

A better quality of life
for parents of children with
disabilities

AN EU FUNDED GRUNDTVIG 1 - SOCRATES



UK Information Pack

Draft version

INSTITUTION, ASSOCIATIONS / FOUNDATIONS THAT SUPPORT DISABLED PEOPLE AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS

Rights and obligations contacts

Organizations and charities that offer advice and information on rights and obligations.

Advicenow

Advicenow brings together the best information on the law and your rights from a wide range of advice and information services.

Citizens Advice Bureau

Free, confidential, impartial & independent advice on debt & consumer issues, benefits, housing, legal matters, employment & immigration. Advisers can help fill out forms, write letters, negotiate with creditors and represent clients at court or tribunal.

Disability Rights Commission

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) is an independent body, established by Act of Parliament to eliminate discrimination against disabled people and promote equality of opportunity.

Disability Alliance

The Disability Alliance aims to improve the living standards of disabled people by breaking the link between poverty and disability.

The Electoral Commission

An independent body who aim to increase public confidence in the democratic process within the UK - encourage people to take part, promoting public awareness of electoral matters, and regulating political parties.

Legal Services Commission

The Legal Services Commission is an executive non-departmental public body created under the Access to Justice Act 1999 which has replaced the Legal Aid Board. It is responsible for the development and administration of two schemes in England and Wales.

National Consumer Council

The National Consumer Council is an independent organisation working on behalf of consumers.

RADAR (Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation)

Promoting education, welfare and integration into the community for disabled people.

Support for Carers

Organizations and charities providing support for carers

Carers UK (formerly Carers National Association)

Carers UK provides carers, those supporting them and others with national and local information about benefits they are entitled to.

Contact a Family

Contact a Family is a UK-wide charity providing support, advice and information for families with disabled children.

Crossroads – Caring for Carers

Crossroads provides 'in the home care' for carers.

MacIntyre Care

MacIntyre Care provides a wide range of services including registered care homes, supported living schemes, accredited training schemes and day services, as well as two residential schools.

Princess Royal Trust for Carers, The

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers provides information, advice and support services to carers of all ages in the UK. This is delivered through a network of independently managed Carers Centres, young carers services and interactive websites.

Ring Around Carers

Ring Around Carers is a 'meeting place on the phone' for carers. It's a chance for anyone who looks after a friend or family member to have a regular, friendly chat with other carers in their area.

Rethink

Rethink are dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by severe mental illness.

Vitalise (formerly Winged Fellowship Trust)

Vitalise (formerly Winged Fellowship Trust) provides essential breaks for disabled and visually impaired people and their carers.

Young Carers Net (part of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers)

Young Carers Net supports carers under the age of 18 who are looking after someone who is sick or disabled.

Disabled parents

Organizations and charities supporting disabled parents and parents-to-be

Disabled Parents Network

Disabled Parents Network (DPN) are a national organisation of and for disabled people who are parents or who hope to become parents, and their families, friends and supporters

Disability, Pregnancy & Parenthood international (DPPI)

DPPI promotes better awareness and support for disabled people during pregnancy and parenthood

Parents with disabilities online

Parents with disabilities online is an American website which includes an email community of disabled people who are planning to be, or are, parents

Accessible technology

Organizations, charities and support groups that offer advice and information on accessible technology areas

AbilityNet

AbilityNet aims to help everyone to gain information and advice on technology access, particularly those with disabilities.

British Computer Association of the Blind

BCAB is a self-help group of visually impaired computer professionals and users and was founded in 1969, who are actively involved in enabling visually impaired people to access and use Information and Communications Technology.

Disabled Access to Technology Association (DATA)

DATA aims to assist unemployed disabled people to achieve personal and professional goals by providing training in information technology in a caring and supportive environment.

Foundation for Assistive Technology (FAST)

FAST has an on-line database which provides information about assistive technology

Independent Living

Independent Living is a completely open resource for the use of less able individuals, healthcare professionals and family carers. There is a free email enquiry service if you are unable to find the answer to your question on the site.

TechDis

Aims to improve provision for disabled staff and students in the further, higher and specialist education sectors through technology.

Health contacts

Organizations, charities and support groups that offer advice and information on health-related areas

Mencap (now Royal Mencap Society)

Mencap provides a variety of services for people with a learning disability and their families and carers. This includes support with housing, education, employment and leisure activities.

MIND

Mind offers supported housing, crisis helplines, drop-in centres, counselling, advocacy, employment and training schemes, and other services.

Multiple Sclerosis Society

The Society funds MS research, runs respite care centres, provides grants, education and training on MS. It produces numerous publications on MS and runs a freephone specialist helpline.

National Society for Epilepsy

Provides information, support as well as care through medical and residential services to people with epilepsy.

Patients' Association

The Association campaigns for clean and healthy healthcare facilities, shorter waiting times and better information for patients.

Patient UK

Patient UK aim to be a reliable and comprehensive source of health and disease information, mainly aimed at the UK general public, but of interest to all.

Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID)

RNID is a membership charity aiming for a radically better quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing people through campaigning, lobbying, services and social, medical and technical research.

Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB)

Offering information, support, advice and practical solutions to everyday challenges for anyone with a sight problem.

SCOPE

For people with cerebral palsy, their families and carers.

Spinal Injuries Association (SIA)

Support for people affected by spinal cord injury, including the family and friends of the disabled person.

Stroke Association

The Stroke Association produces guidance, help and advice for people who have had strokes, their families and carers

Government contacts – Health

Government organizations that offer advice and information on health - related areas

Benefits Enquiry Line

Advice and information for disabled people and carers on the full range of benefits available and how to claim them. The line also offers help with claim form completion for certain benefits.

Carers Helpline

Providing support to carers in their role by providing complex advice and information on welfare benefits and community care issues.

Department of Health

The Department of Health aims to improve the health and well-being of people in England.

Department of Health (DH) Publications

You can order material published by DH, quoting the title and reference number, by post, telephone or email. Publications are free unless a price is shown. Also see Health Literature.

Disability Benefits Helpline - for Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance

You can get advice on Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance and may have access to your records once the claim is in process.

Health Literature Line

The Health Literature Line is the telephone ordering service for free Department of Health publications on a range of health issues and their related forms (HC1, HC11 etc).

Help with health costs advice line

Providing NHS patients about entitlements to prescription charge exemptions and information on the requirements to qualify for charge exemption at dispensing chemists and pharmacies.

NHS Direct

Your gateway to health information on the internet. If you need health information or advice at any time of the day or night, call NHS Direct.

Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) order line

This order line enables the public to buy a PPC by phone using a credit or debit card and provides general advice regarding prescriptions. Calls are charged at local rate.

Home and housing options

Organizations that offer advice and information on home and housing options

HOMES (Housing Mobility and Exchange Services)

HOMES works with local authorities and registered social landlords throughout the UK, offering a range of services that help people move including, tenants with special needs or disabilities.

Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Leonard Cheshire provides help for disabled people to live independently, for example from a few hours of care at home to more intensive support, at one of their residential and nursing homes.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Ensuring disabled people are able to access and participate fully in cultural, heritage, sporting and leisure activities.

Department for Work and Pensions

The Department for Work and Pensions delivers support and advice through a modern network of services to people of working age, employers, pensioners, families and children and disabled people.

Department for Transport

The Department aims to improve transport provision for disabled people - whether as pedestrians, public and special transport users, or motorists - while also improving accessibility in public places

Department for Communities and Local Government

Delivering thriving, inclusive and sustainable communities in all regions.

Independent living

Organizations and charities that offer advice and information on independent living, home adaptations and disability equipment

BIME (Bath Institute of Medical Engineering)

BIME is a design and development charity that works on healthcare, assistive technology and daily living equipment for disabled people.

Care & Repair England

Care & Repair England is a charity set up in 1986 to improve the housing and living conditions of older people and disabled people.

Disabled Living Foundation

The Disabled Living Foundation provides information on disability equipment, household gadgets, new technologies and training techniques.

Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Leonard Cheshire provides help for disabled people to live independently, for example from a few hours of care at home to more intensive support, at one of their residential and nursing homes.

DEMAND (Design and Manufacture for Disability)

DEMAND encourage the design and manufacture of equipment for disabled people - often when no other solution exists.

Dial UK

Provides a disability information and advice line on subjects like benefits, community care, equipment, independent living, holidays, discrimination.

Disabled Living Centres Council

The DLCC provides impartial information and advice about products and equipment for easier living.

Disabled Living Foundation

Provides information on disability equipment, day-to-day household gadgets, new technologies and training techniques.

Independent Living (1993) Fund

Set up as a national resource dedicated to the financial support of disabled people to enable them to choose to live in the community rather than in residential care.

Motability

Motability is a national UK charity that provides scooters, wheelchairs and adapted vehicles to enable disabled people and their families to become mobile.

National Centre for Independent Living

The National Centre for Independent Living promotes personal assistance as a route to independent living for disabled people.

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation

Works to equip disabled people with skills to increase their independence, mobility, and help them into employment.

REMAP

REMAP provides one-off technical aids and equipment designed to meet the individual needs of disabled people.

Ricability (RICA: Research Institute for Consumer Affairs)

Ricability is a research charity dedicated to providing independent information of value about disability equipment and other topics to disabled and older consumers.

Motoring and transport contacts

Organizations and charities that offer advice and information on motoring and transport

Blue Badge Network

The Blue Badge Network has information about parking regulations, legislation directly affecting their users/members and related disability issues.

Disabled Drivers' Association

The Disabled Drivers Association aims to promote independence through improved mobility for disabled people and those with mobility problems.

Disabled Drivers' Motor Club Ltd

The Disabled Drivers' Motor Club is a specialist voluntary organisation in the UK run by and for disabled people who have an interest in motoring and independent mobility.

