



PINS Project

Benefits and Support for Parents and Carers



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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 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 2a, Civic Centre, Ridley Street Redcar TS10 1TD

info@sendfamilyvoicerc.com

Facebook : SENDFamilyVoice R&C



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. The table on the next page shows this in more detail.

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

<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 or call 01642 771247

Max Card's for Redcar and Cleveland SEND Families (0-25 years)

Updated June 2023

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 see page 2) to Redcar and Cleveland 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.



Where can I use my card?

Cards can be used at participating venue across the UK. You can view the full list of attractions that support the Max Card online at www.mymaxcard.co.uk

Redcar and Cleveland's Borough Council will be working with The Max Card Team and local venues to encourage sign up. Suggested venues can be emailed to shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Who can use my card?

The card can be used by the child and their carer. Venues reserve the right to ask you for proof of identity upon presentation of the card.



How long can I use my Max Card for?

Your Max Card has an expiry date which is shown on the reverse of your card, cards are valid for 2 years, however, delivery and allocation of cards to families may impact on the remaining duration.



maxcard

How much will the card cost?

There is no charge to families for a Max Card. The cards will be funded by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.

How do I apply for a Max Card?

Please email your request to **Shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk**

Please include the following information in your email:

- Name and date of birth of your child
- Address
- Proof of SEND status (only **one** of the following is needed)
 1. Confirmation your child has an EHCP*
 2. Confirmation you are registered on RCBCs Disability Register*
 3. Name of your child's Social Worker*
 4. Any other evidence e.g. DLA award, proof of diagnosis
- How you found out about our Max Card Scheme

**If evidence provided is 1, 2, or 3 we will check our systems to verify eligibility*



www.mymaxcard.co.uk



Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

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 07713787617

Joanne Alton (SENDIASS Officer) joanne.alton@barnardos.org.uk 07934602584

Phone: 01642 310806

Email: 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>

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, Early Help 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, the Early Help team have worked with their partners to develop a multi-agency Early Help Strategy for 2021-25. This sets out their 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>

A2.2 Our Service Response to Levels of Need

Level of Need	Description	Service Response	Examples of Services Provided
Level 1 Children whose needs are met by universal services.	Most children will have their needs met by their families, universal services and informal support networks. Children who fall within this level are making good overall progress in all areas of their development.	Universal Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Hub Services Schools & Colleges Day Nurseries and childminders GP's, Health Visiting & School Nursing Leisure Services Housing Providers Local Voluntary and Faith Groups Youth and Community Services Sports Clubs
Level 2 Children with additional needs that can be met from one other agency	Professionals working with some children or families may identify that they have some emerging or low level needs which if ignored, could develop and lead to adverse outcomes. Often, one service working with a family for a limited period at a particular point in time is all that is required to address needs at this level.	Universal services/Targeted intervention services	Universal Services as above and/or: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behaviour and Therapeutic Support Speech and Language Support Early Years SEND Practitioners Key Workers Education Welfare Officers Education Inclusion Officers Targeted Intervention Officers NEET Advisors Short Breaks Occupational Therapy and equipment CAMHS Therapy Services Parenting Programmes Transformation Challenge Keyworkers Youth Offending Service Prevention and Support Workers Young Carer Support Services
Level 3 Children with a range of additional needs that require a coordinated response from multiple agencies.	<p>In the majority of cases, effective early intervention at level 2 will prevent a child's needs escalating to the point where a more coordinated response from multiple agencies is required.</p> <p>However, there will be circumstances where a child has a range of additional needs where a coordinated multi-agency response, within or between agencies, will be needed.</p>	Identified Lead Practitioner or LA Key-worker to coordinate EHA and a Team Around the Family (TAF) process	
Level 4 Children with complex / significant needs that require specialist or statutory intervention	Specialist services are needed by a small number of children where there are urgent and/or complex problems that are likely to have a significant impact on their health and development without the provision of services.	Intervention, Treatment & Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Offending Service Case Managers Child Protection, Children in Need, Looked After Children and Leaving Care Social Work Services CAMHS Treatment Services Paediatric A & E Specialist VCS Support Services

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>

The logo consists of a teal-colored stylized letter 'C' that is open on the right side. To the right of this symbol, the words "Family Support Service" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Family Support Service

If you live in the Tees Valley, the Family Support Service, delivered by Daisy Chain, is here for you. The team supports young people aged 0-18 years and their families, no matter where they are on their autism, ADHD, sensory processing or Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) journey. This means that your young person does not need to have a diagnosis or be on the neurodevelopmental pathway to access support from the service. The Family Support team is here to listen to your concerns and offer support.

Your Family Support team can support in various different ways including developing routines, visuals and social stories, understanding communicative behaviour, identifying your child's needs and sensory strategies and regulation. We can also signpost and refer to other services that could support you. Support is available to anyone living in the Tees Valley. This encompasses Stockton, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Darlington and Redcar & Cleveland. Bespoke visuals include visual timetables, 'now and next' boards and social stories. These can help children and young people to feel more confident about what is happening and when it's happening throughout the day and in turn support them to feel less worried. The visuals can support transitions from one activity to the next and increase understanding and processing of situations, events and changes to normal routines.

