**RHONDDA CYNON TAF** 

# **Autistic Spectrum Disorders**

# **DIRECTORY OF SERVICES**

FOR INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES









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# Introduction

This directory has been developed in response to the Rhondda Cynon Taf Autism Action Plan and recognises the need for post diagnosis support and information for individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families. Professionals with an interest in ASD issues may also find this directory helpful.

This directory is not exhaustive but aims to be a helpful resource at a time when individuals, families and carers are most in need of guidance. The information contained in this directory is believed to be correct at the time of printing but can be subject to change at any time. For the most up to date information, visit the Family Information Service website at www.earlyyearsrct.co.uk enter the site and select the tab named "Disabled Children". If you no not have access to the Internet at home you can visit your local library and access it free of charge.

# Disclaimer

The inclusion of groups and organisations in this guide does not necessarily mean that we recommend them. We advise you to take the usual precautions before approaching any of the listed agencies.

# **Your Comments**

We would like to hear your views and comments about this directory.

If you have any feedback or wish to highlight any details, which are incorrect or out of date, please contact the Family Information Service via email fis@rctcbc.gov.uk or telephone freephone 0800 180 4151

# **Local Support**

# **Early Bird Programme**

The Early Bird programme aims to support families in the period between diagnosis and school placement. It aims to empower parents and help them improve their child's communication and behaviour.

**Contact**: Early Bird Programme Co-ordinator

Telephone: 01443 668839

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taff Parent and Carer Network**

Provide information and support for parents and carers of children and young people aged between 0 + 25, who have disabilities or special needs. Through joining the network you will receive regular information and invitations to attend parent training or seminars. You will also have the opportunity to meet with other parents. For more information:

Contact: Caroline Wells Telephone: 01443 668839

Email: caroline.a.wells@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

# **RCT** Asperger Syndrome Support Group

This group meets on the third Monday of the month at 7.30pm, in the Dining Room, Dewi Sant Hospital, Pontypridd. The group offer support and shared experience, information and sometimes funding for training / conferences for parents and carers. They also organise a range of activities for young people with Asperger Syndrome. The group welcome all parents and carers of those with or in the process of a diagnosis of Asperger Syndrome.

Contact: Christine Jenkins Telephone: 01685 886389

Christine Trevett Telephone: 01443 225732

Email: rctaspergergroup@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.rctaspergergroup.co.uk

#### **Cynon Valley Autism / Asperger Syndrome Support Association**

The group hold a swimming club at Abercynon Sports Centre every Sunday 4.00-5.00pm with ASA qualified teachers. For further information:

Contact: Claire Griffiths Telephone: 01685 378892

#### Autism Support Group - Rhondda

Offer support to parents and carers of children of any age with autism who live in the Rhondda area. The group is informal and friendly. For further information:

Contact: Mandy Dickenson Telephone: 01443 440811 Contact: Sarah Morgan Telephone: 01443 684581

#### **CAPS - Children and Parents Support Group**

Is a parent led support group for parents and carers of children with disabilities. The group meet on Wednesday mornings. For more information:

Contact: Ann Harris Telephone: 01443 422554

## **Rhondda Cynon Taf Carers Support Project**

Offers support and information to carers living in Rhondda Cynon Taf or caring for someone living in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Their services include providing an information pack for carers, a quarterly newsletter, information events, trips and workshops as well as helping to set up new local groups for carers. There is also a confidential telephone counselling service for carers who live in Rhondda Cynon Taf Cynon Taf. For more information:

Contact: Carers Support Project, Heddfan, Ilan Avenue, Rhydyfelin,

Pontypridd CF37 5PN

Telephone: 0808 100 1801 (free phone)

Email: carerssupportproject@rctcbc.gov.uk

#### **Emergency Card for Carers**

This is a credit size card that you can carry with you at all times. It is used as an instant source of identification in case you have an accident or have sudden illness. The Council's Carelink Service will hold your registration number and details and they will then contact the nominated person to help the person you look after. Carelink is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For an enrolment form:

Contact: Rhondda Cynon Taf Carers Support Project

Telephone: 0808 100 1801

## **Young Carers**

If you are you under 18 and look after or help to look after someone at home who is disabled, sick, elderly, experiencing mental health problems or unable to look after themselves for some other reason, you are probably a young carer. The Young Carers Assessment and Development Worker can provide a range of information and advice for young carers and those who work with young carers. This can include visiting a family to carry out a Young Carer's Initial Assessment. For further information:

Contact: Young Carers Assessment and Development Worker.

Telephone: 01443 668839 or

Email: CarersSupportProject@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

## **Learning Disabilities Service Support to Families Project**

The Support to Families Project provides information and support for parents/carers of adults on the learning disability register. The project provides a range of information including a newsletter every two months. The project also encourages and supports parents/carers to get involved in planning how the learning disability service is provided and monitored. For further information:

Contact: Peter Radmore Telephone: 01443 668865

Email: peter.s.radmore@rctcbc.gov.uk

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taff Crossroads**

RCT Crossroads is affiliated to the national Crossroads organisation but is a registered charity in its own right. They provide practical support to carers by looking after the cared for in their own home. For more information:

Contact: Rhondda Cynon Taff Crossroads, Llanover House, Llanover Road

Pontypridd CF37 4DY

Telephone: 01443 480484

Email: info@rctcrossroads.org.uk

#### Eye to Eye

Is registered charity providing a young people's counselling service based in Rhondda Cynon Taff. Eye to Eye provide free confidential counselling to young people between the ages of 11 and 25 years. For more information and confidential support:

Contact: Eye to Eye Youth Counselling Service, Beddau CEC,

Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School, Beddau,

Pontypridd, RCT CF38 2AE

Telephone: 01443 204551

Email: Alison.Theaker@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

Website: www.eyetoeyewales.co.uk

# **National Support**

#### **National Autistic Society**

Provide information and support for the whole family. Help and advice is available through their confidential Autism helpline and information on all the services they offer can be accessed through their website.

