

PRACTICAL GUIDE
on services that are available
for children and young people with disabilities
within Merthyr Tydfil County Borough



This booklet is a practical guide on services that are available for children and young people with disabilities within the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough.

It includes information on a variety of services including:

1. The Children with Disabilities Team.
2. Local Health Services for Children with Disabilities.
3. Organisations that can offer support to children and young people in order for them to learn.
4. Organisations that can offer support to young people in order to help them into employment.
5. Organisations that can offer support to children and young people so that they are able to participate in leisure, social and play activities.
6. Projects that can provide support to the families of children and young people with disabilities.
7. Legal advice organisations.
8. Other useful contacts.



Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

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produced by Merthyr Tydfil Children and Young People's
Partnership on behalf of the Children with Disabilities
Strategic Planning Group



This information booklet has been produced by Merthyr Tydfil Children and Young People's Partnership on behalf of the Children with Disabilities Strategic Planning Group.

If you cannot find what you are looking for in this booklet or would like further information or support, please contact the Merthyr Tydfil Children with Disabilities Team on 01685 724952.

The information may be made available in alternative languages or formats upon request by contacting the Children with Disabilities Team on 01685 724952.



We would appreciate if you could let us know what you thought of this booklet

Did you find the information included in the leaflet:

Really useful ☐ Not much use ☐

What did you like about the booklet?.....

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What didn't you like about the booklet?

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Was there any information that you felt was missing from the booklet that you would like to have seen included. Please let us know and we will ensure that the information is included in the next edition.

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We would really appreciate your view and suggestions when we are planning local services for Children with Disabilities. Your input is invaluable to us.

Would you and your parent/carer be happy for us to contact you in the future for your opinions? If so, would you please fill in your name and address below and return this page to us in the prepaid envelope that we have included.

Your name :

Your address :

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Many thanks for taking the time to let us know your views. Could you please return this page to:

Merthyr Tydfil Children with Disabilities Team, The Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4TQ

1. Merthyr Tydfil Children with Disabilities Team is dedicated to supporting children with disabilities, their parents/carers and families living in the Merthyr Tydfil.

What do we do?

We are a team dedicated to supporting children with disabilities, their parents/carers and families living in the Merthyr Tydfil area.

Children with disabilities are defined as children aged 0 - 17 years who have a learning disability and or a significant physical or sensory impairment.

Whilst the team will continue to work with some children beyond their 18th birthday, most children will be transferred to the adult teams. The transition process will be carefully managed to ensure that we still meet your needs.

How can I access the services on offer?

A referral to the Children with Disability Team can be made by the family or young person or by another agency acting for them.

What happens next?

The Children with Disabilities team provides assessments and services to disabled children and their families.

The team will work closely with the child or young person and their family and will listen to their views and help and support them in any way that they can. This includes working with other agencies such as:

- Occupational therapists, and respite care providers;
- Relevant health professionals, such as community paediatric nurses, portage worker and health visitors;
- Integrated Children's Services, Educational Child Psychologists, mainstream schooling or specialist schools; and voluntary organizations and various support services
- Leisure Link which provides a one to one service which enables children with disabilities to to access a variety of community based activities whilst providing respite for parent/carers.

What is an assessment?

To find out what support is needed and who will best give that help, we will need to find out more about you. This is known as an **ASSESSMENT**. This will enable us to find out if we can assist you and if so, what we can offer. There is a **SERVICE CRITERIA** to be met before the Children with Disabilities team can offer you services. This will be explained to you when you contact us. The type of support you require will determine how quickly we are able to carry out an assessment.

"Preparing our children for adulthood"

"Children who play in their community will be more able to be adults in their community."



What is a Disabled Facilities grant?

The Disabilities Facilities Grant can help meet the cost of adapting a property for the needs of a disabled person. The grant is managed by the Local Authority.


