



Aiming High in Nottinghamshire DCATCH - Disabled Children's Access to Childcare

Eligibility Criteria for Children and Young People with Severe and/or Complex Health Care Needs needing individual packages of care 0 - 19

Nottinghamshire County Council supports the inclusion of disabled children and young people in mainstream childcare settings. We support pre-schools, day nurseries, childminders, out-of-school and holiday clubs providing services for children and young people with disabilities. Providers can also apply for financial support through the Inclusion Fund.

However, we know that a small number of children and young people with severe and complex needs are unable to access group childcare. The DCATCH project aims to meet the childcare needs of these children and young people by developing personal packages of care which wraps around their education (for children over the age of 5 this reflects normal school hours).

The DCATCH project is part of the national Aiming High for Disabled Children agenda. It is a pathfinder pilot funded until March 2011. Families included in the project will continue to be supported after March 2011 but the level or type of service may vary according to the evaluation of the pathfinder pilot and future government funding.

Families who are supported through the project will pay towards the cost of childcare at the local rate; costs over and above this will be covered by DCATCH funding.

To access the project, the child/young person must:

- live and access services in Nottinghamshire (requests for cross border services will be considered on a case by case basis).
- be aged 0 to 19 years. If over the age of 5, be in education. (Eligibility ceases when the young person reaches their 19th birthday.)
- have parent/s in employment, returning to work, or attending a vocational training course; in the case of two parent families this applies to both parents.
- be unable to access group based care due to their complex/health care needs. For example, a child who, according to appropriate professional advice, would be at significant risk of infection from other children.
- need a level of support which reflects the working hours or training patterns of the parent/s and will normally fall between 7am to 7pm.

The eligibility of families will be reviewed on a regular basis. This is to ensure that any changes in the child/young person's circumstances or the working or training patterns of the parent/s are taken into account. We reserve the right to request parents' consent to seek professional or specialist advice to inform our decisions.