Contact: Autism Helpline

Telephone: 0845 070 4004 or 02920 629310

Website: www.autism.org.uk/wales

Contact: Parent to Parent Helpline (run by parents)

Telephone: 0800 952 0520

#### National Autistic Society (NAS) Cardiff Social Group

A social group for people over the age of 16 at the high-functioning end of the autism spectrum, such as those with Asperger syndrome (AS). The groups are facilitated by a Social Programmes Manager who is responsible for a number of groups in their area. Social Groups are supported by volunteers who are recruited, CRB checked and trained by the NAS. Volunteers come from all walks of life. Social Groups are membership groups which meet monthly, and activities are discussed and decided on by group members. Social Programmes Managers and volunteers then support the Social Group members to make things happen. Activities can include going to the cinema, meeting up in the pub for a drink, going for a meal, visiting a museum, or meeting up as a group for a chat or to play board games. Own transport needed.

Contact: Steve Smith, Social Programmess Manager - Wales,

National Autistic Society, Glamorgan House, Monastery Road, Neath Abbey, Neath SA10 7DH

Telephone: 01792 325 298

Email: steve.smith@nas.org.uk

Website: www.autism.org.uk/socialgroups

#### **Autism Cymru**

is Wales' National Charity for Autism and since 2001 has worked in collaboration with others in the public and voluntary sector to influence major policy changes. Autism Cymru has made great strides in raising the profile of Autism in Wales through high level campaigning at a local, national and international level. It also enjoys excellent relationships with Ministers and Senior Civil Servants in Wales.

Autism Cymru is a small charity in terms of staff and volunteer numbers, yet takes a highly strategic, creative and entrepreneurial approach to its work. It has very low administrative costs yet achieves extraordinary outcomes.

To find out more about Autism Cymru and their achievements:

Telephone: 02920 463263

Email: jennie@autismcymru.org

Website: www.awares.org

#### **Circles Network Wales**

Circles Network is a national voluntary organisation based around the key principles of inclusion and Person Centred Planning approaches. Circles Network provides unique personal support for people who are in danger of becoming socially excluded, or who are currently suffering the consequences of prior segregation and discrimination.

Contact: Circles Network Wales, Unit 14 Enterprise House, 127 Bute Street,

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF10 5LE

Telephone: 029 2048 7575 Fax: 029 2048 8392

Email: info.wales@circlesnetwork.org.uk

Website: www.circlesnetwork.org.uk

#### Cerebra

Is a unique charity set up to help improve the lives of children with brain related conditions, including Autistic Spectrum Disorders through researching, educating and directly supporting children and their carers.

Cerebra services add value to the child by taking a holistic approach. Fun, happiness and letting children (and their families) enjoy their childhood are very important to Cerebra.

Contact: Cerebra (Parent Support), FREEPOST SWC3360, Carmarthen, SA31 1ZY

Telephone: 0800 32 81 159

#### **Contact A Family**

Offer information, advice and support to parents and carers of children with any special need or disability as well as professionals working with families. The services they offer include workshops and conferences, free newsletter, training, work with professionals. For further information:

Contact: Contact a Family, 33-35 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9HB

Telephone: 029 2039 6624 Fax: 029 2039 6625

Email: wales.office@cafamily.org.uk

## **Learning Disability Wales**

Is the collective voice of the voluntary sector in Wales and promotes the right of children and adults with a learning disability to have valued lives. Learning Disability Wales: works in partnership with other organisations, service users and their parents/carers; campaigns to help people with learning disabilities achieve valued lives; supports the voluntary sector and its interests; provides and promotes good practice.

Services include: supporting and working with voluntary organisations; an information service including a magazine and newsletter; training; campaigning and policy work; undertaking special innovative projects.

Contact: Learning Disability Wales, 41 Lambourne Crescent, Cardiff Business

Park, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5GG

Telephone: 029 2068 1160 Fax: 029 2075 2149

Website: www.learningdisabilitywales.org.uk

## **Family Fund**

Is a registered charity, helping around 50,000 families in the UK with £30.5 million in grants per year. The Family Fund helps families with severely disabled children. They give grants for things that make life easier and more enjoyable for the disabled child and their family, such as washing machines, driving lessons, hospital visiting costs, computers and holidays.

# **Family Fund Extra**

Is an online buying and lifestyle club that helps families of disabled children as well as disabled young people themselves, enjoy online discounts of up to 25 per cent from leading retailers like Comet, Argos, Haven Holiday, BSM and Stone Computers.

For further information about the Family Fund:

Contact: Family Fund, 4 Alpha Court, Monks Cross Drive, York YO32 9WN

Telephone: 0845 130 4542

Email: info@familyfund.org.uk Website: www.familyfund.org.uk

#### **The Makaton Charity**

Uses signs and symbols to teach communication, language and literacy skills to people with communication and learning difficulties. Makaton was developed in the 1970s to help people with learning disability to communicate. It is now widely used with a variety of people with communication difficulties.

