



# Northamptonshire Local Offer

## Quick Guide:

## Social Care Support for Disabled Children and Young People

Publicly-funded support services can seem complicated, mainly because different bodies handle the two systems. Healthcare is delivered by the National Health Service (NHS) and centrally-organised by the Government. By contrast, social care is organised by local authorities.

'Social care' is different to the NHS. It's a wide-ranging term that covers various agencies and activities - from child protection and youth work right through to residential and end-of-life care. This broad range of services provides a safety net to those most at risk, such as individuals with mental health problems, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, or vulnerable adults and children.

Local councils are responsible for publicly-funded social care. This means that Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) provides information and advice, assesses care needs, arranges short-term support, and safeguards vulnerable individuals. They also commission a broad range of care services.

When it comes to children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), some families will need social care support from Northamptonshire County Council.

This guide provides a brief overview of the social care support available for children and young people with SEND in Northamptonshire. Please refer to NCC's [dedicated webpages](#) and the [Thresholds Guidance](#) (PDF 886KB) for detailed information and referral mechanisms.

Please note that all safeguarding concerns should be reported to the [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\)](#), regardless of whether the child (or young person) has SEND.

### Social Care Support That Does Not Require a Formal Assessment

- **The Special Needs Index (SNIX)**

Northamptonshire County Council keeps a Disabled Children's Register, which is known locally as 'SNIX.' This is a database of children and young people (aged 0-25 years) who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and live in Northamptonshire. The database helps NCC to plan services.

Please note that the SNIX database only includes information that parents or carers have supplied voluntarily. NCC doesn't include children on the database without parental consent.



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Families who register their child will receive termly newsletters containing information about SEND services, resources, training, early years, groups, clubs, and activities.

SNIX is open to any family who believes their child might have SEND. It does not require a diagnosis.

- [Register for SNIX](#)

- **Northamptonshire Carers (Including Young Carers)**

[Northamptonshire Carers](#) is a registered charity based in Wellingborough. They offer support and advice for parents and carers of children or young people with SEND. They also provide a [support network for young people](#) who may be providing a caring role, either for a sibling or parent. Self-referrals can be made by phoning 01933 677907.

- **Non-Residential Short Breaks**

A variety of short breaks (social groups and sports clubs) can be accessed locally. These range from universal groups (like the [Brownies](#)), to more targeted groups (like NMPAT's monthly [Relaxed Singalong](#)). There are also numerous groups run by volunteers and charities, some of which are commissioned by NCC. Their details can be found on the [Local Offer website](#).

Please note that under the Equality Act 2010, service-providers are required to make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

Parents and carers can apply for Personal Independent Payments (PIP) for young people (aged 18+) or the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for Children. These can be used to help fund short breaks.

- **The Early Help for Disabled Children Team**

The Early Help for Disabled Children's Team is part of NCC's SEND Support Service (SSS). They work with families of children or young people (aged 0 –25 years), who usually need support from two or more agencies.

The team supports the whole family to access information and services that might be relevant to the needs of the child or young person. They will complete an Early Help Assessment (EHA) if appropriate.

Parents or carers can self-refer to the SEND Support Service (SSS) without a formal diagnosis, as long as they can meet the eligibility criteria. Visit the [SSS webpage](#) for more information and to make a referral.



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## Social Care Support That Does Require a Formal Assessment

The support services listed below for disabled children and young people are only available through a social care referral. A successful referral does not necessarily mean that a child or young person will receive one of these services. However, they will receive an appropriate service provision that best meets their needs.

Specialist services (known as Tier Four) are available to individuals who have additional needs beyond Targeted services. Specialist services include:

- Home support
- Domiciliary care
- Direct payments
- Overnights
- Residential short breaks (respite care)
- Sessional support

Specialist services are listed on the [Local Offer website](#). In most cases, the child or young person will need an assessment by the Disabled Children's Team to access the support.

### • **The Disabled Children's Team**

The Disabled Children's Team (DCT) is a statutory service that focuses on the most vulnerable disabled children and young people in Northamptonshire.

The DCT ensures that children and young people with substantial and long-term disabilities and complex health needs are given every opportunity to meet their full potential. The team promote their quality-of-life and safeguard them from harm.

The DCT adheres to the [social model of disability](#). They seek to remove the barriers faced by disabled children and young people, thus enabling them to access opportunities and reach their full potential.

Referrals to the DCT are made through the [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\)](#) and will be for a Child in Need (CIN), as per the [Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970](#).

### • **Residential Short Breaks**

The NHS provides residential short breaks (sometimes referred to as 'respite') for 0-18s with a diagnosis of autism, complex health needs, and complex behaviour.

The [John Greenwood Shipman Centre](#) (Northampton) and [The Squirrels](#) (Rushden) provide structured environments and nursing care.

Referrals should be made through the [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\)](#).



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- **18 to 25 Disabilities Team**

The transition from children's to adult services should take place at a time that is appropriate for the individual. This is particularly important where young people's assessed needs do not meet the eligibility criteria for adult services. Transition to adult services for those with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans should begin at an appropriate Annual Review. In many cases, the transition between services should be a staged process over several months or years.

If a young person (aged 18+) continues to have an EHC Plan under the [Children and Families Act 2014](#), and they move into adult social care, the 'care' element of the EHC Plan will be provided under the [Care Act 2014](#). Their statutory Care and Support Plan must form the basis of the 'care' element of the EHC Plan.

Children's social care services must continue to be provided until adult social care services begin. However, a Transition assessment might show that a young person's needs do not meet the eligibility criteria for adult social care services.

Please note that under the [Care Act 2014](#), all young people going through the transition process are entitled to independent advocacy.

- **Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service (NYOS)**

[Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service \(NYOS\)](#) is a multi-agency partnership between Northamptonshire County Council, the Police, the Probation Service, the NHS, and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). Its principal aim is to reduce offending and re-offending by children and young people.

## **How to Request Social Care Support for Disabled Children and Young People**

Any referrals for social care support for children or young people need to be made through Northamptonshire's [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\)](#).



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