To be eligible for a disability facilities grant, you must be:

- an owner occupier;
- a private tenant;
- a landlord with a disabled tenant;
- a local authority tenant;
- a housing association tenant; or
- some occupiers of caravans and houseboats are also eligible.


You are treated as disabled if:

- Your sight, hearing or speech is substantially impaired;
- You have a mental disorder or impairment of any kind;
- You are physically substantially disabled by illness, injury, impairment present since birth, or otherwise;
- You are registered (or could be registered) disabled with the Social Services Department.

For further information about the services provided please contact the Children with Disabilities Team.

 Phone : 01685 724952

 Web : www.merthyr.gov.uk


 Children with Disabilities Team, The Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4TQ

Health Services

Health Visitors provide a service for all families with children under five years of age. Ways that health visitors can help you and your family include:

- Care before and after having a baby
- Family support
- Health promotion and identifying health needs
- Help ensure that all parents and children have access to the right health care
- Help to create a home environment in which the child can be safe and grow and thrive.

If you could like to contact your health visitor and find out more about the services that they provide, please contact your GP's surgery or the Hollies Health Centre

 Phone : 01685 384023

 Hollies Health Centre, Swan Street, Merthyr Tydfil



The Stroke Association - Dysphasia Support/Young Stroke Group. To support and aid people who have had a stroke and experience communication problems in coming to terms with their disability and readjust. Rebuilding confidence and self esteem.

If you would like to know more about the group, please get in touch.



Phone : 01685 721 213



Email : info@stroke.org.uk Web : www.stroke.org.uk



The Stroke Association, 240 City Road, London, EC1V 2PR

Tros Gynnal - Merthyr Tydfil Advocacy & Participation Service

The Merthyr Tydfil Advocacy and Participation Service works with and for the children and young people of Merthyr Tydfil.

The Participation Service works in partnership with the children and young people of Merthyr Tydfil to develop and support the Merthyr Tydfil Youth Forum.

The Advocacy service provides independent advocacy support to children and young people with disabilities who receive social services.

If you would like to get involved in the Youth Forum or think that the Participation Service may be able to support you, please get in touch with Tros Gynnal:



Phone : 01685 353953



Email : merthyr@trosgynnal.org.uk

Web : www.trosgynnal.org.uk



Tros Gynnal, Merthyr Tydfil Advocacy and Participation Service, Voluntary Action Centre, 89-90 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UX



Children's Heart Federation. Helpline for families and professionals involved with children with heart disorders. Information on all aspects of bringing up children with heart problems.

Phone : 0805 808 5000
Email : chf.dircon.co.uk Web : childrens-heart-fed.org.uk
Children's Heart Federation London Office, Level One,
2-4 Great Eastern Street, London, EC2A 3NW

Children's Liver Disease Foundation. Information and support to parents and families of children who have liver disease.

Phone : 0121 212 3839
E-mail : info@childliverdisease.org Web : www.childliverdisease.org
Children's Liver Disease Foundation,
36 Great Charles Street, Birmingham, B3 3JY,

Council for Disabled Children provides information for parents and young people and details of organisations offering services and support for children with particular disabilities and special educational needs.

Phone : 020 7843 1900
Web : www.ncb.org.uk
National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7QE

DIAL UK - Disablement Information and Advice Lines. National organisation for the DIAL network of over one hundred disability information and advice services. DIAL groups give advice on all aspects of disability and are staffed by people with direct experience of a disability.

Phone : 01302 310 123
Email : informationenquiries@dialuk.org.uk Web : www.dialuk.info
DIAL UK, St Catherine's, Tickhill Road, Doncaster, South
Yorkshire DN4 8QN

RNID provide a wide range of services to deaf and hard of hearing people, people with tinnitus and their friends and families. If you would like more information, please contact the RNID using the details below or send a text message (no voice) on 07725 659 734

Phone : 02920 333 034
Email : informationline@rnid.org.uk
Web : www.rnid.org.uk
16 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9LJ



The Children's Community Team is a group of nurses especially qualified to care for and support children with Health Needs in the Community. They comprise of 3 nurses and 0.5 neonatal nurse. Part of their remit is the care of children with complex health needs, including children with various disabilities. They will act as the key worker to facilitate continuing care and meet any other health needs in collaboration with other professionals.