Mobility Information Service

A resource for physically disabled people who drive or want to drive. It is mostly run by volunteers, the majority of whom are themselves disabled and who have a desire to help others overcome their own mobility problems.

Motability

Motability is a national UK charity, which helps disabled people and their families to become mobile.

National Association for Bikers with a Disability (NABD)

Provides help, in the form of grants, learner machines and obtaining discounted insurance for disabled people who wish to ride motorcycles.

National Rail

Assistance and special arrangements for disabled or mobility-impaired passengers.

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Mobility Centre

QEFMC provides an extensive training programme, helpline, assessments and tuition for disabled people who wish to learn to drive, or are uncertain about the type of car adaptations they may need.

Transport for London, Access and Mobility

Transport for London (TfL) is the integrated body responsible for the capital's transport system.

Tripscope

Travel advice and transport information for disabled people

Department for Transport (DfT)

The Department for Transport aims to improve transport and accessibility for disabled people. Click on Access for Disabled People in the DfT menu for further information.

Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC)

The DPTAC advise the UK Government on access for disabled people to transport. They also advise on the built environment.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)

Their primary aims are to facilitate road safety and general law enforcement by maintaining registers of drivers and vehicles, and to collect vehicle excise duty (car tax).

Driving Standards Agency (DSA)

They endeavour to influence drivers' behaviour for the better throughout their driving career and cut novice driver accidents by concentrating on the early years of driving in the run up to their driving test and the period immediately after.

MAVIS (Mobility Advice and Vehicle Information Service)

The Mobility Advice and Vehicle Information Service helps disabled and elderly motorists make informed decisions about their own mobility needs.

Transport for London - Access and Mobility

A focal point for the development of practical solutions to mobility problems, providing passenger information in a range of alternative media, such as large print and cassette tape and through the use of a Textphone.

Blind or visually impaired people

Organizations that offer advice and information for blind or visually impaired people

Action for Blind People

Action for Blind People provides practical employment development support for visually impaired people and their employers, and support for blind and partially sighted people wishing to move home.

British Blind Sport

British Blind Sport is a registered charity and the co-ordinating body of sport for the blind and partially sighted in the UK.

British Computer Association of the Blind

A self-help group of visually impaired computer professionals and users, founded in 1969, concerned with the use of Information Technology by the blind in education.

British Council for Prevention of Blindness

Helping to prevent blindness and restore sight in the UK and the developing world.

British Wireless for the Blind Fund

Established in 1929 to initially help ease the loneliness and isolation experienced by blind people.

Deafblind UK

They provide a range of support services to deafblind adults and their carers.

Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, The

GDBA provides guide dogs, mobility and other rehabilitation services that meet the needs of blind and partially sighted people.

International Glaucoma Association

Solely committed to preventing unnecessary loss of sight through the condition, which is one of the most common eye disorders amongst older people but can affect any age group.

National Blind Children's Society

Enabling blind and partially sighted children to achieve educational and recreational goals by providing large print books, specialised computers, recreational opportunities and educational advice and guidance.

National Federation of the Blind, The

An organisation of people who are blind or partially sighted that campaign for better service provision and an enhanced quality of life for all blind and partially sighted people.

National Library for the Blind

Providing a wide range of library and information services for visually impaired people including a number of cutting edge technology projects as well as traditional activities.

Opsis

The National Association for the Education, Training and Support of Blind and Partially Sighted People which is working to enhance the opportunities for people who are visually impaired.

Partially Sighted Society

Provide support and advice on special aids and training to allow those with major sight loss to make some use of their sight to help them r

Royal London Society for the Blind

A national, and international, provider of education, training and employment opportunities for people who are visually impaired.

Royal National College for the Blind

An educational facility dedicated to exploring every avenue to improve the lives of people who are blind or partially sighted.

RNIB (Royal National Institute of the Blind)

SeeAbility

Provides support services for visually impaired people with additional disabilities.

Sense (National Deafblind and Rubella Association)

Sense offers a wide rang of support and services across the UK to help sensory impaired people.

Talking Newspaper Association of the UK

Provides national and local newspapers and magazines on audio tape, computer disk, e-mail and CD-ROM for visually impaired and disabled people who find reading a strain.

Telephones for the Blind Fund

Provides full telephone installation costs and a large proportion of the line rental charge for people who are registered blind who live alone or cannot meet these costs.

Vitalise (formerly Winged Fellowship Trust)

Vitalise provides essential breaks for disabled and visually impaired people and their carers.

Communication (Speech)

Organizations that offer advice and information for people with communication difficulties

AFASIC (Unlocking Speech and Language)

AFASIC is the UK charity representing children and young adults with communication impairments, working for their inclusion in society and supporting their parents and carers.

British Stammering Association

The British Stammering Association is a national organisation for adults and children who stammer.

Communications Forum

The Communications Forum promotes initiatives to increase awareness of communication issues among the general public organisations concerned with health, education and employment.

