

# Sponsored Childcare Service



Information about our service

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# Sponsored Childcare Service

This leaflet tells you about Gateshead Council's Sponsored Childcare Service. This service supports the development of children by providing access to quality day care for children who need care provision during the day.

There is an increased awareness that day care services can provide an important form of support for vulnerable children and families. The Sponsored Childcare Service is designed to support such families providing the care their children need for healthy development.

## About us

Gateshead Council has a duty to Safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need and we provide support to children and families who are assessed as needing help.

We believe that where possible, children and young people should be brought up within their own families. We can help this happen by working closely with parents/carers at times of stress by:

- Providing packages of family support to help prevent family breakdowns.
- Involving children, young people and their families in working out what support they need.
- Providing a co-ordinated family support service to enhance the life opportunities of children, young people and their families in Gateshead.

## Referral process and allocation

The service provides specialist support to families where access to good quality day care may help prevent difficult family circumstances from deteriorating further.

We can accept referrals from any source such as a social worker, health visitor, children's centre and parents/carers.

# About our service providers

A number of agencies and groups help to provide the services offered through our Sponsored Childcare Service in order to provide a range of integrated and inclusive childcare opportunities. These include:

- Sponsored Childminders
- Private Nurseries
- Pre-School Groups
- Out of School Groups

All our service providers are assessed and trained before taking part in the scheme and placements are monitored throughout. At the same time, ongoing support is offered to the providers.

## Services also provided include:

- Holiday programmes - such as Active Kidz
- Sponsored childminding - overnight stays
- Teenagers - occasional overnight care with childminders in exceptional circumstances (to prevent the child or young person needing to be accommodated on a longer term basis).

## Aiming High for Disabled Children

Aiming High for Disabled Children is about transforming services for disabled children and their families. A number of our sponsored child minders have been assessed and recruited to provide short break caring for disabled children in Gateshead, these include weekend care and overnight stays. Child minders receive additional training and are provided with a resource pack. This service is available until March 2011.



# Who to contact

- Family Support Coordinators  
Council Offices, Prince Consort Road, Gateshead NE8 4HJ  
Tel: 0191 433 8200

# Comments or Complaints

We want to make sure our services are as good as they possibly can be, and OFSTED regularly inspects the service to make sure it is top quality. We welcome your comments as they help us to work out what we need to improve, and you can talk to us at any time. If you're not happy with the service you can contact:

- **Complaints Manager**  
Community Based Services  
Civic Centre  
Gateshead  
NE8 1HH  
Tel: 0191 433 2408/2692
- **Cath Kennedy**  
Deckham Family Centre  
201 Split Crow Road  
Gateshead  
NE8 3UB  
Tel: 0191 477 1864



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