Contact: The Makaton Charity, Manor House, 46 London Road, Blackwater,

Camberley, Surrey GU17 0AA

**Telephone**: 01276 606760 **Fax**: 01276 36725

Website: www.makaton.org

#### **Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)**

PECS is a unique teaching method that establishes effective learning environments for children and adults with autism or related developmental disabilities and severe learning impairments. Pyramid Education Consultants UK are the official provider of PECS and the Pyramid Approach to training in the UK and Ireland

Contact: Pyramid Educational Consultants UK Ltd, Pavilion House,

6 Old Steine, Brighton BN1 1EJ

Telephone: 01273 609555 Fax: 01273 609556 Website: www.pecs.org.uk

#### **Afasic Cymru**

Represents children with speech and language and communication impairments on a number of working party groups at the Wales Assembly Government and at local level. Afasic Cymru are committed to helping children and young people to access services at every opportunity. They also aim to raise awareness of the needs of our children with speech language and communication impairments by offering training opportunities and bilingual literature specific to Wales.

Contact: Jeannette Carr, Director, Afasic Cymru, Titan House,

Cardiff Bay Business Centre, Lewis Road, Ocean Park,

Cardiff CF24 5BS

Telephone: 029 2046 5854 Fax: 029 2046 5861

Website: www.afasiccymru.org.uk

#### **Challenging Behaviour Foundation**

Is a registered charity providing information and support to parents/carers and professionals caring for individuals with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour.

Contact: The Challenging Behaviour Foundation, c/o The Old Courthouse,

New Road Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME4 6BE

Telephone: 0845 602 7885 Email: info@thecbf.org.uk Website: www.thecbf.org.uk

#### I CAN

Works to support the development of speech, language and communication skills in all children with a special focus on those who find this hard: children with speech, language and communication needs.

Contact: I CAN, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE

Telephone: 0845 225 4071 – Switchboard (9:00am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday)

0845 225 4073 – Information

Website: www.ican.org.uk

# **Signalong**

Aims to empower children and adults with impaired communication to understand and express their needs, choices and desires by providing vocabulary for life and learning. Signalong is a registered charity, which provides resources and training in visual communication.

Contact: The Signalong Group, Stratford House, Waterside Court, Rochester,

Kent ME2 4NZ

Telephone: 0845 4508422

Email: info@signalong.org.uk Website: www.signalong.org.uk

#### **Peach**

Peach is a parent-led group aiming to encourage, support and inform parents of children with autism. Peach is the fastest growing UK charity in the field of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and Autism and helps families start Intensive Behavioural Intervention Programmes.

Contact: Peach, Parents for the Early Intervention of Autism in

Children, The Brackens, London Road, Ascot,

Berkshire SL5 8BE

Telephone: 01344 882248 Fax: 01344 882391

> Email: info@peach.org.uk Website: www.peach.org.uk

#### **Carers Wales**

Provides advice, information and support to carers, helping them to recognise their own needs. Carers Wales also works with service and policy providers to raise awareness of the needs of carers.

Contact: River House, Ynysbridge Court, Gwaelod-y-Garth, Cardiff CF15 9SS

Telephone: 029 2081 1370

Email: info@carerswales.org.uk Website: www.carerswales.org

#### **Carers UK**

Help and support for carers if they need it. The charity also offers advice and information on carers' rights and any support available.

Contact: Carers UK, 20/25 Glasshouse Yard, London EC1A 4JT

Telephone: 0808 808 7777 Email: info@carersuk.org

Website: www.carersonline.org.uk

#### Do2Learn

Provide special learning resources for individuals with disabilities and the professionals and caregivers who serve them. Do2Learn have worked with leading educators, clinicians, teachers and parents to develop serious games and learning material targeting specific deficits of individuals with neurological disorders including autism, Asperger's Syndrome, foetal alcohol effects, OCD, attention disorders, learning and communication disorders and others. Do2learn.com freely offers, for your personal use, thousands of pages of the best of the resources they have developed and tested.

Website: www.dotolearn.com

#### OASIS @ MAAP web site

Online Asperger Syndrome Information and Support (OASIS) center has joined with MAAP Services for Autism and Asperger Syndrome to create a single resource for families, individuals, and medical professionals who deal with the challenges of Asperger Syndrome, Autism, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder / Not Otherwise Specified

Website: www.aspergersyndrome.org

#### **The Gray Center**

A website for social learning and understanding.

Website: www.thegraycenter.org

#### **Kidscape**

A UK wide anti bullying charity, produces leaflets and literature on bullying and has a helpline for parents who have a child affected by bullying. For further information:

Telephone: 08451 205 204

Website: www.kidscape.org.uk

# **Early Years**

#### **Sure Start**

Sure start is available to all children under the age of 4 years and their families who live in Rhondda Cynon Taf, helping children to reach their full potential. The following services are offered under the sure start scheme.

#### **Specialist Health Visiting**

Provide specialist home based support for parents /carers of children aged 4 years and under who are experiencing behaviour and emotional difficulties.

Contact: Sure Start Specialist Health Visitor

Telephone: Rhondda base: 01443 439279

Cynon base: 01443 471761 Taf Base: 01443 490470

#### **Sure Steps**

The Sure Steps project is a service for children aged 2% - 4 who have ASD tendencies and/or communication delay.

