



Partnership With Parents

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Noke Drive

Redhill

Surrey RH1 4AX

Helpline: 01737 737300

Admin: 01737 737302

Fax: 01737 737308

Email: pwd@surreycc.gov.uk

Website: www.pwpsurrey.org

PARENT /CARER SUPPORT IN SURREY

Parent/carer Support Groups

There are a number of local and county support groups in Surrey that provide a range of support opportunities for the Parents and Carers of children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs). These include the following:

- **The National Autistic Society's Surrey Branch** provides information and support to parents in Surrey of children with ASDs, including workshops, parent support groups, advice and information regarding community based projects, holiday schemes and links to the National Autistic Society. Contact Sara Truman, Branch Officer, nas@mugsy.org, 01483 822630 for more information.
- **Face to Face** is a befriending service for parents of newly diagnosed children with special needs. A volunteer parent who has been through a similar experience can offer support and advice. Contact: East Surrey – Chris Braidwood 01737 779979, West Surrey – Miriam Wichmann 01932 567131.

Parent/Carer Programmes

- **Surrey's NAS EarlyBird and EarlyBird Plus** provide opportunities for groups of parents/carers to receive a programme of support and training to help them understand their child's ASD. In addition to the EarlyBird scheme, described under preschool support, the EarlyBird Plus programme is for parents of a children with ASDs in the 4 to 8 year old age range. The NAS EarlyBird Plus programme aims to maximise consistent help for the child both at home and at school, and so trains parents and professionals together. Each programme works with 3-5 family teams of two parents or carers, together with a professional such as a SENCo or Learning Support Assistant who supports the child at school. Each programme lasts for 8 morning sessions.

Further information about the programme can be obtained from Sue Weston, the County Facilitator for EarlyBird in Surrey or call the EarlyBird Administrator on 01737 737979.

- **Surrey Parenting Education Support Group** is an organisation in Surrey that helps to coordinate all the parenting and parent support groups in the county. Some special needs programmes and special conferences are available to parents

Contact Fiona Taylor, Surrey Parenting Strategy Development Manager tel. 01372 227391 / 227390

Professional Support for Families

- **Surrey Children's Service** has two **Children's Complex Needs Teams** operating in Surrey to provide a social care service to children who meet the criteria for registration on the Surrey Children's Disability Register, their siblings and carers. A social worker is able to offer an assessment in line with the Department of Health Framework for Assessment to identify the child and carer's needs and offer advice and guidance regarding local resources and self-help groups to support the family in continuing to care for their child at home. The teams may be able to assist in the arrangement of home-based support, short breaks, Family Link or direct payments.

For further details contact the Children's Complex Needs Teams as follows:

East Area – 01737 737 810
West Area – 01483 517 955

- **CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service).** Surrey has a beacon CAMHS Service that offers a diagnosis, assessment and treatment service to children and their families.
For further details about the range of services available, refer to the Surrey CAMHS website at www.surrey-camhs.org.uk
- **Community Learning Disability Services.** This service is run by Health and provides trained nurses who have specialised in learning disability and are able to provide home visiting to parents and carers of children and young people with learning disabilities. They can offer help that can be personal or practical, including counselling, advice on behaviour and assistance with arranging respite care or long-term placements. Referral is usually through a paediatrician.

Parent/Carer Advisory Services

- **Partnership with Parents** provides independent and confidential advice and support to parents/carers who have children with special educational needs. It also offers parent workshops and other training opportunities. Contact the PwP Helpline on 01737 737300
- **Surrey CAFIS** (Children and Families Information Service) website www.SurreyCAFIS.org.uk provides a comprehensive information service for both the public and professionals on the services available to children and families in Surrey. For further information on many of the services mentioned in this pack can be found at this website.