) Team can help you work out what kind of support and services your son or daughter may need now or in the future. We can advise you on what help is available from:-

- Social Services
- Local voluntary groups
- Schools and colleges
- The Health Service
- The Benefits Agency and organisations which give grants
- Careers Wales West

As well as Social Workers, we have other specialist staff who may be able to help you. They are:-

The Specialist Health Visitor and Community Nurse - who give advice on health care relating to your child's disability, including advice on incontinence and nursing.

Other help we can potentially arrange for you includes:-

- **Family Link** - trained and approved families who get to know you and your child and offer you a break. Your son or daughter goes to the link family's home for overnight stays or for just a few hours at a time.

- **Short breaks** - Your child could go and stay in Tŷ Laura or Tŷ Hapus to be looked after by specialist staff.
- **SSCVS** - Volunteers can help young disabled people become involved in new activities, offer moral support and visit new places.
- **Facing the Challenge** - an outreach service for young people with learning disabilities presenting behaviour which is challenging.
- **PALS** Play and Leisure service - a project supported by NCH (Cymru) which offers a few hours activity support for families who have a disabled child.
- **Interplay** - is an organisation promoting integrated play and leisure opportunities for young people with special needs during school holidays, after school and at weekends. Their projects include Choosedays (leisure activities).

Ask us for more information about any of the schemes. We can also give you information on many other national and local voluntary organisations working with young people with special needs.

How social workers work with schools

Your son or daughter may be in a mainstream comprehensive school, a special unit or a special school. If he or she has a statement of special educational needs, the school will work with you to write an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The IEP sets out what you all hope your child will achieve in school. It includes long-term objectives and short-term targets, so that there is something to compare your child's progress to. Every year the Statement of Special Educational needs is reviewed in meetings with you.

Once a child reaches Year 9 (13 - 14 years), the school will start to plan with you what will happen once he or she leaves school. This is called transition planning. A transition plan will be drawn up and this will influence the IEP for your child's remaining years in school. Your child could leave school at any age from sixteen to nineteen.

As part of transition planning, the school will hold annual meetings with you to review the transitional plan. It is very important that you and your child have your say. Social Services and medical staff will also be invited to these meetings. Ask at your child's school for more information about how they organise transition and see the chart at the centre of this leaflet.

You may also find it useful to contact the Special Needs Advisory Project (SNAP Cymru). They can give advice and

support on educational transition as well as many other issues to do with education and disability and young people. You can contact them on **01792 457305** or on **01639 632192**.

The transition to adulthood

Our Child Care (Disability) Team works with young people up to the age of eighteen, working alongside our adult team. If a young person needs and wants help from Social Services after eighteen, one of our adult teams will take over. The adult teams specialise in different types of disability.

They are:-

- The Community Support Team who work with people with learning disabilities.
- The Community Mental Health Team who work with people with mental health problems. There are three of these teams across the County Borough.
- The Elderly and Physical Disability Teams who work with people with physical and sensory (sight and hearing) disabilities. There are also three of these teams across the County Borough.

If someone has both learning and physical or sensory disabilities, then the Community Support Team will work with them.

Not everyone goes on to get help from the adult teams. If it seems that a young person is not going to need any help from us once they reach eighteen, we may decide not to get involved. But if you and your child think that you will want to carry on getting help and support, ask us for an assessment.

Social Workers from the child and adult teams get together with you to plan how your child is going to make a start on adult life and how Social Services will be involved. The assessment can happen between your son or daughter's sixteenth and seventeenth birthday.

Once your son or daughter has had an assessment, someone from one of the adult teams will become a "shadow" Social Worker or Community Nurse Care Manager. He or she will work with you, your child and your Child Care Social Worker, getting to know you and helping to plan for the future. These plans may be written down as an Individual Care Plan (ICP).

When your child reaches eighteen, the Care Manager will be able to arrange for support and advice to be given on benefits, health issues, housing and so on. Or, he or she will also be able to arrange other Social Services help for your son or daughter, such as going to a local day service or special needs centre.

Calendar for transition process

- 12 - 13 yrs
Year 8
Summer Term** Liaison between LEA and SSD regarding young people. Approaching Year 9 review to identify those young people who have Statements of Special Educational Needs who are also known to Children's Social Services and who may need a service in adulthood.
- 13 - 14 yrs
Year 9** School start planning for Year 9 review. All relevant professionals, parent/carer and young person invited at least four weeks prior to review. Written advice required two weeks prior to review. Copies of advice circulated to young person and carers no later than at least two weeks before review. Copy of Minutes of review, including transition plan, to be sent to young person, carer and relevant professionals within ten school days.
- 14-15 yrs
Year 10** School arrange a review of the Statement of Special Educational Needs and the transition plan.
- Advice and information provided regarding welfare benefits at review.