I CAN

I CAN delivers a programme, integrated therapy and education for children with the most severe and complex needs, who require the most intensive and specialist support.

Makaton Vocabulary Development Project

Makaton is a language programme offering a structured, multi-modal approach for the teaching of communication, language and literacy skills for children and adults with a variety of communication and learning disabilities.

Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children

The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children is a national specialist centre funded by a charity called the Association for Research into Stammering in Childhood (ARSC) and the Camden & Islington Community Health Services NHS Trust.

National Autistic Society

The National Autistic Society's objective is to provide education, treatment, welfare and care to people with autism and related conditions.

Speakability (formerly Action for Dysphasic Adults)

Supports people living with aphasia and their carers through its information service, national network of groups and activities programme

Talking Point

Talking Point is a website about speech and language development in children and about the difficulties that children can experience with speech, language and communication.

Deaf or hearing impaired people

Organizations that offer advice and information for deaf or hearing impaired people

British Deaf Association

The BDA is a national organisation run by Deaf people, for Deaf people. They represent the Deaf community, a community united by shared experiences, history and, above all, by a common language: British Sign Language.

British Deaf Sports Council Ltd

The British Deaf Sports Council is aimed at anyone who is interested in keeping informed in what the latest events are in the Deaf sporting community in the UK.

CACDP (The Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People)

The Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People (CACDP) is a registered charity that is raising standards of communication between deaf and hearing people. The CACDP is the national exam board for BSL examinations.

Deafblind UK

Deafblind UK is a national charity which provides a range of support services to deafblind adults and their carers. It also campaigns on behalf of deafblind people.

Deaf Broadcasting Council

A consumer organisation representing deaf, deafened and hard of hearing television viewers, ensuring they get full access to television and video.

Deaf Club

The Deafclub is an independent search engine for organisations and charities who provide information and advice for deaf and hearing impaired people.

Deaf Education through Listening and Talking (DELTA)

DELTA, Deaf Education through Listening and Talking, is a voluntary association of young deaf adults, the families and teachers of deaf children and supports the Natural Aural Approach to the education of deaf children.

Defeating Deafness (The Hearing Research Trust)

Dedicated to helping hearing impaired people through medical research and education.

Hearing Concern

Dedicated to improving the quality of life of those who are hard of hearing. They provide advice, information and support, to promote communication access and raise public and professional awareness of issues associated with hearing loss.

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People trains dogs to alert severely and profoundly deaf people to sounds they cannot hear such as the alarm clock, a baby cry, smoke alarm and many others.

Link

Contact details for Link, which is the national charity for deafened men and women and their families. Link helps people who have grown up with normal or near-normal hearing and become severely or totally deaf in adult life

National Association of Deafened People

The NADP provides information and support for deafened people who have lost all or most of their useful hearing, and for their families and friends, to help enable them to regain their independence and enjoy the best quality of life.

National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)

NDCS can help with welfare rights and benefit claims, making education choices, advising on health and audiology and technology.

RNID (Royal National Institute for Deaf People)

RNID is a membership charity aiming for a radically better quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing people through campaigning, lobbying, services and social, medical and technical research.

Royal Association for Deaf People (RAD)

RAD strives to meet the individual needs of Deaf children, adults and deafblind people through the provision of services and the use of RAD Centres for Deaf People.

Sense - The National Deafblind & Rubella Association

Helping people who are deafblind, to provide a range of quality services across the UK including family support, children's services, residential and community services, continuing education and advocacy.

Sign

Provide supported living, advocacy, outreach and club house activities for any deaf person in need of emotional support. Also actively campaign to reduce the likelihood of deaf people developing preventable mental health problems.

Signstation

Signstation has been developed with the support of 'Sign Aware' - a partnership including the Centre for Deaf Studies. It aims to raise awareness about sign language and how it can be used in the workplace.

Contacts for people with learning difficulties

Organizations that offer advice and information to people with learning difficulties:

AFASIC (Unlocking Speech and Language)

AFASIC is the UK charity representing children and young adults with communication impairments, working for their inclusion in society and supporting their parents and carers.

ACE Centre (Aiding Communication in Education)

ACE Centre provide a variety of services including in-depth individual assessments, information, and specialist training for parents and professionals on the use of technology for young people with physical and communication difficulties.

British Dyslexia Association, The

The BDA aims to create a dyslexia friendly society that will enable all dyslexic people to reach their potential.

British Institute of Learning Difficulties

CARE

CARE is dedicated to supporting people with learning disabilities throughout their daily lives to achieve greater independence and a more fulfilled lifestyle.

Council for Disabled Children

NCB promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives; advocating the participation of children and young people in all matters affecting them.

Down's Syndrome Association

Helping people with Down's syndrome to live full and rewarding lives.

Family Fund

Family Fund champion an inclusive society where families with severely disabled or seriously ill children have choices and the opportunity to enjoy ordinary life.

Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities (FPLD)

FPLD uses research and projects to promote the rights of people with learning disabilities and their families.

