

# Children with Disabilities Team

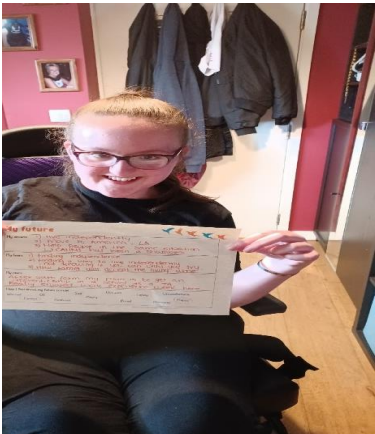
What our children and their families tell us we need to do more of



# Children With Disabilities Team 2024

## - Capture Our Voice

- Social workers are using new communication tools to tell us things about our life, like social stories and what fun activities we like to do.
- Use Mind of My Own Express when we can access this.
- Social workers are using more creative ways to gather our wishes and feelings including photos, social stories, picture exchange communication, signed supported English, Makaton and commissioned specialist signs when needed.



# Ensure our needs are understood and regularly discussed by people who know us best



- We are visited regularly by our named social worker.
- Annual assessments focusing on what is working well for us and our families/carers, what we are worried about and what needs to happen to meet our needs.
- Ensuring we have a robust plan to meet our needs and/or keep us safe. That these are reviewed and updated regularly by us, our families and our carers.
- When we are ready to think about preparing for adulthood, we get an adult's social worker who works closely with our social worker to make sure that we get services that we need as adults, this means sometimes we stay living with our carers who can become shared lives carers until we are ready to move on. This can mean we have support to move into supported living as an adult and it often means we can keep having short breaks with adults who can help keep us safe.
- If we are children in care, when we leave care, we also can access the care leavers local offer and if we would benefit from this, we can have a young persons leaving care advisor.

# That you know us well. When you can't help you help us to find someone who can

- The managers in the service have worked really hard with commissioning and providers to make sure we are looking for the right support for disabled children.
- We are seeking new providers to become part of a larger project that will give all disabled children accessible opportunities for social activities through the local offer and when this is not possible, we have a number of providers and person centered led support options to offer social opportunities for our most complex children and young people.
- If children can access our none assessed route social workers make sure that they know about this.



# Educational Health And Care Plans

- All of the children who are supported by the Children With Disabilities Team have an Education Health and Care Plan.
- This incorporates social care alongside health and education.
- Our social workers make sure we talk about these in all of their assessments and our care plans and all the meetings about us.
- Our social workers visit us in school, and they write all about the important things about us in the annual Education Health Care Plan reviews, we know its important to get this right, so everyone knows how to best meet our needs.

Investing in Children  
Durham County Council  
Children with Disabilities Team

services we can offer

**CWP**  
Cherry Wharf Project

Short Breaks

A child / young person can benefit from development of new interests, keeping fit, social networks with peers and taking part in hobbies.

The frequency and duration of short breaks can vary, such as:

- A virtual activity
- Family days out
- Attending a leisure facility for a few hours per week
- Attending after school clubs

Telephone: 03000 260 270  
Email: [shortbreaksolutions@durham.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaksolutions@durham.gov.uk)  
County Durham Local Offer - Durham County Council

Integrating Children  
"Positive about Inclusion"

**Jadig**

Overnight Stays

**Park House**  
Park House offers young disabled people, between 9 and 18 years, a short break service that is not available through family-based care services. A short break is defined as one, two or three overnight stays.  
We provide short break care for young people who have a learning disability and:  
- complex physical needs requiring specialist equipment  
- specific communication needs  
- sensory impairment.

**Grove House**  
Grove House offers specialist overnight short break service for children aged from six to seventeen years of age who have physical and/or learning disabilities or autism.

+  
Vists and  
Team around the family meetings

Your Social Worker will visit you every 4 weeks and have a team around the family meeting, until a care package is set up and working well.

When everything is going well and you have a care package in place.  
You will move into Monitor and Review and your family Worker will then visit you every 3 months to see how you are doing.

Direct Work wishes and feelings

Sometimes, when your social worker and family worker come to see you at home or school, they may do some direct work with you. This means doing some activities together.

spending time with my social worker and family worker

"I like it when my social worker and Family Worker visit me at home and sometimes at school".

our Feelings

"I like going out and doing lots of activities with the workers".

daisy, kind, lovely, caring, newfful, Legal, Mansby, listening

"I like spending time with my social worker because we get to go out for tea and get to listen to music in the car".

# WE HAVE ASKED ONE OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TONI TO HELP US TELL CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL WHAT SHE THINKS ABOUT THE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES TEAM

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THIS IS WHAT SHE HAS CREATED FOR US TO SHOW YOU...





**TONI LIVES WITH HER FOSTER CARERS, SHE HAS AN EHCP, LEARNING NEEDS AND IS SUPPORTED BY A SOCIAL WORKER FROM CWD**

Toni doesn't want to be filmed or come and talk in person but she has spent the afternoon doing this lovely picture with her social worker to tell you about the CWD team.

The happy umbrellas – Toni describes her social worker as kind and a good listener, Toni has said that they can help her if she has a problem. Toni has said that the social workers help her see her family and they ask how she is feeling.

The Dark Cloud (what we can do better) Toni's local youth club has stopped running and she has asked for some help to find a new one (we will help with this!) Toni would like to spend more time with her social worker.