Where relevant, Children's Social Services notify Adult Social Services about projected budgetary needs.

15 - 16 yrs
Year 11

As previous year.

At age sixteen if young person is known to Social Services, Children's Social Services will arrange a joint transitional assessment with Adult Social Services. This will be completed, together with a Care Plan by age seventeen at the latest.

16 - 17 yrs
Year 12

As previous year, except if young person attends College.

With parental consent, College will notify Adult Social Services of any disabled young people approaching adulthood who do not have current Social Services involvement.

17 - 18 yrs
Year 13

If still in school, annual reviews continue. If young person known to Social Services, case management responsibility passes to Adult Social Services (Community Care Team) at age eighteen.

18 - 19 yrs As previous year.
Year 14

18 - 25 Case Manager from Community Care Team begins process of co-ordinating support services. Case Manager arranges annual Care Plan reviews (throughout life).

Glossary of terms

Adult Social Services are more commonly termed as 'Community Care Services' and there are several Community Care Teams. For example, the Community Support Team offers a service to Learning Disabled People and the Sensory Disability Team offers a service to people with Sensory Disabilities.

Children's Social Services offer services to children in need. The Child Care (Disability) Team offers services to all significantly disabled children, young people and their parents/carers. Other Children's Services Teams may offer services to children who are less significantly disabled.

SSD Abbreviation for Social Services Department

LEA Abbreviation for Local Education Authority

Transition Process It is recognised that young people have differing and developing needs in and towards adulthood. This is currently termed as the 'Transition to Adulthood'.

Care Plan This is a plan that identifies and sets out how plans for services will be put in place to meet a young person's needs.

Care/Case Manager This is the worker from the Community Care Team who will co-ordinate the Care Plan.

After school what next?

Education

Neath Port Talbot College and Swansea College run courses at various levels especially for students with learning disabilities.

The Colleges also have equipment for students with visual or hearing impairments. Courses may be part-time or full-time and include:-

- Courses for sixteen to nineteen year olds in skills for life such as cookery and home skills. Students learn how to cope independently and gain confidence.

- Pre-vocational courses give sixteen to nineteen year olds an introduction to work like car mechanics, catering and business studies, for students to see what they enjoy doing. They also get a chance to improve reading and writing, numeracy and computer skills.
- Students aged nineteen and over can go on a Vocational Access Course to learn work skills in a variety of jobs and improve communication, number and computer skills.

Pathways Training at Neath College give students aged sixteen to twenty-five extra support to help them into a job. Students work four days a week and study for qualifications on the other day.

- Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Colleges run NVQs and other vocational and academic courses for students of all ages.

Neath Port Talbot College 01639 648000

Swansea College 01792 284000

For some young people a residential specialist college is the preferred option and Careers Wales West can provide information about this.

Work

Many disabled young people go into full or part-time work, or combine work with training. The specialist advisers listed below can help with finding work and give information on wages and benefits.

- WISE (Welsh Initiative for Supported Employment) help people with learning disabilities to find paid jobs and give them the support they need to get to grips with working life. Contact WISE on **01792 538538**.

Wise also offers supported work experience from schools for younger people.

- Careers Advisors at Careers Wales West in Neath and Port Talbot can advise on work and education Tel No **01639 636391** (Neath) **01639 871933** (Port Talbot).
- Disability Employment Advisors at Job Centre Plus can also give specialist help.

Social Services Day Service and Centres

We run centres across the County which adults with disabilities can go to during the day. They specialise in different types and levels of disability. Some offer training and practical things to do while others provide straightforward care. A Social Worker will be able to arrange for your son or daughter to go to a centre, if appropriate.

For people with learning disabilities, we run:-

- Local Day Services which offer leisure, social activities and a chance for people to learn skills to help them to be independent. Many people combine going to a local day service with studying. The local day services are The London Road Flexible Day Service and Penycae in Port Talbot, the Swansea Valley Service in Pontardawe and the Afan Valley Ponds Project in Glyncoirwg.
- Special Needs Services which provide a specialist service for people with severe learning disabilities, many of whom also have physical or sensory disabilities. They offer physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, snoozelen, (sensory stimulation), self-help skills and integrated activities in the community.
- Neath Vocational Skills Centre where people work at gardening, carpentry, sewing and so on. The Centre offer work and skills based activities with NVQ opportunities for service users where appropriate.
- Bronleigh Alternative Day Centre, Neath, which is for older people with a learning disability. It has a relaxed atmosphere where people can meet and socialise.