Contact: Rhiwgarn Infant School

Telephone: 07799 132083

Contact: Hirwaun Primary School

Telephone: 07799 132084

# **Portage Service**

Support for parents / carers and families of children aged 4 and under having developmental delay in two or more areas.

Contact: Sure Start Portage Advisor

Telephone: 01443 844896

#### **Childcare Workers**

Provide a home visiting service offering help and support with all areas of a child's development. They also work in community settings.

**Contact:** Sure Start Counsellor

Telephone: Rhondda base: 01443 439279 Cynon base: 01443 471761

Taf Base: 01443 490470

#### **Counselling Service**

Counselling service for parents / carers of children aged 4 and under living in Rhondda Cynon Taf

Contact: Sure Start Counsellor

Telephone: Rhondda base: 01443 439279 Cynon base: 01443 471761

Taf Base: 01443 490470

#### **Talkabout Team**

A creative and practical community based service to support and advise on speech, language and literacy development in order to reduce longer term speech difficulties in children.

Contact: Sure Start Talkabout Team

Telephone: 01443 844896

# **Toy Library**

Toy loan system to support parents/carers, early years groups, childminders and anybody caring for young children. The service is available for children aged 4 and under or up to age 11 for children having special needs/disability.

For more information:

Contact: Sarah (Rhondda)

Telephone: 07824 496 474 or 01443 424908

Contact: Kate (Cynon)
Telephone: 07824 496 473
Contact: Donna (Taff)

Telephone: 07824 496 468 or 01443 404628

#### Safe Start Scheme

Supply home safety equipment at reduced / price rate to reduce the number of accidental injuries to children.

Contact: Safestart Officer Telephone: 01443 744900

# Other Services

#### **Early Support Wales**

Early Support is the Welsh Assembly Government funded programme to improve the delivery of services to disabled children under 5 and their families. Early Support has developed a range of resources and training aimed at bringing service providers together and put the family at the centre of the process. Early Support materials include an information booklet for parents about Autistic Spectrum Disorders and related conditions. For further information:

Website: www.earlysupportwales.org.uk

# **Language and Play**

Language and Play and Number and Play are short programmes for parents, carers and their children aged 0-3years. The programmes share ideas and activities to help parents and carers help children understand how important they are to their child's education and to help promote language and development in young children.

Contact: Language and Play Co-ordinator Telephone: 01143 744255

# **Play resource Library**

The service provides a wide range of toys, play equipment and resources for loan to any person or organisation working with, caring for or supporting children aged 0-15 years.

Contact: Play Services Manager Telephone: 01443 744287

#### **Parenting Support Services**

Co-ordinate parenting support services throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf, which aim to help people who are raising children. Help is available through the ages and stages from the temper tantrums, eating and sleeping difficulties, in the early years to the challenges of parents surviving teenagers.

Contact: Parenting Support Co-ordinator Telephone: 01443 744374 or 07824 541672

#### **Family Information Service**

Provide information on childcare and early years provision available in Rhondda Cynon Taf as well as extensive information about a broad range of local and national services and organisations.

Telephone: 0800 180 4151

Website: www.earlyyearsrct.co.uk

# **Genesis Community Day Nurseries and Genesis Out of School Club**

The Genesis Community Day Nursery is open 51 weeks a year excluding statutory bank holidays. The Out of School Club is open term time only.

Contact: Childcare Manager Telephone: 01443 744461

# **Holiday Care Scheme**

The holiday care scheme is open during school holidays 8.00am – 6.00pm.

Contact: Childcare Manager Telephone: 01443 744254

# Social Care

Anyone can ask for support. You can contact Social Services directly, or, if you prefer, a family member or someone who knows you can approach them.

Assessments for children and young people (up to the age of 18) are carried out by a social worker from the Disabled Children's Team and assessments for adults are carried by a social worker from the Community Support Teams. Each team is made up of groups of people with a variety of skills, from Health, Social Care and Education backgrounds. This enables individuals and their families to benefit from a broad range of specialist services, designed to support them in leading an independent and fulfilled life. The process will identify any difficulties you are experiencing and will give you an opportunity to discuss what support is available.

The help available varies depending on the individuals needs and includes:

- · giving practical advice
- arranging short stays away from home (in Family Placements or Respite Care Homes)
- offering support in the home
- · planning for the future
- coping with difficult behaviour
- planning for daytime opportunities
- meeting specialised health needs, like clinical psychology, physiotherapy and speech therapy
- advising on play or leisure time pursuits
- discussing educational and/or training needs
- providing supported living
- · helping to find and maintain a job, with support if needed
- supporting the development of independent Advocacy Services which help people with a learning disability make their views and wishes known
- providing information about other things that might be of interest to you that
  we can offer and about other activities available in your area include you in
  consultation about services.

#### **Disabled Children's Service**

Contact: Disabled Children's Team, Units 13 and 14, Centre Court,

Treforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, CF37 5YR.

Telephone: 01443 665455

Opening Hours: Monday - Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm and

Fridays 8.30am to 4.30pm

## **Rhondda Cynon Taf Children's Services Division**

For child and family care contact:

Rhondda: 01443 431513 Cynon: 01685 888800 Taff Ely: 01443 486731

Opening Hours: Monday - Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm and

Fridays 8.30am to 4.30pm

Email: socialservices@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

#### **Adult Services**

Contact either of the two Community Support Teams:

The West team, serving the Rhondda Valleys and Pontyclun areas.