KIDS

KIDS is a national charity dedicated to helping children and young people with disabilities and special needs develop their skills and abilities and to realise their potential.

Learning Disability Helpline - England

The Learning Disability Helpline offers advice on anything to do with learning disability - from benefits and housing rights to local services.

Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Leonard Cheshire works with thousands of disabled people, helping them to live independently, whether that means a few hours of care at home, or more intensive support at one of their residential and nursing homes.

Linkage Community Trust

Linkage provides education, care and employment services to enable people with learning difficulties and other disabilities to realise their full potential.

Mencap (now Royal Mencap Society)

Mencap provides a variety of services for people with a learning disability and their families and carers. This includes support with housing, education, employment and leisure activities.

National Children's Bureau (NCB)

NCB promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Paget Gorman Society

The Paget Gorman Society is a charitable trust dedicated to helping children with specific speech and language disorders.

Skill (National Bureau for Students with Disabilities)

Skill is a national charity promoting opportunities for young people and adults with any kind of disability in post-16 education, training and employment across the UK.

Mental health contacts

Below is a range of organisations that offer advice and information on mental health

Alzheimer's Society

The Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading care and research charity for people with dementia, their families and carers.

Depression Alliance

Providing relief and prevention for this treatable condition by providing information, support and understanding to those who are affected by it.

Manic Depression Fellowship (MDF)

MDF aims to enable people affected by manic depression (bi-polar) to take control of their lives through (amongst other things), self help groups, information and publications.

Mental After Care Association, The (MACA)

MACA provides caring in the community for people with mental health problems.

Mental Health Foundation, The

Aims to improve the lives of everyone with mental health problems or learning disabilities.

Mentality

Mentality is a national charity dedicated solely to the promotion of mental health. Mentality works with the public and private sector and voluntary agencies to promote the mental health of individuals, families, organisations and communities.

MIND

MIND offers supported housing, crisis helplines, drop-in centres, counselling, befriending, advocacy, employment and training schemes, and other services.

Rethink

Rethink are dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by severe mental illness.

Richmond Fellowship

The Richmond Fellowship (RF) helps thousands of people to gain a new sense of purpose and fulfilment in lives that have often been devastated by mental health problems, sometimes associated with sexual abuse or drug and alcohol misuse.

SANE

Raising awareness about, and respect for, people with mental illness and their families, to improve education and training, and secure better services and to fund research.

Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain, The

They offer help to everyone who needs information and support, as a sufferer, a relative, friend of a sufferer, carer or medical worker.

Sign - The National Society for Mental Health

Sign provides supported living, advocacy, outreach and club house activities for any deaf person in need of emotional support.

United Response (UR)

United Response (UR) supports people with learning difficulties and mental health problems to have the things they want and need in their lives.

Physically disabled people

Organizations that offer advice and information for physically disabled people

Arthritis Care

A voluntary organisation working with and for all people with arthritis. It aims to promote their health, well-being and independence through services, support, self-help, information and influence.

Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH)

ASBAH works with people with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus (SB/H), their families and carers to promote individual choice, control and quality of life.

Association of Wheelchair Children

Promoting independence through wheelchair skills training. The Association of Wheelchair Children specialises in the free training of children wheelchair-users.

Dog AID

Providing access to dog training for people with physical disabilities, enabling them to train their pets in general obedience and in specialised tasks which will help them better manage their disability in everyday life.

Limbless Association

The Limbless Association work with and enable individuals with acquired and congenital limb absence and their carers to achieve and sustain their independence in home, hospital, education employment and the community.

Motability

Motability is a national UK charity, which helps disabled people and their families to become mobile.

Motor Neurone Disease Association

The MND Association loans equipment and provides direct care and support for people with Motor Neurone Disease and their carers.

Multiple Sclerosis Society

The Society funds MS research, runs respite care centres, provides grants, education and training on MS. It produces numerous publications on MS and runs a freephone specialist helpline.

Muscular Dystrophy Campaign

Muscular Dystrophy Campaign provides practical, medical and emotional support to people affected by the condition.

Neurological Alliance

The Neurological Alliance unites charities working to improve the quality of life of all those in the UK living with a neurological condition.

SCOPE

For people with cerebral palsy, their families and carers.

Spinal Injuries Association (SIA)

Support for people affected by spinal cord injury, including the family and friends of the disabled person.

steps - Association for People with Lower Limb Abnormalities

steps aims to help families of children with lower limb abnormalities, providing support for families and vital services such as a helpline, annual events, publications and much much more.

Stroke Association

The Stroke Association provides support for people who have had strokes, their families and carers.

Tripscope

Tripscope provides information about any aspect of travel for people with impaired mobility.

Vitalise (formerly Winged Fellowship Trust)

Vitalise (formerly Winged Fellowship Trust) provides essential breaks for disabled and visually impaired people and their carers.

Whizz-Kidz

Whizz-Kidz aims to help as many disabled children in the UK as possible have mobility equipment.

