

## **Getting help with Social Care for Children and Young People with SEND in Central Bedfordshire**

This page is intended as a basic introduction to Social Care for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. You will find information about social care and SEND in Central Bedfordshire on the Central Bedfordshire Local Offer [Here](#).

Social Care is **NOT** just about safeguarding children and adults, it is also about helping them to lead fulfilling lives, and this includes the well-being of those that care too.

Social Care is an umbrella term for a range of services and support provided either directly by the Local Authority or an outside agency, that the Local Authority has funded (commissioned) to provide a service.

In Central Bedfordshire social care support for children and young people with disabilities is managed by locality, with teams in the North and South of Central Bedfordshire.

The north locality provides social care support in the northern part of the Central Bedfordshire area including Sandy, Biggleswade, Flitwick and Ampthill and surrounding areas.

The south locality provides social care support in the southern part of the Central Bedfordshire including Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard and surrounding areas.

Social Care can be accessed by contacting The Access and Referral Hub, which covers both localities.

### ***The Access and Referral Hub contact details are:***

T: 0300 300 8585

E : [cs.accessandreferral@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cs.accessandreferral@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

The Access and Referral Hub will talk with you about how best to support the needs of you and your family based on your individual circumstances.

## **What types of assessments to Social Care Offer in Central Bedfordshire?**

### **1. Early Help & Early Help Plus Assessments**

Early Help, also known as 'early intervention', is support given to a family when difficulties first emerge.

Early Help Assessments are non-statutory and can be carried out where a Local Authority thinks it would be beneficial to prevent needs escalating.

Early Help Assessments can however, be provided **at any stage** in a child or young person's life and does not require a professional to refer.

Further information on Early Help and Early Help Plus in Central Bedfordshire can be found [here](#).

## **2. Carers Assessments**

**All** Parents of disabled children (called parent carers in the legislation) who have parental responsibility, young people and young carers have strengthened rights to an assessment of their needs under the Children and Families Act 2014 (Ref: Contact.org.uk).

Further information about these rights can be found [here](#).

Further information on accessing a Parent Carer Needs Assessment (PCNA) in Central Bedfordshire can be found on the Local Offer [here](#).

Young Carers should be identified as part of any assessment by Social Care, and their needs considered.

As disabled young people move into adulthood at 18, The Care Act 2014, makes provisions for parent carers of children and young carers in need of care and support .

Further information about the Care Act 2014 and Carers Assessments under this Act can be found [Here](#).

For further information on Care Act 2014 Assessments in Central Bedfordshire, can be found [here](#).

## **3. Social Care “Needs Assessments”**

If you feel that your child requires support from Social Care, you can request an assessment of your child’s needs. This is a statutory assessment and the purpose of the assessment framework is set out in the [Working Together Guidance](#).

Following referral where there is an “appearance of need” and to determine whether or not it is necessary to provide a service to meet those needs, an assessment under section 17 of the Children’s Act 1989, must be first carried out.

Further information about Needs Assessments (also commonly termed as a S17 Assessment, Child in Need Assessment or Children’s Act Assessment) and how to formally request one can be found [here](#).

### **Direct Payments:**

If following an assessment by social care, some families may receive direct payments to pay for support needs directly.

Direct payments can be made to a parent of a child with a disability, or to a young person with disability aged 16 or 17.

Further information about direct payments in Central Bedfordshire can be found on the Local Offer [Here](#).

### **Short Breaks**

Short breaks are opportunities for children and young people who have disabilities to spend time away from their primary carers. This provides opportunities for their parents and carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities, allowing them an opportunity to recharge their batteries, spend time with others or pursue other interests.

## **In Central Bedfordshire short breaks could include:**

- Day care away from home - includes nurseries, playgroups, out of school and weekend clubs and, during school holidays, access to playschemes.
- Care at home - includes sitting or care attendant schemes, which provide someone to sit with or 'mind' your child.
- Overnight short breaks - includes an overnight sitting or nursing service if your child needs it.
- Residential breaks - includes residential homes, special units in hospitals and hospices.

[Ref: Central Bedfordshire Council Short Breaks Statement](#)

Further information on short breaks in Central Bedfordshire, including residential settings for short breaks can be found on the Local Offer [here](#).

## **Moving to Adult Social Care**

As a young person approaches adulthood, they may require or continue to require social care input.

Planning “transition to adulthood,” or “preparing for adulthood (PFA)” should be a planned process across education, health and care for all young people and should be started in Year 9.

Further information on moving from children’s Social Care to Adult Social Care can be found [here](#).

Chapter 8 of the [SEN Code of Practice](#) covers preparing for adulthood from the earliest years as well as further detail on adult social care and Education, Health and Care Plans ( EHCPS).

It’s important to remember that ***Social Care which “educates or trains” is to be treated as special educational provision*** and not social care provision (S 21 (5) CAFA, 2014).

## **Useful Resources**

### **Statutory Guidance :**

[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)

[Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice ‘The Code’  
Care and Support Statutory Guidance](#)

### **Regulations :**

[The Special Educational Needs & Disability Regulations 2014 ‘The SEN Regs’](#)

[The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011](#)

### **Legislation**

[Children & Families Act 2014- Part III](#)

[The Children’s Act 1989 – Part III](#)

[The Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons Act 1979 – Part 2](#)

## **Further useful information and Websites**

[Carers Uk](#)

[Contact](#)

[Cerebra – Useful parent guides](#)

[Citizens Advice](#)