Contact: Community Support Team West:

Llwynypia Day Centre, Llwynypia Road, Tonypandy CF40 2JQ

Telephone: 01443 436937

The East team, serving the Cynon Valley and west as far as Llantwit Fardre and south as far as Taffs Well.

Contact: Community Support Team East:

Heddfan, Ilan Avenue, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd CF37 5PN

Telephone: 01443 668800

Email: socialservices@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

#### **Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board**

Provides community based services for adults in Rhondda Cynon Taff who have an ASD in addition to learning disabilities. The team is a multi disciplinary health team and helps with people who challenge services, have additional mental health needs and epilepsy.

Contact: Health Team Manager

Telephone: 01443 668800

#### Disabled Children's Index

The Local Authority is required by law to keep a register of disabled children and young people, which is referred to as an Index. This provides information about disabled children and young people living in Rhondda Cynon Taf and helps to plan and develop future services provide parents, carers, children and young people with up to date information about services that are available in your area and also include you in consultations about services.

Registration is not compulsory and families cannot be included in the Index without their written consent. Your services will not be affected if you decide not to be included in the Index.If you would like to register your son/daughter:

Contact: Disabled Children's Team, Units 13 and 14, Centre Court,

Treforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, CF37 5YR.

Telephone: 01443 665455

# **Education**

## **Local Education Authority (LEA)**

Provide educational services to ensure that all children with additional learning needs are given the opportunity to access all available educational provisions. The term 'additional learning needs' (ALN) refers to children who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age.

The Council's Learning Support Service provides a wide range of specialist support for pupils identified with additional learning needs. For more information, contact:

Contact: Local Education Authority, Tŷ Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash.

Telephone: 01443 744000

## **Home to School Transport**

Provide eligible pupils with transport to and from school. Free transport is provided for all pupils who attend special classes that are not held within their own schools. Special classes include classes for children with severe learning difficulties, remedial classes, observation classes, partial hearing classes, speech and language units, autistic units adjustment classes, pupil referral units and physically disabled units.

Contact: Integrated Transport Unit, Sardis House, Sardis Road,

Pontypridd CF37 1DU

Telphone: 01443 494700

Email: hometoschooltransport@rctcbc.gov.uk for mainstream schools

Email: communitycaretransport@rctcbc.gov.uk for SEN schools

#### **Local Schools**

Contact details for all local schools can be found at

Website: www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk/schoolfinder

Contact: Local Education Authority, Tŷ Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash.

Telephone: 01443 744000

#### **SNAP Cymru**

Is the Special Needs Advisory Project for Wales. It is a charity that offers information and support to families of children with learning difficulties or people who have additional learning needs. SEN Code of Practice, Statements and Transition are some of the many areas that SNAP Cymru can advise you on.

Contact: SNAP Cymru, Unit 19 Cambrian Industrial Estate, Coed Cae Lane,

Pontyclun, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Telephone: 01443 220150 Fax: 01443 220151

Email: morgannwg@snapcymru.org

# Cwm Taf Health Board

Cwm Taf Health Board provides acute, community and mental health services to all children, young people and adults living primarily in Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil. These services include general medical, surgical, maternity, rehabilitation care, accident and emergency services, and some specialist services. Listed below is information about some of the services available.

### **Primary Care**

A full list of General Practitioner (GP) and Dental surgeries is available on the Cwm Taf Health Board website. For further information:

Website: www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/865/directory/gps/

Telephone: 01443 744800

## **Hospitals**

Aberdare General Hospital: 01685 883811 Prince Charles Hospital: 01685 721721 Royal Glamorgan Hospital: 01443 443443

## **School Nursing Service Special Schools**

Aberdare General Hospital: 01685 721721

Royal Glamorgan Hospital: 01685 443443

## **Community Paediatric Service**

The Community Paediatric Service includes Clinical Nurse Specialist,
Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, SALT, Paediatrician and Clinical
Psychologist. Contact Kenshole Children's Unit, Aberdare General Hospital

Rhondda / Taf: 01443 443443 Cynon: 01685 721721

## **Health Visiting Service**

Rhondda / Taf: 01443 486222 Cynon: 01685 384023

#### **Speech and Language**

Speech and Language Therapist (SLT's) lead on the assessment and treatment of individuals with speech, language, voice and swallowing disorders and will work closely with a range of other professions and agencies, to support a wide range of clients.

Prince Charles Hospital: 01685 721721 Ext. 8451

Royal Glamorgan Hospital: 01443 443284 Y Bwthyn: 01443 443037

#### **Occupational Therapy**

Occupational Therapy (OT) is the treatment of people with physical and psychiatric illness or disability. Specific, purposeful occupations are used with the intention of enabling individuals reach their maximum level of function and independence in all aspects of life.

The occupational therapist assesses the physical, psychological and social functions of the individual, identifies areas of dysfunction and involves the individual in a structured programme of activity to overcome the disability. The occupation is selected to relate to the individual's personal, social, cultural and economic needs and will affect the environmental factors, which govern his/her lifestyle.

The OT service liaises closely with partnership organizations such as social services, education, third sector organizations, job centre's and is organized into teams. These teams cover acute services e.g. medical, Trauma and orthopaedics and out-patient services, rehabilitation and intermediate care services e.g. stroke rehabilitation, re-ablement, mental health services e.g. adults of working age and older adults, Paediatric services and Condition Management Programme's.