The Nurse Specialists are nurses who specialise in an area of expertise. We have specialist nurses for Epilepsy, Diabetes and Respiratory disease. These professionals work with the children and their families to enable them to live with their chronic disease/disability to an optimal level. They work in an integrated manner with all other agencies and professionals to achieve this.

If you would like to contact the Children's Community Team or the Nurse Specialists, please contact them by calling Prince Charles Hospital and ask for Children Community Nurse's office.

Phone: 01685 721721
Prince Charles Hospital, Gurnos Estate, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9DT

Kenshole Children's Centre. Within Kenshole there are a number of professionals who work with children with disabilities including:

- Community Paediatrician
- Clinical Psychologist for Children & Adolescents
- Clinical Nurse Specialist for Children with Special Needs
- Play Specialist, and also small teams of:
- Speech & Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists

Speech and Language Therapy Service can also be contacted at Kenshole Children's Hospital, The Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service provides assessment, diagnosis and intervention for children with delayed or disordered speech, language and communication development. The statutory service is based in Hollies Health Centre, and works with children from both the Merthyr Tydfil and Cynon valleys who have identified special needs and statements. These children are seen in health centres or in mainstream schools (where appropriate).

The complex special needs SLT service is based in Kenshole Children's Centre (at Aberdare Hospital) and looks after children from both valleys with additional medical/health needs. These children have impaired speech, language or communication, in the context of an additional diagnosis, such as learning disabilities, autism, prematurity, physical disability, behavioural difficulties or acquired brain injury. This service also covers babies on SCBU and paediatric inpatients in Prince Charles Hospital, as well as children in special education (resource bases and special schools). Babies and children with oral impairments, such as muscle weakness, cleft lip/palate and swallowing/feeding difficulties are also managed by this service.

If you would like any further information about these services, please contact Kenshole Children's Centre.

Phone: 01685 372 163/4
Kenshole Children's Centre, North Glamorgan NHS Trust,
Aberdare Hospital, Aberdare, CF44 0RF.



3. Education and Learning

Afasic is the UK charity which supports children and young people with speech, language and communication impairments and their parents and carers.

Call Afasic if you need information or advice - or you just need to talk.

Areas covered include:

- Speech and language impairments;
- Speech and language therapy;
- Assessment;
- Statements or records of Special Educational Needs;
- Choosing a school for a child with speech and language impairments;
- State benefits.

If you would like further information on Afasic please visit their website:

 Phone : 0845 355 5577
 Email : info@afasic Web: www.afasic.org.uk
 Afasic, 2nd Floor, 50-52 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DJ

Law yn Llaw offers a comprehensive service for families of children aged 0 - 4 years who would otherwise miss out on a playgroup experience. Law yn Llaw believes that all children regardless of their disabilities or difficulties can play alongside other children.

The scheme has an open referral system which operates borough wide. If you think that your child would benefit from support by Law yn Llaw, then please contact them.

 Phone : 02920 739 200
 Email : lyll.fsnet.co.uk
 Law yn Llaw, Unit 5a, Cwm Cynon Business Park, Mountain Ash, CF45 4ER

Integrated Children's Services. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council values all its pupils equally and aims to ensure that a graduated, child centred approach is made towards helping schools meet the needs of children and young people of all abilities. If your child has additional learning needs or you would like a 'Guide for Parents and Carers', please contact the team.




 Phone : 01685 724619
 Email : sen@merthyr.gov.uk
Web : www.merthyr.gov.uk
 Special Educational Needs Department, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Ty Kier Hardie, Riverside Court, Avenue De Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8XE






7. Other useful contacts:

Aberfan & Merthyr Youth & Community Project provides a transport service for disabled people who are unable to access public transport.

