**What happens now?**

**Supporting Activities**

**for Children**

**and Young People with special educational needs or disability.**

**The Access Fund**




# Your application will be acknowledged by telephone or email as soon as possible

# Your application will be considered by the Access Fund Advisory Panel which will be meeting regularly

# We will get in touch with all applicants to let them know the panel’s decision

This fund has been made available by Newcastle City Council’s Children with Disabilities Service to support disabled children and families to have short breaks.

If this information is needed in another format or language please phone 0191 2774400

**What is the Access Fund?**

The Access Fund is a grant to help children and young people with a special educational need or disability to participate in the community. This can be any daytime, evening or weekend activity that the child or young person enjoys whilst their parent / carer has a break from caring. The Access Fund seeks to support children and young people to take part in inclusive activities alongside their non- disabled peers. This fund supports activities which will make a positive difference to the child over a 12 month period. The scheme runs until further notice.

**What can the Access Fund be used for?**

The fund aims to benefit individuals or groups of children and young people, with a special educational need or disability, by providing support to ensure children and young people can take part in local activities. This may include sporting, leisure or recreational and musical activities or participation in local groups.

**Who is eligible to apply for an Access Fund Grant?**

The Access Fund is open to any disabled child or young person living in Newcastle aged 0-17 years (inclusive) and who meets **at least one** of the following criteria:

* Child or young person in receipt of higher or middle rate Disability Living Allowance (DLA)?
* Young person in receipt of the standard or enhanced rates of Personal Independence Payment Daily Living component
* Child or young person subject to a Statement of Special Educational Need, Education, health and care plan (EHCP).

Those children who are not eligible to apply to the Access Fund are children with a Child in Need plan which is resourced by the Children with Disabilities Service.(Children with a personal budget)

**Funding for specialist equipment**

We only consider funding equipment which is essential to the child’s activity. Families will be signposted to other funding available for specialist or computing equipment.

We do have some information on charities that may assist with other types of equipment. Please contact Brian or Alyson at Nunsmoor Centre on 0191 2774400 who can give you this information.

**How to apply and what to include**

Complete an Access Fund application form in full. Your application must explain how you will use this grant to promote the inclusion of children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities in their communities.

What outcomes will this give?

 **Please note one application per financial year only. Receipts and a feedback form must be supplied at the end of your child’s activity. Please note further applications will not be considered without receipts being provided.**

**Applications of up to a maximum of £500 will be considered for 20 sessions of one chosen activity or a maximum of 20 taster sessions. The application can also support annual memberships eg gym membership, Centre for Life etc**

**Any queries please call** 0191 277 4400

 **Applications should be forwarded to:**

**Brian Graham and Alyson Hampshire**

Access Fund Project Lead

Nunsmoor Centre Trust

The Nunsmoor Centre

Studley Terrace

Newcastle upon Tyne

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