Prince Charles Hospital: 01685 721721 Ext. 8844

Royal Glamorgan Hospital: 01443 443443 Ext. 3047 / 4799

## **Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)**

Child and Adolescent mental health services provide input to children and families with mental health difficulties or severe behavioural problems, which have not responded to interventions offered by other professionals. Primary mental health workers offer support and advice to professionals working with children and families with mental health or emotional and behavioural difficulties and may offer joint assessment with another professional if this is appropriate.

Specialist CAMHS accept referrals from other professionals for children thought to be suffering from mental illness or complex behavioural difficulties.

### **Primary Mental Health Service**

Aberdare General Hospital: 01685 372152
Carnegie Clinic, Trealaw: 01443 682019
Tonteg Child and Family Centre: 01443 443008

#### **Specialist CAMHS**

 Main Switchboard:
 01443 443008

 Upper Cynon Team:
 01443 443015

 Rhondda / Lower Cynon Team:
 01443 443014

 Taff Ely Team:
 01443 443012

#### Dietetics

The Nutrition and Dietetic service delivers a therapeutic approach to food and nutrition as treatment for a wide range of illness and disease and also delivers nutrition advice for primary and secondary disease prevention.

The department offers inpatient, outpatient and community services to both children and adults with dietary intervention being advised following individual nutritional assessment. The department also undertakes group education of client groups where this approach has been shown to be more clinically effective.

Prince Charles Hospital: 01685 728363

Royal Glamorgan Hospital: 01443 443443 Ext. 3660

# Benefits for Children and Adults with ASD

Children and adults with ASD and their carers may be able to claim benefits. Some of the benefits you may be eligible to claim are listed below.

If you would like further information there is an online tool which will help to identify which benefits you may be entitled to.

Website: benefits-adviser.direct.gov.uk/index

Alternatively you can contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff Benefiting Families service that can offer advice over the telephone and provide you with a free benefits check.

Telephone: 01443 668813 (an answering machined is available to record your

message if the advisor is out of the office)

Email: benefitingfamilies@rctcbc.gov.uk

As well as the above your local Citizens' Advice Bureau will be able to assist you or the numbers listed below.

# **Disability Living Allowance**

You may be able to get Disability Living Allowance if you are aged under 65 and you have needed supervision or help with personal care, or had walking difficulties because of a physical or mental disability for three months, and you are likely to need this help or have these difficulties for at least another six months.

You can claim for mobility needs from:

age three, if your child is unable, or virtually unable, to walk

age three, if your child is severely mentally impaired with severe behavioural problems and qualifies for the highest rate of care component

age five, if your child needs guidance or supervision when walking out of doors

Telephone: 08457 123 456 Website: www.dwp.gov.uk

#### **The Motability Scheme**

The Motability Scheme can help you with leasing or buying a car if you're getting the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Even if you do not drive yourself, you can apply for a car as a passenger and propose two other people as your drivers. You can also apply for a car on behalf of a child aged three or over who is entitled to the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.

Telephone: 0845 456 4566

Website: www.motability.co.uk

#### **Road Tax Exemption**

Those in receipt of DLA may be exempt from road tax.

Telephone: 0300 790 6802

Website: www.dft.gov.uk/dvla

## The Blue Badge Scheme

The Blue Badge Scheme provides a range of parking concessions for people with severe mobility problems who have difficulty using public transport. This enables badge holders to park close to where they need to go. The scheme operates throughout the UK.

Contact: The Blue Badge Unit, Ty Elai, Dinas Isaf East, Williamstown

Tonypandy CF40 1NY

Telephone: 01443 442100

Website: www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

#### Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is a taxable benefit to help people who look after someone who is disabled. You do not have to be related to, or live with, the person that you care for. You may be able to get Carer's Allowance if you are aged 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for a person who gets either:

- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance at the middle or highest rate for personal care

You cannot get Carer's Allowance if you are in full-time education with 21 hours or more a week of supervised study or earn more than £95 a week after certain deductions have been made - for example Income Tax.

Telephone: 01253 856 123 Website: www.dwp.gov.uk

#### **Tax Credits**

Tax credits are payments from the government. If you're responsible for at least one child or young person who normally lives with you, you may qualify for Child Tax Credit. If you work, but earn low wages, you may qualify for Working Tax Credit.

The amount of tax credit you receive may increase if you are in receipt of DLA

Telephone: 0845 3003900

Website: www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits

# **Income Support**

If you can't be available for full-time work and don't have enough money to live on, you may be able to get Income Support benefit. Whether you qualify or not and how much you get depends on your circumstances. You may be able to get Income Support if you're aged 16 to 59 and any of the following apply:

- · you're a lone parent
- you're registered sick or disabled
- · you're a student and either a lone parent or disabled

Telephone: 0800 0556688 Website: www.dwp.gov.uk

Additional benefits for those aged 16+

You may be eligible for the following:

- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Disability Working Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit

Website: www.direct.gov.uk

# **Employment Support**

#### **Careers Wales**

Careers Wales provides free, bilingual, impartial careers information, advice and guidance for all ages – bringing education and business together.

