

Your guide to support and services for disabled children

This leaflet gives you information about the various services and support available for disabled children in Islington, and how to get in touch.

Activities and support for everyone

Islington has so much to offer children and young people, from fun adventure playgrounds to top-notch youth clubs and leisure centres.

We want every child to access these facilities and the activities offered by them. This is why we've made many of our main facilities far more accessible to disabled children.

We've developed services to ease the demand on parents and carers and help disabled children enjoy what the borough has to offer in the same way other children can. We've also trained staff who work there so they can provide better support to disabled children and their families. The majority of our services are available to all children, but we also offer some specialist services to children who have complex needs.

To find out more about how we can help your child access activities in the borough, or for information about facilities specially designed for disabled children, visit

www.islington.gov.uk/childrens-and-families and click on 'Things To Do'. Or you can contact our Family Information Service on **020 7527 5959** or fis@islington.gov.uk.

Support for all children with disabilities

For information about services specifically for disabled children, contact Centre 404's Parent / Carer Information And Support Service on 020 3316 1930.

Through Centre 404, as a parent or carer, you can get information, advice, advocacy and support through a single point of contact.

Centre 404 offers regular drop-in sessions and a family support service, where they can help you with housing and benefits issues, as well as with any queries you have about the services on offer in:

- education
- health
- social care
- the community.

Services for disabled children with more complex needs

There is extra help available for disabled children with more complex needs, such as severe physical and learning difficulties and autism. In Islington, we've made some changes to give you a better experience when you access services. We've improved the way the various departments offering services work together and also how we work with our partners in health and education.

The Short Break team offers easy access to activities, including:

- after-school clubs
- holiday schemes
- a sitting service
- individual support to help your child enjoy an activity of their choice.

An alternative cash offer can allow you even more freedom to make your own arrangements. For any of the above, please contact the Short Breaks Manager on 020 7527 8611 or short.breaks@islington.gov.uk.

If you feel you need more help and want an assessment, please contact the Integrated Disabled Children's Service – see below.

Islington integrated Disabled Children's Service offers specialist support, including:

- one place to refer children with complex needs for assessment, diagnosis and support
- a keyworker service to help you to coordinate services and get the support you need early on
- integrated health and social care teams working together in the community
- therapies, social work and specialist teaching support in schools – including training for staff and parents
- a range of specialist family services that you can choose using your personal budget* – such as getting a break from caring through daytime or overnight care for your child at Lough Road Disabled Children's Centre or with an approved family carer. You can also choose other support that you pay for using your personal budget
- a social work service where needs are very complex and there may be safeguarding concerns
- support for children aged 16 and above as they move into adulthood to ensure they get the services on offer from the council's Adult Social Services team.

* A personal budget is a sum of money allocated after your child and family's needs have been assessed so that you can arrange your support.

You can contact the central referral team for the Disabled Children's Service on 020 3316 1882.

Contact us

To recap, these are the numbers you need to get the services and support your child is entitled to:

- Activities and services for all children, including disabled children:
Family Information Service
020 7527 5959
- Support and services for all disabled children:
Centre 404's Parent / Carer Information And Support Service
020 3316 1930.
- Activities and breaks for disabled children with more complex needs:
Short Breaks team
020 7527 8611
- Health and social care services and support for children with more complex needs:
Disabled Children's Service
020 3316 1882

This team is based at:
Northern Health Centre
564 Holloway Road
London N7 6LB.

If you are worried a disabled child may be at risk of harm, you should contact the Social Work Duty Service directly on 020 7527 3366 or disabledchildren.team@islington.gov.uk.