**USE OF COMMUNITY BUILDINGS/ SPACES**

**for children and young people with special education needs and/ or disabilities (SEND) to access with support**

Our aim is for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to be able to access community activities to allow their parent/ carers a short break from caring when needed.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in many children with complex needs and disabilities being unable to access community activities due to a National shortage of support workers. This means that parent/ carers are unable to access a short break from their caring role when needed and many families are reaching breaking point.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The Local Authority and Health Commissioners are working in partnership with providers to assist with the recovery of services following the pandemic.

In order to meet the needs of families we are moving towards a hub-delivery model from a centre base within the local community which will aim to;

* Ensure children and young people with disabilities can access community activities when most needed (on weekends).
* Assist Providers with recruiting and training local support workers into the inclusive community hub sites.
* Allow management over-sight and training of some less experienced support workers through a centre-based model.

We are looking for premises that can be used by Short Break Providers to deliver activities to children and young people with disabilities on weekends.

Do you have a premises in any of the following areas that could meet the requirements of venue service specification below?

* East Durham
* Sedgefield
* Derwentside
* Durham and Chester le Street
* The Dales

**COMMUNITY VENUES**

**SERVICE SPECIFICATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Purpose | Use as one of the weekend inclusive community hubs to allow children with disabilities to be part of their local community and allow their carers a break whilst they access. This premises will act as a base to deliver activities from and also deliver outreach into the local community.  |
| Service users | Children and young people accessing will have learning disabilities and a range of disabilities including complex needs, e.g health needs, autism etc. |
| Support arrangements | There will be an allocated Lead Provider for the hub who will have a contract to deliver these services with Durham County Council.There will be a Supervisor/ Manager on site and all children with have a support worker aligned to them in line with their assessed needs e.g. 1:1 support.A full risk assessment will be carried out on the premises prior to use.Each young person will have a support plan and individual risk assessment. |
| Venue Name and address |  |
| Name of contact person |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Do you have accessible entrance? | Yes No |
| Do you have disabled toilet facilities? | Yes No |
| Is there access to a kitchen to be able to make refreshments? | Yes No |
| Would there be two rooms available as below* 1 room would be required to delivery activities in
* 1 room required to make into a low sensory relaxation room
 | Yes No |
| Will there be anyone else accessing the premises at the same time? | Yes No |
| Could you tell us a little more about any facilities available e.g. sofas, TV, pool table, sports equipment? |
| What local amenities is there? e.g. shops, park, leisure centre etc? |
| Any links to the local area that could be used to develop projects e.g. allotments etc |
| Cost per room for use 9am – 6pm Saturday |  |
| Cost per room for use 9am – 6pm Sunday |  |
| Thankyou for taking the time to complete. Please could you return your completed form to AHS.commissioning@durham.gov.uk |