



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Taking a child (0-18 years) with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) to hospital

A guide for parents and carers

This guide has been written in co-production with three parent/carer forums in the west of Berkshire.

Getting to hospital



There is blue badge parking on Level 2 of the Royal Berkshire Hospital car park and a few in the hospital grounds on the Redlands Road side.

Some outpatient appointments can be arranged at the hospital sites in Thatcham, Bracknell and Henley, which can be quieter and have more parking. Please phone the number on your appointment letter and ask if you would like an appointment at one of these sites.

What practical help is available?

- There is a Changing Place on the ground floor of the Craven Road entrance. Other disabled toilets are located on each floor of the hospital. There are hoists on the children's Lion and Dolphin ward. A mobile hoist is available on request for other areas of the hospital.
- A learning disability co-ordinator can help flag your child's needs on their hospital records and offer you and hospital staff advice.
- Clinic busy? Ask for our electronic bleep system so that your child doesn't have to wait in a busy, noisy room.
- There is a quieter, low sensory side room in children's A&E on request. When available, side rooms can be offered to children with additional needs on the wards.
- A designated carers' lead can be accessed on visits to A&E. See also the carer's charter on display in A&E.



Changing Places



Facilities

- **The Child Development Team** is currently situated at Erlegh House, Earley Gate, Whitenights Rd, University of Reading Campus with paediatricians, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapists, a psychologist and dietitians. Referrals can be made via your GP or via your child's paediatrician.
- Hydrotherapy can be accessed via a referral through your child's GP, physiotherapist or consultant. There is a sitting hoist; currently not suitable for those who can't do a sitting transfer.
- **A Diagnosis Support Team** is available offering one to one peer support to parents whose children are being assessed or have been diagnosed with a health condition. Tel: 07990 761676 or e-mail dss@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk.
- Each area has a 'Local Offer' with lots of information about support groups and other help for families of children with SEND.



The West Berkshire Local Offer is at:

<http://fis.westberks.gov.uk/kb5/westberkshire/fsd/localoffer.page>

The Reading Local Offer Tel: 0118 937 3777 or visit the

website: <http://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/home.page>

The Wokingham Local Offer is at: www.wokingham.gov.uk/our-local-offer-for-children-and-young-people-with-additional-needs/

Consent for children over 14

We would normally involve children of 14 and over in decisions about their care. If your child is not able to make decisions for themselves due to their additional needs, please inform your child's medical team as soon as possible.

Over 18s are responsible for their own decisions unless they lack capacity under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

If you need any more information, please contact Reading Mencap 0118 966 2518, Autism Berkshire 0118 959 4594 or the Communicare Office on 0118 926 3941 or email office@communicare.org.uk

Any problems or questions?

Talk to your child's medical team. If you still have questions or concerns, contact the hospital Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0118 322 8338 or email PALS@royalberkshire.nhs.uk.

Want to be involved in developing future health services for children and young people with SEND?

Contact your local parent carer forum: to get involved:

- West Berkshire Parent Carer Forum 07860 942280 Email: fionaworby@roseroad.org.uk
- Reading Families' Forum Tel: 07516 185380 email: fran.morgan.rff@gmail.com
- REACH Wokingham email: Reachwokingham@hotmail.co.uk

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RBFT Paediatric Unit, November 2022.

Next review due: November 2022