

## **Caring for Children with Special Needs**

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### **Surrey Children's Disability Register:**

Established in conjunction with parents and voluntary services, this register is jointly owned by Surrey County Council's Children's Service and NHS Surrey.

Registration is on a voluntary basis and any child who meets the eligibility criteria can be registered. Parental consent is required and you do not have to register but doing so will mean you will be kept in touch with service developments affecting your child. Registration will enable services to be planned more effectively as there will be greater knowledge of children with special needs in Surrey.

All those registered will receive a copy of the *Surrey Help File* which contains information for parents of all the services provided by both the statutory and voluntary organisations for children with special needs.

Contact: Surrey Help File Co-ordinator, Surrey Children's Service, Room 194 County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston-on-Thames, KT1 2DJ

Tel: **020 8541 8792**

The *Surrey Help File* provides in particular information about how to access services and procedures, etc, so refer to this for more detail.

### **Education and Development:**

For details of special schools and educational opportunities, contact Special Educational Needs Case Work Team at Grosvenor House, London Square, Cross Lanes, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1FA

Tel: **01483 517885**

### **Pre-School –**

**Opportunity Playgroup** - for children up to school age with developmental delay who attend the Child Development Centre. Referral by your Paediatrician.

Contact: Child Development Centre, Royal Surrey County Hospital

Tel: **01483 571122**

**White Lodge Children's Centre** - for children with cerebral palsy and similar disabilities, providing therapy and care for very young children and a nursery playgroup from 2 - 5 years. Consultant Paediatricians hold regular clinics there. Referral by your Paediatrician. Also short stay Residential Unit.

Contact: for an informal visit - White Lodge Centre, Holloway Hill, Chertsey  
KT16 0AE Tel: **01932 567131**

## **Schools –**

**Pond Meadow School, Guildford** - for children with severe learning difficulties age 2 - 19 years. Children may combine attendance at the Nursery class with their local playgroup.

**Ridgeway School, Farnham** - for children with severe learning difficulties from age 2-19 years.

## **Other Nursery schools and special schools –**

There are state nursery schools that cater for children with special needs, some with special units attached, and other special schools for children age over 5 in this and other areas.

Your Paediatrician in consultation with the local Education Authority will discuss with you the best placement for your child under the Special Needs "Statementing" system.

You are advised to consult the *Surrey Help File* for more information on this.

## **Getting a Break:**

There is a range of facilities for short and long term respite care for children with special needs, depending on their age and disability. Most children benefit from regular attendance at some form of day or respite care and you, as a parent, certainly will. It is important to know what is available so that you can plan your breaks or know who to contact in an emergency (NB: not all services can provide this cover).

Details of provision can be obtained from and, where appropriate, referrals can be made to: Complex Needs West, St Francis Centre, Southway,  
Guildford GU2 8WZ Tel: **01483 517950**

## **Care in the Home –**

**Learning & Language Support Service** - a home visiting educational service offering support to parents in the early care and development of their child with special needs.

Contact: referral by letter to The Merrow Centre, 41 Down Road, Guildford  
GU1 2PZ

## **Care Away from Home –**

### **Playschemes -**

**Disability Challengers** - provides play and leisure for disabled children and young people in and around Surrey. Challengers have Play and Youth Centres in Guildford and Farnham and run schemes across the County using schools, youth clubs and other venues. Challengers schemes are places where children and young people can make new friends, express themselves and above all have fun.

Contact: Disability Challengers, Stoke Park, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1TU  
website: [www.disability-challengers.org](http://www.disability-challengers.org) Tel: **01483 230 930**

### **Holiday Playschemes, after school clubs and other leisure schemes -**

Provide supervised fun activities and outings for children with special needs, accessing mainstream activities where possible.

Contact: your local Social Care Team, Activities Development Officer at Guildford/Waverley Borough Council or Disability Challengers (above) for more information as venues and dates will vary from year to year.