Money contacts

Government organizations that offer advice and information on money related areas

Benefits Enquiry Line

Advice and information for disabled people and carers on the full range of benefits available and how to claim them. The line also offers help with claim form completion for certain benefits.

Disability Benefits Helpline - for Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance

You can get advice on Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance and may have access to your records once the claim is in process.

Carer's Allowance - enquiries

Information regarding Carer's Allowance, the main state benefit for carers, including eligibility and how to make a claim.

Department for Work and Pensions

The Department for Work and Pensions delivers support and advice through a modern network of services to people of working age, employers, pensioners, families, children and disabled people.

Help with health costs advice line

The advice line provides advice to NHS patients about entitlements to prescription charge exemptions and the evidence needed when asking pharmacies and dispensing chemists for free prescriptions.

HM Revenue & Customs - enquiry centre

Listings of dedicated helplines ranging from anti-fraud and Child Tax Credit to National Insurance and Inheritance Tax, enabling you to contact the most appropriate HMRC department for your particular enquiry.

Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) order line

This order line enables the public to buy a PPC by phone using a credit or debit card and provides general advice regarding prescriptions. Calls are charged at local rate.

INSTITUTIONS, ASSOCIATIONS / FOUNDATIONS THAT OFFER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS

Learning – Education & Training

Organizations and charities that offer advice and information on learning-related areas

AbilityNet

AbilityNet aims to help everyone to gain access to IT, particularly those with disabilities.

ACE (Aiding Communication in Education)

To provide a variety of services including in-depth individual assessments, information, and specialist training for parents and professionals on the use of technology for young people with physical and communication difficulties.

After 16

Choices and challenges for young disabled people.

Association of National Specialist Colleges, The (NATSPEC)

NATSPEC provides a list of colleges which are run by charities, specialising in providing post-16 education for students with special needs.

British Dyslexia Association, The

The BDA aims to create a dyslexia friendly society that enables dyslexic people to reach their potential.

British Institute for Brain Injured Children (BIBIC)

The BIBIC exists to maximise the potential of children with learning difficulties affecting their sensory, communication, social, motor and learning abilities.

Council for Disabled Children

NCB promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Deaf Education through Listening and Talking (DELTA)

A voluntary association of young deaf adults, the families and teachers of deaf children.

Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities (FPLD)

FPLD uses research and projects to promote the rights of people with learning disabilities and their families.

Down's Syndrome Association

Helping people with Down's syndrome to live full and rewarding lives.

I CAN

I CAN helps children with speech and language difficulties across the UK.

KIDS

A national charity dedicated to helping children and young people with disabilities and special needs develop their skills and abilities and to realise their potential.

MacIntyre Care

MacIntyre Care provides a wide range of services including registered care homes, supported living schemes, accredited training schemes and day services, as well as two residential schools.

Mencap (now Royal Mencap Society)

Mencap provides a variety of services for people with a learning disability and their families and carers.

National Children's Bureau (NCB)

Network 81

Network 81 is a registered charity and umbrella organisation of parent support groups.

Paget Gorman Society

The Paget Gorman Society is a charitable trust dedicated to helping children with specific speech and language disorders.

Rathbone Training

Rathbone Training educate, train and rehabilitate young people and adults who through financial or learning difficulties are unable to gain employment or who wish to further their education.

Skill (National Bureau for Students with Disabilities)

Skill is a national charity promoting opportunities for young people and adults with any kind of disability in post-16 education, training and employment across the UK.

Connexions Direct

Connexions is the government's support service for all young people aged 13 to 19 in England. The service aims to provide integrated advice, guidance and access to personal development opportunities.

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for funding and planning education and training for over 16-year-olds in England.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

SEN helps to answer common questions and provides useful information for parents and carers of children with special education needs. There is also an area where you can order SEN publications online.

youngGov

youngGov is Directgov's section for 11 to 16 year olds. It is written by young people and focuses on issues relevant to younger people. There's information on the environment, careers, sports and healthy living.

Accessing culture and the arts

Organizations, charities and support groups that offer advice and information on accessing culture and the arts

24 Hour Museum

The 24 Hour Museum is a UK-wide 'virtual museum' offering news about the arts, museums plus exhibition reviews.

Access Project - London

Access Project produces a guide detailing accessible venues and buildings in various places including London and Paris.

Arts Council

Arts Council England is the national development agency for the arts in England, distributing public money from Government and the National Lottery.

Arts Through Touch

Art Through Touch is a London-based art organisation which aims to promote and provide access to art for visually impaired people.

Attitude is Everything

Attitude is Everything improves disabled people's access to live music. It aims to implement a 'Charter of Best Practice' in music venues, clubs and festivals across the UK.

The Dog Rose Trust

A charity which works to make environments accessible to people with visual and other sensory impairments. They develop communications technologies plus interactive audio and tactile guides for places of interest.

Good Gallery Guide

The Good Gallery Guide aims to make visiting galleries easier for everyone. They work with galleries to improve their access by providing help and advice and feedback from disabled visitors.

