

There are always plenty of opportunities for the child and his/her family to get to know the carer family, and for everyone to build their confidence in each other.

Further information

Your child's social worker will be able to give you more details about how Family Network helps children and families. However, if you do not already have contact with a social worker and feel you may qualify for a social work assessment, contact the Children in Need Duty Team on 01942 828300.

This leaflet can be made available in other languages, on audio tape, CD, large print or other formats on request. Contact us at Wigan Council, Department of Adult Services, Public Relations Unit, Town Hall, Library Street, Wigan, WN1 1YN. Phone: 01942 827173. Email: ssdcru@wigan.gov.uk

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Family Network

A support service for children and young people with severe learning disabilities



Children and Young People's Services

Family Network

Family Network is a support service for disabled children of all ages and their families. All the children who use the service have a severe learning disability, and in addition may also have a physical disability, complex health care needs or a sensory impairment.



Here's how it works...

Family Network will be offered following an assessment of the child's needs. Great care will be taken to ensure that the right type and level of service is offered and this will be regularly reviewed.

The child would be linked to a carer family who is able to meet the child's needs in the best possible way. The service can offer:

- **Short term breaks**
This is planned support with a carer family. The amount of time the disabled child spends with their carer family varies, but examples would be one weekend each month, or an overnight stay once a fortnight after school.
- **Day Care**
This could be a regular tea time visit or may be an afternoon or full day with a carer family.
- **Sitting Service**
Carers support the disabled child in the child's home whilst parents or other family members have some time for themselves, perhaps to go shopping or take part in a social activity.

About the carers...

Carers are ordinary people, of all ages and from differing backgrounds. They may be working, retired or unemployed, couples or single people, have children or not. What they have in common is to enjoy the company of children and are able to give some time on a regular basis to look after a disabled child, and so give their family a break from caring.

Carers are very carefully assessed, trained and approved, and they receive ongoing support and an allowance to cover their expenses.