**Contact:** Learning Difficulty and Disabilities Manager, Caerphilly Careers Centre,

First Floor, Principality Building, The Twyn, Caerphilly

Telephone: 029 2085 2505

Contact: Careers Advisers – Learning Difficulties and Disabilities

Aberdare Careers Centre, First Floor, Compton House,

4 Victoria Square, Aberdare

Telephone: 01685 880000

Contact: Careers Advisers – Learning Difficulties and Disabilities

Pontypridd Careers Centre, 1 Penuel Lane, Pontypridd

Telephone: 01443 484264

Contact: Careers Advisers – Learning Difficulties and Disabilities

Tonypandy Careers Centre, Unit 1, Crown Buildings,

River View, Tonypandy

Telephone: 01443 432555

Website: www.careerswales.com

#### **Jobcentre Plus**

Personal advisers support disabled people, people with health conditions and carers who are looking for work through Jobcentre Plus. They can provide details of suitable vacancies and explain more about the range of programmes available to help you.

If you need extra support, specialist advisers can help you plan the best way for you to find work. If you're already employed, specialist advisers can discuss your current employment situation. If you're concerned about losing your job for a reason associated with your disability or health condition, Disability Employment Advisers can give you and your employer advice, and explore practical ways to help you keep your job.

If you cannot work, job centre plus can tell you about the financial and practical support you may be able to get, and refer you to appropriate services offered by other organisations.

Contact: Pontypridd Jobcentre Plus, Oldway House, Broadway,

Pontypridd CF37 4SP

Telephone: 0845 604 3719 Textphone: 01443 484717

Contact: Llantrisant Jobcentre Plus, 17 Ely Valley Road,

Talbot Green, Pontyclun, Rhondda Cynon Taf CF72 8AL

Telephone: 0845 604 3719 Textphone: 01443 618401

Contact: Porth Jobcentre Plus, 35 Hannah Street, Porth,

Rhondda Cynon Taff CF39 9RB

Telephone: 0845 604 3719 Textphone: 01443 614111

Contact: Aberdare Jobcentre Plus, Crown Buildings, Greenbach,

Aberdare, Rhondda Cynon Taf CF44 7HU

Telephone: 0845 604 3719 Textphone: 01685 887348

#### Rhondda Cynon Taf Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Contact: Mountain Ash Jobcentre Plus, New County Road, Mountain Ash

Rhondda Cynon Taf CF45 4HU

Telephone: 0845 604 3719

Contact: Tonypandy Jobcentre Plus, Thistle House Llwynypia Road,

Tonypandy CF40 2EP

Telephone: 0845 604 3719 Textphone: 01443 616086

#### **Elite Supported Employment Agency**

Helps people with disabilities to access, obtain and maintain employment with appropriate support.

Contact: 15 Talbot Road, Talbot Green, Pontyclun, Rhondda Cynon Taff CF72 8AD

Telephone: 01443 226664 Fax: 01443 227115

Website: www.elitesupportedemployment.co.uk

#### **Skill Wales**

Skill Wales is a facility for disabled students, their families, and disabled people moving into training and employment - and a resource for professional staff who work to support students and disabled people in getting the most out of learning, training and employment opportunities. For more information:

Contact: Skill Wales, The Executive Centre, Temple Court, Cathedral Road,

Cardiff CF11 9HA

Telephone: 0800 068 2422 Fax: 029 2078 6666 Email: info@skill.org.uk

#### **Student Finance Wales**

Provide information for new and continuing students about student finance and additional support available for students with disabilities.

Website: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Telephone: 0845 602 8845

#### **Learn Direct Wales**

Offer flexible training courses and qualifications, you can learn from home, work or wherever you have access to the internet. And it might not even cost you anything, as in many cases funding is available to help. For more information:

Contact: learndirect, PO Box 900, Leicester, LE1 6XJ

Telephone: 0800 101 901

Website: www.learndirect.co.uk/wales-eng/

# Leisure and Other Services

# **Rhondda Cynon Taf Leisure Services**

Rhondda Cynon Taf offers a choice of Leisure activities, including 11 Leisure/Sports Centres, a range of Sports Development initiatives and the More Card Leisure Discount scheme, which offers members, reduced charges at Council run facilities. For general Leisure enquiries:

Telephone: 01443 400563

Email: Leisure@rhondda-cynon-taf.gov.uk

Website: www.whatsonrct.co.uk/leisure

Sport in Rhondda Cynon Taf is thriving and the opportunity for you to get involved has never been better. Make the Sports Development team your first point of call for all your sporting needs. Discover how to take part in sports and activities, become a coach, locate sources of sports funding and find out more about disability sport in the area. For more information contact the Sports Development Team:

Telephone: 01443 400563

Email: sports.development@rctcbc.gov.uk

Website: www.whatsonrct.co.uk/sports\_development

#### Viva!

Viva! is a registered Charity working with young people aged between 11 and 25 who live in Rhondda Cynon Taff. Viva! facilitate and create quality leisure and training opportunities for young people with and without disabilities. For more information:

Contact: Viva! Project, Morgan Street, Pontypridd, RCT CF37 2DS

Telephone: 01443 480297 Fax: 01443 484619

Email: teresa.butler@vivaproject.co.uk

#### **Relax Kids**

A weekly exercise class for children with autism aged 4-11yrs takes place at:

Llantwit Fardre Leisure Centre - Friday 5-6 pm.

Tonyrefail Leisure Centre - Friday 5-6 pm.

Michael Sobell Sports Centre, Aberdare - Thursday 5- 6 pm.

For more information contact the Stars Team, telephone 01685 874323

#### **Shining Stars**

A weekly activity group for children aged 4-11yrs with delayed Motor Skill Development. If your child has low physical confidence, has a formal diagnosis of dyspraxia or high functioning autism Shining STARS could help. The classes takes place at:

Michael Sobell Sports Centre, Aberdare - Monday 5-6 p.m.