Mad for Arts

MadforArts is a project which aims to encourage people with mental health issues to talk about art that inspires them. This ranges from exhibitions, sculpture, painting and photography to film, music, theatre, poetry and architecture.

MAGDA (The Museums & Galleries Disability Association)

MAGDA aims to improve access to UK museums and galleries for people with disabilities. It encourages galleries, museums and heritage sites to achieve access for all and promotes good practice in accessibility for disabled people.

MAGIC

Based in London, MAGIC provides events and facilities for deaf and hard of hearing visitors in museums and galleries. Their website has a calendar of events.

National Disability Arts Forum (NDAF)

NDAF aims to make the arts more accessible to disabled people by promoting examples of good practice that encourages the participation of disabled people in the arts.

Signed Performances in Theatre

SPIT is a national body for promoting British Sign Language-interpreted performances of mainstream theatre.

Stagetext

Stagetext provides captioning for theatres and other venues to provide access to live performances for people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

VocalEyes

VocalEyes is a nationwide audio description service for people with a visual impairment. They describe musicals, opera, drama, pantomimes and dance - plus some art exhibitions.

Cinema

Organizations, charities and support groups that offer advice and information on the cinema

British Film Institute - library

The British Film Institute aims to help all users of the film-related library make full use of their services and facilities. They offer help to users who may have a disability or a specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia.

UK Film Council

Cinema access technologies for people with sensory impairments.

Your local cinema

Access to subtitled and audio described cinema screenings across the UK.

Getting involved in the arts

Organizations that offer advice and information on getting involved in the arts

Chicken Shed, The

Chicken Shed fosters an environment in which individuals from all backgrounds of all abilities can work together to the common end of high quality performance in drama, music and dance.

Deaf Works

Deaf Works aim to deliver courses, projects, advice and workshops in areas such as deaf awareness, deaf-hearing integration, communication skills and British Sign Language.

Disability Film Festival

The festival is a showcase of the talent of disabled filmmakers. Widely diverse in style and content, the programme have in common the clear creative ownership of disabled people.

Mind the Gap

Mind the Gap is a theatre company that works mainly with people with learning disabilities who have little or no access to mainstream arts activities.

Network, The

The Network is a group of arts organisations which work with people with learning disabilities on events including performances, exhibitions, workshops and film screenings.

Orpheus

Orpheus is an inclusive performing arts centre for young disabled adults with a physical impairment providing opportunities for personal development through the performing arts and other learning experiences.

Sports and recreation contacts

Organizations, charities and support groups that offer advice and information on sports and recreation-related areas

British Blind Sport

The British Blind Sport believe in the many benefits that sport can offer visually impaired people, including improved health and mobility, broadening horizons, making new friends, and becoming more independent.

British Deaf Sports Council

The British Deaf Sports Council is aimed at anyone who is interested in keeping informed in what the latest events are in the Deaf sporting community in the UK.

The British Disabled Angling Association

The BDAA helps to develop fishing opportunities for disabled people.

British Disabled Water Ski Association

Aims to introduce newcomers to the sport who, due to their disability would not have considered the challenge previously possible.

British Paralympic Association

The British Paralympic Association aims to be recognised domestically and internationally as a world leader in the development of high performance Paralympic sport both on and off the field of play.

British Ski Club for the Disabled

The British Wheelchair Sports Foundation

The Foundation exists to provide, promote and develop opportunities for men, women and children with disabilities to participate in recreational and competitive wheelchair sport.

Cerebral Palsy Sport

Cerebral Palsy Sport aims to provide opportunities for all people with cerebral palsy to take part in sporting activities at local, national and international level.

Companion Cycling Scheme

Companion Cycling enables people with special needs, regardless of their age or ability, to cycle on specially adapted cycles.

The Cricket Foundation

Dedicated to stimulating the enjoyment of cricket for young people in urban & rural communities throughout England & Wales.

Disability Sport England

Disability Sport England creates opportunities for participation in sport for people with all disabilities.

Disability View

Information on useful information on disability in the UK today.

English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS)

The EFDS is responsible for developing sport for disabled people in England, working closely with the seven National Disability Sports Organisations recognised by Sport England.

English Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (ESAPLD)

Working with Special Olympics and Mencap, they help young people with learning disability fulfil their sporting dreams.

Jubilee Sailing Trust

The aim of the Jubilee Sailing Trust is to promote the integration of able-bodied and physically disabled people through tall ship sailing adventure holidays and associated activities.

The National Federation of Anglers

The National Federation of Anglers aims to build a resource for all anglers with disabilities or those with disabilities who are wanting to fish.

Riding For The Disabled Association

RDA aim is to provide disabled people with the opportunity to ride and/or to carriage-drive to benefit their health and well-being.

Sportability

The charity offers a whole range of sports and challenging pursuits for the disabled, including scuba diving, jet-skiing, gliding and all-terrain quad biking.

