www.carersmanchester.org.uk

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Caring for a Child or Young Person with SEND

Are you an unwaged carer living in Manchester and caring for a child or young person with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)? Here is a summary of specialist support you can access.

The SEND Local Offer brings together information for families in a single place. It helps children, young people and their parents understand what services and support they can expect from a range of local agencies – including their statutory entitlements.

Local Offer Drop Ins take place once a month and are an opportunity to speak direct to a range of services. Upcoming dates are available on their website or via phone.

- ☑ **Call 0161 234 1946**
- ☑ **Email localoffer@manchester.gov.uk**
- ☑ **Visit https://tinyurl.com/7huxrp3b**

The Local Offer e-Newsletter highlights new services and offers for families and has up-to-date information about what is happening each school holiday.

To sign up, email Ali Davenport (see below). Previous copies of the newsletter are available on their website.

- ☑ **Email ali.davenport@manchester.gov.uk**
- ☑ **Visit https://tinyurl.com/4dme3pkp**

Short Breaks is a range of services provided by Manchester City Council for young people aged 0 – 17 with SEND. Short breaks range from activities that last an hour or two to a few days away from home or an overnight stay. They can be at the weekend, in the evening or in the school holidays. Young people and their families are assessed to see if they are eligible. If not, they will be supported to access activities through the Local Offer.

Contact (see page 4) has a useful guide: Short Breaks – Help for You and Your Child to Take a Break.

- ✅ **Call 0161 219 2125**
- ✅ **Visit https://tinyurl.com/t89nw87r**

The Manchester Parent Champions are parent carers who have experience of using the Local Offer and good knowledge of the services and support available. Parent carers in Manchester can join their private Facebook group.

- ✅ **Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/240250516459924/**

Information, Advice and Support Manchester (SENDIASS) is a statutory service that gives you free and impartial advice around SEND, including Education, Health and Care Plans, the Local Offer, personal budgets, SEND tribunals and complaint procedures.

- ✅ **Call 0161 209 8356**
- ✅ **Email parents@manchester.gov.uk**
- ✅ **Visit https://www.iasmanchester.org/**

SOS! SEN supports parents and carers to obtain suitable provision for their child's special educational needs. They run a term-time helpline as well as a monthly walk-in advice centre at Levenshulme Inspire Centre (M19 3AR). There are also information sheets to download from their website.

- ✅ **Call 0300 302 3731 (term time only)**
  (Open Monday – Friday 9:30am – 12:30pm, 1 – 4pm, Tuesday & Wednesday 8 – 10pm)
- ✅ **Visit https://sossen.org.uk/index.php**

Manchester Parent Carer Forum is a group of parent carers who work in partnership with Manchester City Council, as well as health and education settings, to shape the delivery of services for young people with SEND. Their steering group of parent carer volunteers is keen to hear the views and experiences of local parent carers.

- ✅ **Web form http://manchesterparentcarerforum.org.uk/contact/**
- ✅ **Visit http://manchesterparentcarerforum.org.uk/**

The SPACE (Supporting Parents and Carers Endeavour) Group is a parent-led group that meets at St George's Community Centre (M40 7NY). Working in partnership with the Manchester Parent Carer Forum, they offer advice and support in an informal setting, with facilities available for children.

- ✅ **Call 07731 925 208 (Jenna) or 07973 209 250 (Hayley)**
- ✅ **Email spacegroup@manchesterparentcarerforum.org.uk**
- ✅ **Visit http://manchesterparentcarerforum.org.uk/tag/space-group/**

Lifted supports parent carers of children and adults with special learning needs. They offer one to one support, guidance, advocacy, help with completing forms, and a variety of drop in sessions and activities.

- ✅ **Call 07385 568990 (Emma) or 07384 784262 (Sue)**
- ✅ **Email info@liftedmcr.org.uk**
- ✅ **Visit www.liftedmcr.org.uk/**

Talbot House supports the families of people with learning disabilities. They offer one to one support, benefits advice, help with completing forms and support in meetings. They also run regular carer drops ins, lunches, pampering sessions and day trips. Their THRIVE service provides specialised support for carers aged 50+.

- ✅ **Call 0161 203 4095**
- ✅ **Email admin@talbot-house.org.uk**
- ✅ **Visit https://www.talbot-house.org.uk**

Support from National Organisations

Contact (for families with disabled children) has a range of factsheets and resources on their website covering education, social care, finances and diagnosis.

Their telephone-based listening ear service offers practical and emotional support and their helpline offers information and advice. They also run workshops for parent carers including ones around handling meetings, managing behaviours and helping your child sleep.

- ✅ **Call 0808 808 3555**
  (Open Monday – Friday 9:30am – 5pm)
- ✅ **Visit https://contact.org.uk**

Scope (equality for disabled people) supports disabled people and their families. Their website contains information and resources about issues like diagnosis, education, money and sleep. Their Navigate service offers parent carers emotional support and practical advice via six weekly sessions (online and telephone) with a personal advisor. Parents Connect offers six group sessions with other parent carers.

- ☑ **Call 0808 800 3333**
- ☑ **Email helpline@scope.org.uk**
- ☑ **Visit https://www.scope.org.uk**

IPSEA (Independent Provider of Special Education Advice) offers free and independent legally based information, advice and support to help children and young people with SEND get the right education. Their free helpline provides advice on the next steps for any educational issue, and they also have a Tribunal Support Service. Appointments can be booked on their website.

- ☑ **Call 0300 222 5899**
  (Open Friday 9:30am – 3pm)
- ☑ **Visit https://www.ipsea.org.uk**

Cerebra (working wonders for children with brain conditions) offers a Sleep Advice Service, a specialist free toy and book library, and a Legal Rights Service. They also provide parent guides on a range of topics.

- ☑ **Call 0800 328 1159**
- ☑ **Visit https://cerebra.org.uk**

Family Fund (helping disabled children) provides grants for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people. Grants can be spent on a range of items and activities including sensory toys, days out, family breaks, electronic devices and play equipment.

- ☑ **Call 01904 550055**
- ☑ **Visit https://www.familyfund.org.uk**

Sibs (for brothers and sisters of disabled children and adults) offers a range of support. For young siblings, they provide information about disabilities and conditions, and tips for enjoying life and dealing with feelings. They have sibling advisors that young people can contact and information for parents on supporting siblings.

For adult siblings, they run local peer support groups (including one in Manchester), workshops and events and offer guides for siblings.

- ☑ **Web form https://www.sibs.org.uk/contact/**
- ☑ **Visit https://www.sibs.org.uk**

Working Families advises parents and carers on issues like employment rights, Tax Credits and in-work benefits, flexible working and time off, and what to do if you have been treated unfairly. They have a free helpline for parent carers.

- ☑ **Call 0300 012 0312**
- ☑ **Web form https://workingfamilies.org.uk/contact-us-for-advice/**
- ☑ **Visit https://workingfamilies.org.uk/advice-information/**

If you would like to discuss your options for support or you have a general query about your caring role, you can call the Carers Manchester Contact Point on 0161 543 8000 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm, Wednesdays 10am-6pm; except bank holidays) or email contactpoint@carersmanchester.org.uk.