

West Berkshire Mencap is a local charity originally known as Newbury Mencap and founded in 1954.

Members of staff, assisted by a large number of volunteers, provide a wide range of facilities and services for people of all ages with a learning disability, their families and carers.

## Vision

Our vision is a world where people with a learning disability are valued equally, listened to and included. We want everyone to have the opportunity to live a full and rewarding life and reach their full potential.



## The Family Advisor Team

Our role is to develop and provide services to support children with learning a disability and their families. Please speak to our Family Advisors about any ideas you have which would support families in West Berkshire. Once a need is identified we can begin work on trying to meet that need. This is how our present services have developed. We are a needs led service.

Our Family Advisor team has information on a wide range of learning disability issues.

Please call the Family Advisor team for the support and advice you need.



**Tel: 01635 41464**

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West Berkshire Mencap Limited by Guarantee No. 3790942  
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## Family Advisor Service

West Berkshire Mencap is an established and growing charity based in purpose built premises in Newbury, dedicated to providing services and campaigning to support people with a learning disability, their families and carers in the local community.



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## *Family Advisor Service*

Our aim is to provide support, advice and information to people with a learning disability, their families and professionals working with them. The West Berkshire Mencap Family Advisor Service also offers individual support to parents, carers and service users.

We receive referrals from Adult Social Services, Children's Services, GP's, health visitors, schools, parents who use Mencap services and other local charities. We can help with a variety of issues including benefits advice, support at assessments and annual reviews, planning for the future, housing and information on work and leisure activities.

The Family Advisor Service has a dedicated member of staff to work with older parents and carers.

The Family Advisor Team also provides information and support to Young Carers in West Berkshire.

## *Friendship Skills Group*

In order to support adults with learning disabilities to take their rightful place in the community, we run a Friendship Skills Course every year which provides a learning opportunity in areas such as:

- Acceptable behaviour in different situations
- Social boundaries and how to recognise these
- Safety in the community
- Relationships
- Handling anger and other strong emotions

The course also involves lots of social activities to put new-found skills into practice!



## *Internet Drop In*

We run a free drop-in internet session for service users every month at Newbury Library. This is a chance to learn more about using the internet safely, finding information, playing games and discovering web-sites. The drop-in runs on the first Thursday of every month from 2.00–3.00pm and places can be booked through the Family Advisors.

## *Advocacy Services*

We provide an advocacy service for parents and carers, and also for service users through a weekly drop-in service at Link Up. We can support people through a variety of different situations and life opportunities.

We also provide support for parents with a learning disability, by providing an advocacy service throughout Child Protection procedures. We can offer information, advice and guidance at any stage of their child's development.