Leisure and Recreation

Organizations and charities that offer advice and information on television, reading and leisure at home

Listening Books

Listening Books provides a postal audiobook library service to anyone with an illness or disability that makes it impossible or difficult to hold a book, turn pages, or read in the usual way.

See Hear (BBC)

Listings of programmes shown on the BBC that have subtitles, plus reviews and online discussions about programmes.

Sign Post

SignPost is a supplier of British Sign Language (BSL) services for television, video, CD-ROM, DVD, film and the Internet.

Talking Books

An audio bookstore based in London dealing solely with audio reading formats.

Talking Newspapers (TNAUK)

TNAUK provide national and local newspapers and magazines on audio tape, CD, email, Internet download and CD-ROM for visually impaired and disabled people.

DCMS (Department for Culture, Media and Sport)

DCMS aims to improve the quality of life for all through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

Disability Arts Online (DAO)

The DAO website includes features reflecting on and celebrating how the artform has developed, news updates covering opportunities for training, funding and showing work, and listings of current events.

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)

MLA is the national development agency working for and on behalf of museums, libraries and archives and advising government on policy and priorities for the sector.

Ofcom (Office of Communications)

Ofcom is the regulator for the UK communications industries, with responsibilities across television, radio, telecommunications and wireless communications services.

Travel, holidays and breaks

Organizations and charities that offer advice and information on travel and transport.

Airports in the UK

Information about airport facilities, transfers, parking, assistance with checking in and accessible toilets.

- Airport - Southampton
- Airport - Manchester
- Airport - London Stansted
- Airport - London Heathrow
- Airport - London Gatwick
- Airport - London Luton
- Airport - Glasgow
- Airport - Edinburgh

3H Fund

3H Fund organises subsidised group holidays for physically disabled children and adults with the support of volunteer helpers so that in parallel the family carers can have a separate and much needed period of respite.

BREAK

Provides special care services for children, adults and families with special needs - including holidays and respite care, children's homes, adult day care and residential assessments for families in crisis.

Caravanning for the Disabled

Provides caravan-based holidays for disabled people and their family and friends.

Disaway Trust

Organises group holidays with physically disabled people, putting holiday packages together including visiting the actual venues to ensure suitability and accessibility throughout the holiday.

Enable Holidays

Provide exciting package holidays for disabled people, their families and friends.

Family Holiday Association (FHA)

The FHA specialises in providing holidays for families and children in need.

Grooms Holidays

Works with disabled people, enabling them to have greater independence, choice and freedom.

Handicapped Aid Trust

The (HAT) aims to make holidays possible for disabled people with the assistance of a helper through grants and donations.

Holidays For All

Represents a group of disability charities and organisations, all promoting quality, accessible breaks with improved choice and flexibility for holidaymakers. The site is translated into several Asian languages including Hindi, Urdu and Cantonese.

Phab Ltd (Physically Disabled and Able Bodied)

Dedicated to promoting and encouraging the coming together, on equal terms, of disabled and non-disabled people to achieve an integrated and inclusive society.

Tourism for All UK

Provides information to people with disabilities and older people in relation to accessible accommodation and other tourism services and needs.

Vitalise (formerly Winged Fellowship Trust)

Provides essential breaks for disabled and visually impaired people and their carers.

RADAR National Key Scheme (NKS)

The NKS provides special keys for registered disabled people to unlock and use public disabled toilets around the UK. Keys can be purchased from RADAR.

National Rail

Assistance and special arrangements for disabled or mobility-impaired passengers.

Transport for London, Access and Mobility

Transport for London (TFL) is the integrated body responsible for the capital's transport system.

Tripscope

Travel advice & transport information for people who are disabled or have difficulty getting around

Institutions, associations / foundations that provide career guidance for disabled people

Employment contacts

Organizations, charities and support groups that offer advice and information on employment-related areas

Association of Disabled Professionals

Aims to improve the education rehabilitation, training and employment opportunities available to disabled people, and to help them participate fully in the everyday life of society.

Community Service Volunteers (CSV)

CSV works to reconnect people to their community through volunteering and training and so to enrich people's lives.

Dial UK

Provides a disability information and advice line on subjects like benefits, community care, equipment, independent living, holidays and discrimination.

Employers' Forum on Disability

The Employers' Forum on Disability is the employers' organisation focused on the issue of disability in the workplace.

Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Employment Opportunities is a national charity helping people with disabilities find and retain work. The charity also provides a wide range of support and advice to employers on disability and employment issues.

The Prince's Trust

Helping 14-30 year olds through training, mentoring and by providing financial assistance.

Rathbone Training

Rathbone Training educate, train and rehabilitate young people and adults who through financial or learning difficulties are unable to gain employment or who wish to further their education.

REMPLOY

REMPLOY is the UK's leading supplier of employment opportunities for disabled people, providing jobs and training.

Shaw Trust

Shaw Trust is a national charity that provides training and work opportunities for people who are disadvantaged in the workplace due to disability, ill health or other social circumstances.