Llantrisant Leisure Centre - Tuesday 5-6 p.m.

Rhondda Sports Centre, Ystrad - Tuesday 5-6 p.m.

For more information contact the Stars Team, telephone 01685 874323

## **Splash Stars**

A weekly swimming class for children with autism aged 4-16yrs. This class aims to offer qualified training to children on the Autistic Spectrum. Parents or carers will be required to provide support in the pool as necessary. Classes take place at:

Llantrisant Leisure Centre - Sunday 5-6 p.m.

Rhondda Sports Centre, Ystrad - Sunday 5-6 p.m

For more information contact the Stars Team, telephone 01685 874323

#### **Cynon Valley Autism / Asperger Syndrome Support Association**

The group hold a swimming club at Abercynon Sports Centre every Sunday 4.00-5.00pm with ASA qualified teachers. For further information:

Contact: Claire Griffiths Telephone: 01685 378892

#### **RCT Tigers Disability Football Club**

This club provides football for children with a disability, including autism and behavioural difficulties. The sessions run every Saturday morning from 11.30-12.30 at Pontypridd High School. The club have recently started playing friendly matches at Hawthorn Leisure Centre on Saturdays 12pm until 1pm for under 12s and 1pm until 2pm for under 16s. New players always welcome, for more information contact:

Telephone: 01443 490242

Email: rcttigers@googlemail.com

# **Disability Sport Wales**

Work in partnership with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to positively promote disability sport, increase the number of participants involved in disability sport and maintain a high standard of delivery for participants. For more information;

Contact: Shelley Jones, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Llywn Castan, Library Road,

Pontypridd CF37 2YA

Telephone: 01443 490242 Fax: 01443 405184

Website: disability-sport-wales.org

#### **Rhondda ASD Bowling Group**

Meet on the first Tuesday of every month, 6pm at Rhondda Bowl, Tonyrefail. They have a bowling session followed by a meal. For more information:

Contact: Karen Norris Telephone: 07515 270503

#### **RCT Panthers**

Is an after school ten pin bowling club for children with disabilities. The group meet every Tuesday, 5.30pm at Bowlplex, Parc Nantgarw. For more information:

Contact: Steve Green

Telephone: 05603 441890 (local rate) or 07590 539817

Email: stephengreen@btinternet.com

#### **Trampolining**

**Rebounders** is a charity run by qualified special needs trampoline coaches, that provide trampoline therapy to children and adults with any type of special need or disability. For more information:

Contact: Ocean Park. Rebounders Centre, Quay Point, Collivaud Place,

Ocean Park, Cardiff, CF24 5PD

Email: info@rebounders-tramp.co.uk Website: www.rebounders-tramp.co.uk

# **Adventure And Activity Centres**

**Rumble in the Jungle Playcentre Ltd,** indoor children's play centre. For more information:-

Contact: Rumble in the Jungle Playcentre Ltd, Unit 5,

Cambrian Industrial Park, Clydach Vale, RCT, CF40 2XX

Telephone: 01443 433033

Website: www.rumbleinthejungleplaycentre.co.uk

Merlin's Castle, indoor children's play centre. For more information:-

Contact: Merlins Castle, Unit 17 Ely Valley Business Park East, Station

Terrace, Pontyclun CF72 9DZ

Telephone: 01443 228111

Email: info@merlinscastle.co.uk Website: www.merlinscastle.co.uk

Monster Madness, indoor children's play centre. For more information:-

Contact: Monster Madness, Unit 46, Gelli Ind Est, Pentre, Rhondda CF41 7UW

Telephone: 01443 442230

# Holidays and Family Days Out

#### **Contact a Family**

Produce an information guide on holidays, play and leisure. To request or download the guide:

Telephone: freephone 0808 808 3555 Email: helpline@cafamily.org.uk

Website: www.cafamily.org.uk/publications.html?sp=110&scat=31

## **National Autistic Society**

Produce information giving ideas for holidays and days out at autism-friendly venues plus tips for taking a child on the autism spectrum to different leisure venues. For more information:

Telephone: Autism Helpline 0845 070 4004

Email: wales@nas.org.uk

Website: www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1901

#### The Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card

This is a national card that can be used to verify that the holder is entitled to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. To apply for the card, you will need to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) Be in receipt of the disability living allowance or attendance allowance.
- b) Be a registered blind person.

The card is valid for 1 year from the date of issue for cards issued since March 2009.

Application forms are available from cinemas across the UK supporting this card.

A processing fee of £5.50 is chargeable per card. This is to be sent along with the completed application. For more information:

Contact: The Card Network, Network House, St Ives Way, Sandycroft CH5 2QS

Telephone: 0845 123 1292 Fax: 0845 123 1296

Email: info@ceacard.co.uk Website: www.ceacard.co.uk

#### **Disabled Bus Pass**

If you are a disabled person in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, or have a current disabled person's car badge and can travel by bus without needing someone else's help, you may be eligible for a free bus pass. If you are unable to travel without assistance you may be eligible to apply for a companion bus pass. For further information:

Contact: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Telephone: 01443 494816

Website: www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

This booklet is available in other formats.

Contact the Family Information Service to request booklet in another format.

Email fis@rctcbc.gov.uk

or telephone freephone 0800 180 4151

