

Building Better Lives

The Disabled Children and Young People's Enablement Service 0 – 25 years

Gloucestershire County Council Building Better Lives Policy requires the development of an all age, all disability model of service delivery. Therefore in response to this, the countywide Enablement service will now work with children and young people with additional needs, special educational needs and disabilities.

The enablement service is underpinned by the '**seven principles**' from Gloucestershire County Council **Building Better Lives** ten year strategy.

1. **Early help** – *providing support to people before circumstances deteriorate is a preventative approach that provides better outcomes and save downstream costs.*
2. **Inclusion** – *that all people with a disability should be able to be fully included in all aspects of community living without exception*
3. **Independence** – *that people should be able to live in their community as freely as others. Maximising their individual capacities to maintain their own lifestyle choices to the best of their ability.*
4. **Contribution** – *people with a disability should have the same right to make their individual contribution to society as others do.*
5. **Shared responsibility** – *that people with disabilities should be linked into informal networks of support within the community.*
6. **Personalisation through choice and control** – *individually commissioned services need to respond to the expected outcomes for each individual and ensure that planning is personalised in every aspect.*
7. **Coordination of a whole life approach** – *the plan for a person's life needs to have a perspective that transcends boundaries put in place by organisations and recognises that each individual can expect and should receive their own personal plan.*

Embracing these seven principles provides the enablement service the opportunity to support children and young people to meet their needs in a fair and equitable manner. The concept behind an 'all age' enablement service reduces the need for an individual to transition from one service to another. The service is also able to

provide the individual with the opportunity to access enablement support at different stages throughout their life dependent on their need.

The Enablement service can support children and young people to:

- Develop greater independence and inclusion by working on the following areas; *personal safety (home & community), developing inclusive relationships, healthy lifestyles, understanding risk, problem solving skills, road safety, transport training, use of leisure time.*
- Support children, young people and their families to find and access inclusive leisure, childcare and out of school activities in mainstream settings.
- Support providers of universal childcare and leisure services to safely welcome and include disabled children into their services.
- Introduce the concept of work and provide support to access employment (dependent on age of child); internships, apprenticeships, traineeships, work experience, voluntary work, paid work, Forwards work clubs and Y.E.S. (youth employment Saturday club) and accessing 30/30 challenge

How the Enablement Service operates.

Once a referral has been made via an '**Enablement Referral Form**' a member of the team will contact the family to discuss the child or young person's needs and interests. The worker will complete an '**All About Me**' document with the child or young person and their family which will support with the development of a '**my plan**' identifying the work to be undertaken. A '**risk assessment**' and '**care safety needs plan**' will also be completed if deemed appropriate.

Work will commence with the child or young person with one or more workers from the enablement team over a designated period of time with regular reviews.

If identified the child or young person needs to access an inclusive leisure, childcare or out of school activity the worker will work with the child or young person to identify the most suitable '**inclusive**' setting. The worker will attend initial visits to support the child or young person in the setting and work with the staff involved delivering the activity. The worker can also support with identifying any reasonable adjustments that could be made to enable the child or young person to access the session. If identified additional support is required to enable the child or young person to continue to access the placement safely then the enablement worker will apply to the '**enablement**' fund which can provide additional advice, support, training, equipment or additional resources which could include a worker to attend the placement with the child or young person

The aim of the ‘enablement fund’

- To provide safe access to out of school and college activities for disabled children and young people.
- To promote social inclusion and enable disabled children and young people to access and enjoy the same range of activities and opportunities as their non disabled peers.
- To be creative and encourage the development of new opportunities and activities for children and young people with disabilities that will promote their independence and social inclusion.

The fund will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis by the enablement team.

There is an expectation that parents and carers will meet the ‘*basic*’ cost of the activities and any transport needed wherever possible.

Referrals for enablement support can be made by anyone involved with a child or young person with additional needs, special educational needs and disabilities.

Eligibility and Access

- Any disabled child/young person aged 0-25 years, who meet the ‘Disabled Children and Young People’s Service’ criteria, living in Gloucestershire, is eligible to access the fund through the enablement service.
- The child or young person has a permanent and substantial disability or condition; a severe learning disability, a severe physical disability, a severe sensory impairment, autism and or complex health needs.
- The child or young person’s needs can be met through supported access to inclusive leisure, childcare or out of school activities.
- Providers must have looked at making reasonable adjustments within their setting prior to applying for the fund. (An Enablement worker can support the provider with this).
- The fund will only be provided to enable access to activities and resources that **all** young people attending would access. For example; transport can only be requested if your organisation **normally** offers this as part of the

provision but the child or young person needs alternative methods or additional support during transport.

- The fund **cannot** be used for childcare to enable parents to work.

Referral process

To access the Enablement Service please complete an '**Enablement Referral Form**' and return to either:

- By post - Enablement Team, Block 6, Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TR
- By email - Enablement.service@gloucestershire.gov.uk

For more information please contact **Dena Boucher** (Manager)
Enablement/Employment Services (**01452 328400**)