If you would like to find out more about the service, please contact the Aberfan and Merthyr Vale Youth and Community Project.

 Phone : 01443 692020
 Email : phill@amvycp.co.uk Web : www.amvycp.co.uk/dialaride.htm
 Community Transport, Aberfan and Merthyr Vale Youth and Community Project, 28 Mount View, Merthyr Vale, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4TA




Association for Young People with ME. Advice, Information and support for children and young people with ME, their families and friends.

 Phone : 01908 373 3000
 Email : info@ayme.org.uk Web : www.ayme.org.uk
 Association of Young People with ME, PO Box 5766, Milton Keynes, MK10 1AQ

Brain and Spine Helpline. Telephone information and support for people affected with neurological disorders, their relatives and health professionals dealing with all brain, spine and related conditions.

 Phone : 0808 808 1000
 Email : helpline@brainandspine.org.uk Web : www.brainandspine.org.uk
 Brain & Spine Helpline, 7 Winchester House, Cranmer Road, Kennington Park, London, SW9 6EJ

British Council of Disabled People. The UK's national organisation of the Worldwide Disabled People's Movement, set up by disabled people to promote full equality and participation in UK society..

 Phone : 01332 295551
 Email : general@bcdp.org.uk
Web : www.bcdp.org.uk
 The British Council of Disabled People, Litchurch Plaza, Litchurch Lane, Derby, DE24 8AA



Parent Carers United. Support Group of parents and carers made up from the Merthyr Tydfil area. It aims to provide support to children and young adults with special needs and their parents or carers; and in particular to provide and promote respite, educational, recreational and leisure activities which aid social inclusion and well being. If you would like to contact the group, please contact them on:



Phone : 07970 433 207



Email : parent-carers-united@fsmail.net



Parent Carers United, Voluntary Action Centre, 89-90 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8UX.

Young Carers Project. The project provides support services to children and young people under the age of eighteen whose lives are in some way restricted because of the need to take responsibility for a person who is ill or has a disability.

For more information about the project, please contact:



Phone : 01685 382 422



Web : www.barnardos.org.uk/wales



Barnardos, 56 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UN

6. Legal advice

Disability Alliance Rights Advice Line. Telephone advice on benefits for people with disabilities. The organisation publishes a Disability Rights Handbook and provides training on benefits for people with disabilities.



Phone : 020 7247 8776



Email : office.da@dial.pipex.com Web : www.disabilityalliance.org



Disability Alliance, Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London, E1 7SA

Disability Law Service. Provides free confidential legal advice to disabled people, their families and carers. The service is made up of solicitors, advisors and trained volunteers who provide up-to-date, informed legal advice.



Phone : 020 7791 9800



Email : advice@dls.org.uk Web : www.dls.org.uk



The Disability Law Service, 39-45 Cavell Street, London, E1 2BP.



SNAP Cymru. SNAP Cymru is an all-Wales children's charity working with families, young people and professionals on issues regarding additional learning needs and disabilities. They can:

- Listen to your concerns;
- Help parents understand how their child can be helped;
- Support children and their families to work in partnership with their school and other agencies.

For further information and advice, please contact SNAP Cymru



Phone : 01443 693954



Email : headoffice@snapcymru.org Web/Rhyngrwyd: www.snapcymru.org



Snap Cymru, 89 Talbot Road, Talbot Green, Pontyclun CF72 8AE

Transition Services for Young People with Assessed Disabilities Are you aged 14-25 years? The Transition Service promotes the transition from school to post-school activities, including further education, vocational training, supported employment, adult services, independent living schemes, benefits, etc.

For further information regarding transition and how it could affect you or the young person that you are caring for contact the Children's Disability Team.



Phone : 01685 724952



Web : www.merthyr.gov.uk



Children with Disabilities Team, The Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 7Q.