People with physical or sensory disabilities may be able to go to Shaw Start, a centre in Llandarcy. It gives people a chance to learn new skills, increase their independence and improve their quality of life.

People with mental health problems may be able to go to a day service in Neath.

A consultation group has recently been set up to review these day services.

Respite Care and Accommodation

Adults with disabilities can go for a short stay to Rhodes House in Port Talbot. There are twelve single rooms, many of which have equipment for people with severe physical disabilities. Emergency longer-term care is also available at Rhodes House, if needed.

There is also a small residential respite unit at Beacons view in Cimla Neath.

Alternatively, respite in other families' homes is available through the Welcome Break scheme. This allows people some independence while still having the support and supervision of carers.

Independent services

There are a range of independent services across the country but locally the national autistic society provide a specialist service for people with autism, at a residential centre at Longford Court.

Becoming more independent

Advocacy

There are various advocacy projects available to disabled children, young people and their families.

- People First Neath Port Talbot is an organisation run by and for people with learning disabilities. They support people to find out about their rights and get involved in meetings where decisions are made. Contact them on **01639 631246**.
- A Youth Advocacy Project is currently being developed by **NSPCC**, for more information contact Social Services.
- The Forum is an advocacy service who advocate for children, young people and parents/carers in relation to their child/young person's disability needs. Contact them on **01792 646573**.
- Lay Advocacy is an advocacy organisation who also advocate for parents/carers in relation to disability needs. Contact them on **01792 464945**.

Benefits

Benefits you or your son or daughter may be entitled to include:-

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) - this may include money for care and for mobility.
- Incapacity Benefit for Young People (I.B.Y.) - replaces Severe Disability Allowance with new rules that allow young people to claim.
- Income Support - can be claimed along with certain other benefits.
- Tax Credits - for people on DLA working sixteen hours a week or more. Independent living fund - young people aged 16 plus may be eligible.
- Invalid Care Allowance - paid to people who care for someone on the higher or middle rates of the care component of DLA.
- Independent Living Fund - young people 16 plus may be eligible.

For more information on any of these benefits, telephone the free Benefits Enquiry Line on **0800 882200**. The rules about

benefits can be complicated and may be affected by things like whether your son or daughter is in education. It can be worth getting advice when applying for benefits.

- **Direct Payments** - a direct payment is money your Social Services Department may give you, depending on your assessed needs, instead of providing you with a care service. You spend the money on getting support that meets your needs.

Social Services works in Partnership with Shaw Trust.
(Tel :- 01792 321006)

- Disability student allowances for higher education may be claimed from LEA student awards and Grants section.
- Mencap have a telephone help line for benefits and general disability advice - **0808 8000300**.

Home Support

Social Services staff are employed to work one-to-one with people to support and train them in learning new skills such as shopping or managing money. The aim is to help people to live as independently as possible. Support is normally short-term.

Housing

There are various supported accommodation schemes in this area They allow young people and adults with disabilities to live as independently as possible, while still having the back-up of

paid staff. Ask your Social Worker for more details of the schemes and how to apply.

Travel

From the age of sixteen, your son or daughter may be able to get a free bus pass. A companion's pass can be obtained free. Children or adults with mobility problems can get Blue Parking badges. Both are available from Social Services.

Other Leaflets Available:

- **Children with Disabilities**
- **Children with Sensory Impairment**
- **The Child Disability Record**

HOW TO CONTACT US

Phone, write or call in person to:

THE CHILD CARE (DISABILITY) TEAM

The Laurels, 87 Lewis Road, Neath, SA11 1DJ

Telephone: **01639 765400**

Monday - Thursday, 8.45 am - 12.30 pm and 1.30 - 5.00 pm

Friday, 8.45 am - 12.30 and 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm

To contact staff working with adults with learning disabilities:

Community Support Team,

Civic Centre, Neath

01639 764612

Adults with physical or sensory disabilities:

Area 1, 12 Talbot Road, Port Talbot, SA13 1HN **01639 765500**

Area 2, 8 Wind Street, Neath, SA11 3EG **01639 765300**

Area 3, Old Cwmtawe School, Upper Heathfield Rd,
Pontardawe, SA8 4LQ **01792 510700**

Adults with mental health problems:

Area 1 Forge Centre, Forge Road, Port Talbot **01639 888000**

Area 2 Tonna Hospital, Neath **01639 635404**

Area 3 Gelligron House, Pontardawe **01639 865696**

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