



Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service

Direct Payments to Parents and Carers for Childcare when you are at work.

The service is able to provide parents and carers the option of receiving a Direct Payment if they would prefer to employ a Personal Assistant to meet their childcare needs, however please note that there is no Legal requirement for SNIPS to provide this Direct Payment.

Direct Payments for Childcare are mainly an option for secondary aged children as there are fewer services available for them. This support is only available to children and young people up to their 18th birthday.

To be eligible for a direct Payment for Childcare the following requirements will need to be satisfied:

1. Parents and carers must have parental responsibility for the disabled child or young person
2. Where there are two parents or carers in the household both must be in paid employment or undertaking relevant training. We will not pay for support for individuals working over 37 hours per week.
3. Parents and carers must be willing and able to undertake the financial responsibility of managing a direct payment and of recruiting and employing staff.
A support service is available free of charge via SNIPS who can provide information, support and advice.
4. Parents and carers must contribute at least £3.31 per hour to the PA's hourly rate.

Direct Payment hours are paid for the actual hours that you are in work and reasonable travelling time. This can include evenings and weekends.

Personal Assistants could look after the child or young person in their own home or support the children to access universal recreation and leisure services.

To apply for this service families are asked to complete an application form which can be accessed by emailing or contacting the details below. Please note that the Direct Payments for childcare are reviewed every 6 months and are subject to approval. Parents must ensure that they inform us if their circumstances change.

For further information in relation to childcare support please telephone Rebecca Critchley or Laura Barnes on 0114 2735368 or by email at cydpsnips@sheffield.gov.uk