



# Tell us about your support needs!

## Who should complete this questionnaire?

This questionnaire is aimed at **parent carers**. A parent carer is anyone with parental responsibility for a child or teenager (0-19) who has a disability. By disability we mean a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term negative effect on the person's ability to do normal daily activities. This can include "hidden" disabilities such as mental health issues, ADHD, dyslexia, asthma, diabetes, etc.

## What is this questionnaire about?

Sheffield City Council has asked the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum to help them identify the support needs of parent carers in Sheffield. This questionnaire is part of a wider needs analysis, which will also consider data on service use and feedback from workshops (see below).

The Council wants to find out:

- what sort of information, advice and support parent carers need the most
- whether they are currently getting this, and where from
- whether there are any gaps in service, and if so, what is the best way to fill them
- whether there is any overlap or duplication of services

## What's the deadline?

Please make sure your response reaches us by **Friday 10 May 2013**.

## How will responses be used?

The responses will help the Council decide whether current information, advice and support services for parent carers are meeting local need, or whether different or additional services are required.

## Could I talk to you instead of filling in a questionnaire?

Absolutely – we've arranged a series of workshops where we will discuss the areas covered by the questionnaire in more detail:

22 April, 7-9pm, at the Quaker Meeting House, 10 St James Street  
24 April, 12-2pm, at the Quaker Meeting House (lunch provided)  
26 April, 10am-12pm, at St Mary's Community Centre, Bramall Lane

To book your place, please call the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum on 0300 321 4721, or email [enquiries@sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk). Each participant will receive a £15 shopping voucher as a thank you (limited to one voucher per family, 10 participants per meeting).

## Is there an online version of this questionnaire?

Yes, go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/ParentsAsCarers](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ParentsAsCarers).

## How will you let parents know about the outcomes?

We will publish the questionnaire results and workshop notes on our website [www.sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk) in May 2013. Please let us know if you'd like us to send you a report by email or post.

If the needs analysis shows that different or additional services are required, the Council will put together a range of service models and ask for parents' views on these.

## About you and your child

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Please give us some basic information about yourself and your child. This will tell us whether our sample is representative of the wider parent carer population. We will try to encourage more responses from any groups that are underrepresented.

If you have more than one disabled child, please choose one of your children as an example.

### 1. How old is your disabled child?

- 0-3 years     3-5 years     5-8 years     8-11 years     11-14 years     14-19 years

### 2. How would you describe your child's main disability?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autistic Spectrum Disorder                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Learning Difficulty                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioural Emotional or Social Difficulties | <input type="checkbox"/> Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impairment                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech, Language and Communication Needs  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disability                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Sensory Impairment                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Needs or Long-term Illness        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Learning Difficulty                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Difficulties                |

**Other / additional needs (please give a short description):**

### 3. Please state your ethnic group:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British               | <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any other white background  | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traveller of Irish heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy                       | <input type="checkbox"/> African                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White and black Caribbean   | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other black background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White and black African     | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian             | <input type="checkbox"/> Yemeni                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any other mixed background  | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say          |

**4. Please state the first part of your postcode (e.g. S35):**

## About the support you need

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5. Have you ever sought information, advice or support in relation to caring for your disabled child, but couldn't find a service that offered what you were looking for?

- Yes
- No

If you answered "Yes", could you tell us what you needed help with?

6. Please tell us which people or organisations you have asked for information, advice or support in relation to your disabled child. Please tick all that apply.

- Social worker
- Health professional
- School staff
- Local parent support group
- Sheffield Parent Partnership Service
- Sheffield Parents as Carers Advice Service
- Sheffield Parent Carer Forum
- Sheffield Carers Centre
- SIGN
- National charity (e.g. Contact Family, IPSEA)
- Citizen's Advice Bureau

Other/comments:

**7. Please tell us IN WHICH AREAS you currently need, or have needed, information, advice and support in relation to your disabled child. This includes help understanding the "system" and the options available, and help accessing the services listed.**

**Please tick all that apply.**

- Legal advice (e.g. advice on your child's rights, tribunal appeals)
- Financial advice (e.g. debt advice)
- Employment advice (e.g. carers' rights in the workplace)
- Benefit applications, renewals and appeals (e.g. DLA/PIP, Carers Allowance, Blue Badge)
- Child health services (e.g. CAMHS, Ryegate, Speech and Language Therapy)
- Social Care services (e.g. Social Worker Assessments, Direct Payments, Respite)
- Support at school or college for my disabled child
- Support with managing my child's behaviour
- Transition to adult services
- Home-to-school transport
- Lifting and handling
- Home adaptations
- Equipment (e.g. mobility aids, communication aids, beds, harnesses, etc.)
- Childcare for my disabled child
- Leisure services for my disabled child
- Support for the brothers and sisters of my disabled child
- Information about specific disabilities

**Other/comments:**

**8. We want to know HOW parent carers would prefer to receive information, advice and support. Please tell us how important you think it is that a service for parent carers provides the activities listed below:**

	Very important	Quite important	Slightly important	Not at all important
Face-to-face appointments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home visits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Telephone helpline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SMS text messaging service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Printed information (e.g. leaflets)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on a website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support to prepare for assessments and meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support at assessments and meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support to understand forms, letters and reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support to complete forms and write letters and reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support to lodge appeals and prepare for hearings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advocacy (someone speaking or writing on my behalf in relation to a specific issue)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drop-in sessions/coffee mornings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emotional support to help me in my caring role	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and wellbeing activities for parent carers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training for parent carers (e.g. assertiveness training, understanding benefit reform)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Other/comments:**

**9. How important is it for you to be able to get all your information, advice and support in relation to caring for your disabled child from a single source?**

- Very important     
  Quite important     
  Slightly important     
  Not at all important

**10. We want to know what other challenges parents of disabled children face, which might make it more difficult for them to access a support service. Please tick all that apply:**

- I have more than one disabled child
- I also care for an adult (e.g. disabled partner, elderly parent, adult son/daughter with a disability)
- I have a disability or long-term illness myself
- My English is not very good
- I have difficulty accessing the internet
- I have difficulty accessing a telephone
- I have difficulty accessing transport

**Other/comments:**

**11. Have we missed anything? Please use this text box for any additional comments about the provision of information, advice and support for parents of disabled children:**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire!**

Please post it back to our freepost address (no stamp needed):

**Freepost RTBJ-SHTR-RRGJ  
Sheffield Parent Carer Forum  
St. Mary's Church Community Centre  
Bramall Lane  
SHEFFIELD  
S2 4QZ**