

# Link Up

## Rochdale Borough Children with Disabilities Database

### What is the purpose of Link Up?

All local authorities are required, under the Children's Act 1989, to keep information about disabled children living within their area. This helps us to plan, monitor and review services.

As services are reviewed and developed it is essential that they are done in a way to meet the needs of children and young people. It's therefore important that information is collected from parents or carers about how their child's additional needs affect the way in which they live.

### Why should I consider including my child on the Database?

Your decision is voluntary and no child will be registered without parental consent. If you do not wish to be included, your entitlement to services will not be affected in any way. However, the more we know about the needs of disabled children in Rochdale, the more effectively we can plan services.

### Which children are eligible included on the register?

Children and young people with disabilities aged 0 to 19 years and who have a physical and/or learning disability and/or an associated life-limiting condition which has a substantial and long term effect on their ability to access facilities and activities.

In addition, with permission, young people will remain on the database until their 25th birthday to assist planning for Transition & Adult services.

### What are the benefits to my child?

- You will receive details of where you can obtain information relating to services for Children with Disabilities across Rochdale Borough.
- You will be kept informed about changes in services, new services and other helpful information by a regular newsletter.
- If an email address is provided, you may also receive notification of events or new services.
- The information you provide will be used to develop services that respond to need and try to make your life easier.

### Will the information be confidential?

- Yes. The information will be stored on a secure database and is subject to the Data Protection Act 1998.
- Information will be shared with people who plan services to give them a full picture of the needs of families like yours but only in such a way that they will not be able to identify you or your child.
- Sharing of personal information is limited to the professionals already directly involved with your child and the Link-Up Co-ordinator.
- No personal details will be given to anyone without your permission.
- The only information held is given to us by you.

### How do I join Link-Up?

Registration is simple!

1. Complete the Link Up registration form and email or post to the Link Up Coordinator.
2. Contact the Link Up Coordinator to request a form to be sent to you.
3. Ask your child's school, health professional or Social Worker for a copy of the form.

Once registered we will contact you every 2 years to ask to update the details, otherwise apart from newsletters, occasional emails and invitations there is nothing else you need to do.

### For further information please contact

The Link Up Coordinator, Children with Disabilities Team, Whitworth Road Depot, Haynes Street  
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