

BOWER GROVE PARENT SUPPORT



ASSESSMENT OF CARE NEEDS

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES DUTY TEAM

The Central Duty Team is the main access point for people wanting to contact Social Services concerning themselves or others. If you are currently involved with Social Services, you can contact the person you are involved with directly, but if you want to make a new contact or new referral, you will need to contact the **Central Duty Team: 03000 41 11 11 for children and young people under 18 years.**

For people over 18 years phone: 03000 41 61 61. Families may want to make contact for support when under stress or when children are seriously ill or disabled'

For information follow the Kent County Council website Link below:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support/how-to-get-help>

You can also talk face to face with Social Services by visiting one of the Gateways. Maidstone Gateway is in King Street Maidstone.

Disabled Children's Services – Specialist Services Assessment of Care Needs

There is a specialist service of social workers, occupational therapists and sensory impairment services who work with children aged 0 – 18 years with severe and profound learning, physical and sensory disabilities or a combination of disabilities.

Services that may be available following assessment by Specialist Disabled Children's Service:

- **Children's direct payments** to enable parents / carers to purchase individual services to meet their child's needs. **(See separate section on Direct Payments and Personal Budgets)**
- Help within the home
- Information about other services.
- **Short breaks** for children in a range of settings that may include specialised social activities, including play schemes and clubs. Overnight residential short breaks.

Short Breaks: (You can still access Short Breaks without receiving a service from Disabled Children's Service) for a full description of Short Breaks services follow the Link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/disability> and select **Local Activities and Support** and then 'A Break from Caring'

You can also find a list of Parent Charities offering Short Breaks in Kent on our web page under: Leisure Section listed under Key SEN Links.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Gov.Uk

<https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance>

MENCAP

<http://www.mencap.org.uk/>

CONTACT A FAMILY

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/>

CARERS UK

<http://www.carersuk.org/>

NHS Choices Living with Autism

<http://www.nhs.uk/LiveWell/Autism/Pages/Autismhome.aspx>

The National Autistic Society

<http://www.autism.org.uk/>

Kent Autistic Trust

<http://kentautistic.com/index.php>

For further information see Local and National Organisations sections on our website.