## **Residential Respite Care –**

**Cherry Trees Respite Centre** - respite care for children with physical and learning difficulties up to the age of 19 years, from a few hours up to 17 days. Self referrals accepted. There is a charge.

Contact: Head of Care, Cherry Trees, School Lane, East Clandon, Guildford  
GU4 7RS Tel: **01483 222506**

**Squirrel Lodge** - for children with learning disabilities ages 12-18. Parents advised to seek sponsorship to cover charge.

Contact: Squirrel Lodge, 47 Mount Hermon Road, Woking GU22 7UN  
Tel: **01483 518728**

**Tadworth Court Children's Trust** - respite care for children who are physically or multi disabled, from 0-16 years. Funding must be arranged through Children With Disability Team.

Contact: Tadworth Court Trust, Tadworth, KT20 5RU      Tel: **01737 357171**

**Treetops** - residential short breaks for children 0-12 years with any disability. Respite care from a few hours up to 13 days.

Contact: Treetops, Holloway Hill, Chertsey KT16 0AE      Tel: **01932 568365**

**Sponsorship for Respite Care Costs** - parental contributions requested for respite care costs are normally about the same as the higher rate of Disability Living Allowance Care component. As part of your Care package from Social Care you may be provided with **sponsorship** for so many days respite care in a year, which will reflect the actual cost of care. You may still have to contribute something towards the cost. Additional financial help may be available in the form of Carers Vouchers or Carers direct payments.

## **Family Respite –**

**CHASE at Christophers** - provides support for the whole family. Respite care plus a community support service for children with life limiting conditions.

Contact: 'Christophers', Old Portsmouth Road, Artington, Guildford GU3 1KP  
Tel: **01483 230960**

**Rainbow Trust** - provide a "home from home" for the whole family, and a domiciliary care service for children with life threatening or terminal illness. Service free and direct referral.

Contact: Rainbow House, 47 Eastwick Drive, Great Bookham KT23 3PU  
Tel: **01372 453309/450156**

## **Link Family Scheme –**

Aims to link parents of a child with special needs to a local family willing to share the care in their home for short periods to give parents a break.

Contact: Complex Needs West, St Francis Centre, Southway, Guildford GU2 8WZ  
Tel: **01483 517950**

## **Other Organisations:**

### **National Autistic Society –**

Surrey branch      Contact: Sarah Trueman      Tel: **01483 822630**

### **Contact a Family –**

Supports parents of children with a rare disease and puts them in touch.

Contact: 209-211 City Road, London EC1V 1JN      Tel: **020 7608 8700**

### **Face 2 Face –**

A befriending service for parents of newly diagnosed children with special needs. Volunteer parents provide support and friendship.

Contact: White Lodge Centre, Holloway Hill, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 0AE

Tel: **01932 567131**

Online and telephone befriending service:

<http://www.face2facenetwork.org.uk/about/onlinebefriending>

### **Home Start –**

Trained volunteers help young families to cope – Farnham and Haslemere

Contact: Dolores Robertson

Tel: **01252 737453**

### **Muscular Dystrophy Campaign –**

61 Southwark Street, London SE1 0HL

Tel: **020 7803 4800**

### **SCOPE Response – Helpline**

Tel: **0808 800 3333**

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

### **Partnership with Parents –**

This organisation helps children with Special Educational Needs. Support includes help with understanding the statementing process, completion of forms, advocacy, the law, identification of services.

Contact: Partnership with Parents, Noke Drive, Redhill, Surrey RH14AX

[www.partnershipwithparentssurrey.org](http://www.partnershipwithparentssurrey.org)

Helpline Tel: **01737 737300**

### **Independent Panel for Special Education Advice (IPSEA) –**

This organisation provides independent advice on Local Education Authorities' (LEAs) legal duties towards children with special education needs.

Parent Advice Line (manned by volunteers) Tel: **0800 0184016**

### **Network 81 –**

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

Helpline: Mon – Fri, 10 am – 1 pm

Tel: **0870 7703306**

Email: [Network81@btconnect.com](mailto:Network81@btconnect.com)

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