4. Employment

Disability Employment Advisors (DEA's) provide specialist support to people with health conditions and disabilities looking for employment, or wishing to remain in employment. DEA's provide employment assessments to help identify your abilities, your strengths and how your disability or health condition affects the type of work you want to do. DEA's have access to a range of specialist disability programmes, training, and in work support.

For further information contact Paul Owen



Phone : 01685 306750



Email :



Merthyr Tydfil Jobcentreplus, Ty Bethesda, Avenue De Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil CF11 8ZH



Elite Supported Employment Agency is a voluntary organisation that enables people with disabilities to access, obtain and maintain employment via the provision of appropriate tailored training and support. Support is available on a one to one basis to disabled people aged 14 to 64. For further information on the services that Elite can offer you please contact them

Phone : 01443 226664
Email : information@elitesea.co.uk Web : www.elitesupportedemployment.co.uk
ELITE Supported Employment Agency Ltd, 15 Talbot Road, Talbot Green, Pontyclun, RCT, CF72 8AD

Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind Provide employment and training for disabled persons.

If you would like further information on the project please telephone them or visit their website.

Phone : (01685) 370072
Web : <http://www.mtib.co.uk/home.htm>
M.T.I.B., Unit 4, Triangle Industrial Estate, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4TQ

5. Leisure, Social and play activities

Green Meadow Riding for the Disabled provides riding facilities for any disabled person who might benefit in their general health and well being. Green Meadow has experience of working with people with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, multiple injuries, learning difficulties, sensory impairment and limbless persons.

If you would like to know more about the services at Green Meadow Riding for the Disabled please contact them.

Phone: 01685 874 961
Green Meadow Riding Centre, County Park, Aberdare, Rhondda Cynon Taf, CF44 7PT

Merthyr Tydfil PHAB Club The club promotes and encourages people with or without disabilities to come together to integrate in all aspects of the community.

If you would like to find out more about the PHAB club, please call.

Phone : 01443 691 548.
PHAB Wales, 45 Three Arches Avenue, Llanishen, CARDIFF, CF14 ONW

Playforum Inclusive Play Project The Inclusive Play Project aims to ensure the inclusion of disabled children aged between 5 and 19 years in mainstream out of school play provisions. If you think that Playforum would enable you or your child to access provisions such as after school clubs or holiday play schemes please contact them.

Phone : 01685 353963
Email : playforum@welshnet.co.uk
Playforum, Voluntary Centre, 89-90 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UH.



Young Persons Disabled Network The Network seeks to provide a structure whereby young disabled people can be supported to play a full and active part in the decision making process that affects their lives. They do this by providing opportunities to:

- Meet and have fun
- Understand their rights
- Raise issues of concern
- Have a voice in decision making that affects themselves and their peers.
- Build their capacity, by increasing their confidence and self esteem, to become effective participants in the decision making process.

If you would like to contact the Young Persons Disabled Network, then please contact:

Phone : (029) 2034 2434
Email : david.baker@childreninwales.org.uk Web : www.childreninwales.org.uk
Children in Wales, 25 Windsor Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BZ

5. Family Support

The Carers Network Officer based at Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT) is dedicated to supporting carers in Merthyr Tydfil. VAMT produce an information pack for carers offering all the appropriate services and information, including information on carers' entitlement to carer's assessment.

If you think that the Carers Network Officer could help you please contact VAMT.

Phone : 01685 353900
Email : sonia.lloydwilliams@vamt.net Web : www.vamt.net
Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil, 89-90 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UH.

Contact a Family for families with disabled children. Contact a family can provide support and information to families of disabled children in a variety of ways, including:

- Answering any enquiries on specific conditions, local services, education and many other matters.
- Providing useful publications, such as newsletters, fact sheets, etc.
- Supporting local Parents Groups
- Parent workshops
- Policy and campaigning work.

You can contact the organisation for further information on:

Phone : 0808 808 3555
Email : wales@cafamilly.org.uk
Web : www.cafamilly.org.uk/wales
Contact a Family Cymru, The Coal Exchange, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff, CF10 5EB

