

# Parent Carers

### Cheshire's Disabled Children's Database

The needs of disabled children, young people and their families are unique. They are often complex and change over time. In order to provide the best and most useful services for them we need to know about their health, welfare and educational needs. In Cheshire, the Disabled Children's Database has proved a great success with families and professionals alike, providing information to empower families and enable managers to plan and monitor their services.

Run by Cheshire Carers Centre, the Database has two key aims:

- To provide a central point of contact where children with disabilities and their families can get relevant and up to date information, advice and support about the services that are available to them.
- To help the people that provide those services to listen and understand what families needs are and how they can meet those needs.

Why should I put my child's name on the database?

- You will receive a dedicated, regular newsletter giving information about local and national services, funding opportunities, leisure activities, topical issues and so on.
- You will receive invitations to special events such as pampering days, family fun days and information awareness events
- You will be given opportunities to keep in touch with other Parent Carers, support groups or appropriate organisations
- You will be kept informed via targeted mailings on items of particular interest such as changes in services or new services
- You will be helping to shape local services to better meet the needs of disabled children.

The Database is a statutory requirement. However, it is voluntary for your details to be on the database and does not affect any entitlement to services. It holds confidential information on children with any disability or life altering health condition, aged 0 to 19 years. This information is confidential to the few members of staff that work on the project. Statistical information is provided to relevant organisations in an aggregated form, which cannot identify individuals. The project is funded by Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Councils, Children's Services.

**The statistics from the Database are helping service providers to:**

- identify gaps in services
- identify duplications in services
- plan for future needs
- co-ordinate services

If your child is aged 0 - 19 years, has a disability or long-term chronic illness and you would like to join the Database then please contact the Database Co-ordinator by telephone, or e-mail at:

Disabled Children's Database Co-ordinator  
Freepost RRZB-SLHX-KETB  
Cheshire Carers Centre  
Unit 14 Brierley Business Centre  
Mirion Street  
Crewe  
CW1 2AZ

Telephone: 01270 215440

There are many organisations in Cheshire who may be able to provide information and advice to support to Parent Carers. Some of these are listed in Factsheet 14 Contacts for Carers. Please also contact the Disabled Children's Database Co-ordinator.