Once we receive your referral, a member of our admin team will call and register you. They will then offer you a telephone appointment with one of our family support leaders, this will give you an opportunity to have a 1:1 chat about your family, what is working well and what you would like support with. We can also provide you with all the information for community drop in sessions in your area if you prefer.

The Family Support Service can also offer sessions and support for children and young people together with learning opportunities from Autism Central.

You can find details of the weekly drop in and Multi Agency Meeting on the next page, together with other services provided by The Family Support Service.

Multi Agency Drop in's are attended by members of the SEN Department Redcar and Cleveland Council, SENDIASS, and Camhs plus many more.



Family Support Service

Autism Central

Daisy Chain are the Regional Hub for North East and Yorkshire for Autism Central. This is a new programme designed and developed to deliver high-quality and accessible autism information, education and coaching for families, parents, carers, and personal assistants. Autism Central has been commissioned by NHS England's Workforce, Training and Education Team and is delivered by nine not-for-profit organisations.

Daisy Chain are able to offer family members, carers and personal assistants of autistic children and adults a variety of group and individual sessions. These will focus on meeting the needs of autistic people and on signposting to access to local and national services. Sessions will be offered in person and online. These sessions will be facilitated by Peer Educators who are experts by experience and have a good understanding of autism.

You can check out more information and see what courses are available by following this link.

<https://daisychainproject.co.uk/autism-central/>

Sleep Service

The North East Sleep Alliance is a service provided to families across the Tees Valley and Sunderland Local Authority areas. It is co-delivered through Health Services and the Family Support Team at Daisy Chain.

Using a tiered approach, the service provides telephone support & resources, Parent Sleep Support Sessions and one-to-one sleep assessments which, if all tiers have been accessed, can include bespoke sleep support. The service can be accessed by families who have a child with any additional needs between the age of 2½ and 18 years.

Parents and Carers can self refer to this service. There is more information on the link below

<https://northeastssleepalliance.co.uk/access/>

Redcar & Cleveland Multi-Agency Drop

Delivered by: The Family Support Service

Do you live within Redcar & Cleveland local authority?

Do you have concerns that your child, who is 0-18 years old, has autism, sensory processing, ADHD or FASD, whether diagnosed or not?

Would you benefit from introductions to and support from other agencies?

If you answered yes to the questions above, drop in to one of the below sessions to meet other agencies and find out what they can offer. The sessions are friendly and welcoming but feel free to bring a friend, partner, relative or anyone else for support if you would like. Please note, these are group sessions and 1:1 support can't be provided at these drop-ins. To access 1:1 support, please contact family.support@daisychainproject.co.uk.

Agencies attending may include* Sendiass, CAMHS, Mental Health in School Team, Parent Carer Forum, Early help This list is an example of agencies who may attend. If you are seeking specific support please *contact the team to clarify which professionals will be in attendance on each date.*

UPCOMING DATES

WHEN: Monthly on Thursdays 10am-12pm

WHERE: 25K Youth & Community Centre, Ayton Drive, Redcar, TS10
4LR

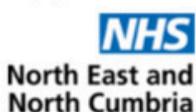
12th September / 3rd October /

7th November / 5th December / 9th January /

6th February / 6th March / 3rd April / 1st May / 5th June / 3rd July

For more information, please contact The Family Support Team on 01642 531248 (option 1)

Delivered by



Redcar & Cleveland Parent/Carer Coffee Mornings

Delivered by: The Family Support Service

Do you live within Redcar & Cleveland local authority?

Do you have concerns that your child, who is 0-18 years old, has autism, sensory processing, ADHD or FASD?

The drop-ins are friendly and welcoming but feel free to bring a friend, partner, relative or anyone else for support if you would like. Please note, these are group sessions and 1:1 support can't be provided at these drop-ins. To access 1:1 support, please contact family.support@daisychainproject.co.uk.

No diagnosis is needed, the service can be accessed if you have any concerns, regardless of diagnosis/neuro developmental pathway status.

UPCOMING DATES

Sessions starting from 11th September 2024

WHEN: Weekly on Wednesdays (term-time only) 10am - 12pm

WHERE: Redcar Coast Family Hub, Rainbow Lane, Redcar, TS10 1RR



Get support and advice
Meet other parents
Share top tips
Signposting
Access resources



Delivered by



For more information, please contact The Family Support Team on 01642 531248 (option 1)

Scan the QR code to join our Facebook group!



SCAN ME



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.

The Junction

The Junction Foundation is a well respected charity for children, young people and families based in Tees Valley. We are passionate about making a difference to the lives of children, young people and families. We are a force for good in a world that can be tough. You can access the Junction website to see their available services on the following link:

<https://thejunctionfoundation.com/>

Headstart

Across the South Tees there are many opportunities for parents and carers to access support from ourselves and other providers. Please use the link to access Headstart's website for useful guides and links.

<https://www.headstartsouthtees.co.uk/young-people/>

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

carerstogether.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/>



Local Support Services

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>

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>

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

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/>

The Grenfell Club

Is a purpose built community centre for children and adults with learning disabilities. The centre boasts a multi sensory room, soft play and café and IT suite which provides various activities and workshops in healthy eating, exercise and independent travel plus much more.

www.grenfellclub.org



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

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

MENCAP

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

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>



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

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)

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

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

Carers Allowance

You could get £76.75 a week if your 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) 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 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 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

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/>



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:

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