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CHILDREN'S TEAM

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Dorset's Disability Charity

# Making a difference to children and young people with disabilities



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Charity no. 282197

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## Overview

Our Children's Team provides a range of support services to children and young people living with disabilities across Dorset.

We understand the challenges that caring for a person with a disability can bring to the whole family and provide dedicated care and support to everyone - including parents.

As a team, we support you and work alongside you to support your extraordinary children to achieve extraordinary things.

### What we can offer you and your family:

- ✓ **Lily's Place:** day and overnight respite opportunities, *turn to page 4*
- ✓ **Shapes & Transitions:** providing care in the home and community up to age 25, *turn to page 6*
- ✓ **Project:** holiday activities for children to enjoy, *turn to page 8*
- ✓ **Short Breaks:** a range of services including family play sessions, a youth club, holiday activities, and support for siblings *turn to page 10*

**Mark Powell**  
CEO



## Lily's Place

Lily's Place is our short break children's home, which is fully equipped to provide overnight respite care for up to four children and young people with complex physical and/or learning difficulties. In addition to those coming for overnight visits, we are also able to provide day care sessions at weekends and during school holidays, as well as visits after school in term time.

Facilities also include fully equipped bathrooms, rooms with hoists and specialist equipment, a soft play area, sensory room, ball pool, and garden.

### Visiting Lily's Place

Visits can be during the day, or for a sleepover, allowing the children to meet and make friends and to relax and enjoy themselves. Short breaks offer a lifeline for families managing the challenges of providing full-time care for their child; a break for them, as well as a safe haven in any emergency.

Children can choose and experience new activities during their stay, including outings to local attractions, for example the cinema or Poole Park. Staying at Lily's Place helps your child to develop greater independence, as well as social skills, through interaction with a small number of other children.

To access Lily's Place, a referral is usually sent by a health or social care professional. Although in some circumstances, parents are able to self-refer.



### Delivering high standards

At Lily's Place, we are monitored by Ofsted and receiving a 'Good' Ofsted rating at the last inspection during August 2019.

The staff are trained to look after the children and young people, who may have complex individual care needs. Staff have particular skills in developing effective communication strategies for everyone we support.

### Get in touch

Speak to **Amiee Barnett, Lily's Place manager**, with any questions you may have:

[lilysplace@diverseabilities.org.uk](mailto:lilysplace@diverseabilities.org.uk)  
01202 718238

*"My child has the opportunity to socialise and to spend time in a safe environment and I can have a break."*

*"It's a home from home environment service, where my daughter feels accepted and loved, very well looked after. She can meet and chat to different people and learn cooking skills and more."*



*"She feels encouraged and welcome. Seeing our child happy and well looked after gives us joy in the midst of everyday burdens and cares. Our daughter always looks forward to the day at Lily's Place! She keeps asking how many days until she goes, she counts the days and so do we. We are very grateful for all dates we receive."*



# Shapes

**At Shapes, each child or young person has an individually tailored programme and works with a small team of fully trained child support workers.**

## Personalised care

Before your sessions start, a detailed care plan and assessment of needs will be carried out to work out how best we can support your child and family.

To access Shapes, an assessment is required by the local authority. Some families access Shapes through local authority funding, however, it is possible to use Direct Payment methods or other funding. The cost of the service is based on individual requirements.

## What to expect...

Shapes staff perform most tasks that the parents carry out in their caring roles; personal care, administration of medication, feeding (including alternative methods), epilepsy care, oxygen therapy, overnight 1:1 observation, outings and trips in the community.



This is a very flexible service as times of care are organised to suit your family's needs. Typically, Shapes is organised for school mornings and after school. Getting ready for bedtime including bathing, overnight care, waking nights, or sleep-in on call nights.

We can also take children out to activities during weekends and school holidays to provide your family with a short break. We'll work with you to see which session times would be appropriate, along with the tasks our staff would perform.

## Transitions

Young people aged between 18 and 25, who have profound disabilities and complex medical needs, can receive day care at our respite home, Lily's Place. Care is provided for 37 weeks of the year between 9.30am and 3pm, with access to specialist activities and therapies.



We provide support so young people making the transition into adulthood are ready for the future and the move towards adult services, whether that's with Diverse Abilities or another care provider.

## Lawford Lodge

Lawford Lodge is a respite home for 18 to 25-year olds who have profound disabilities and complex medical needs.

It is a two-bedroom bungalow with a lounge area, kitchen, accessible bathroom and a large garden. There are hoisting facilities throughout the home and has been rated 'Good' by CQC.

Breaks vary in length dependent on assessed need, for example, one night per month or two nights per week. We can then work with the young person and yourself to support transition fully to an adult service before they are 25.

## Get in touch

Speak to **Claire Stacey, Shapes manager**, with any questions you may have:

**[shapes@diverseabilities.org.uk](mailto:shapes@diverseabilities.org.uk)**

**01202 718238**

*"The support you provide is invaluable to the family and I thank you for your ongoing, consistent support."*

## Short Breaks Crew

We offer a wide range of exciting activities during the school holidays for a child or young person with a disability to attend. We also offer a weekend club for young people to socialize with peers in an inclusive, supported, and safe environment.

### What we get up to

Our team head up a whole host of activities including Chessington World of Adventures, Splashdown, pantomimes, bowling, swimming, crabbing, ringos, alpaca walking and much more.



### Coping with CHAOS

We provide for children and young adults with complex, profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and challenging behaviour that cannot easily access other resources and play schemes from birth until 18 years old.

Sessions are held every weekday of the school holidays for the whole family, including siblings. We aim to offer one session per family per week of each holiday and booking in advance is essential once registered with CHAOS.

[chaos@diverseabilities.org.uk](mailto:chaos@diverseabilities.org.uk)  
01202 855105 or 01202 718238

### Project

Join us in the school holidays and weekends to socialise with peers in an inclusive, supported, and safe environment.

Trips and activities have included Chessington World of Adventures, Splashdown, pantomimes, bowling, swimming, crabbing and much more. Everyone gives feedback at the end of each session so their favourite activities can be incorporated into the next holidays.

### How to get involved

Young people aged eight to 18 with disabilities are welcome to join and access is either through referral from a social worker or through self-referral. Some funding is available for a limited number of spaces, or an £8 contribution is paid in advance.

*"The play sessions are safe, and my son and his brother are looked after. They can both mix with other children and over the years friendships have developed. What is also great, is that I can stay on the premises and chat to other parents - it provides a network of support."*

[project@diverseabilities.org.uk](mailto:project@diverseabilities.org.uk)  
01202 718238



### Awesome Nights

Young people aged 13 to 18 are invited to come and join the crew at Awesome Nights – our weekly youth club giving everyone the chance to socialise and have fun.

We run sessions every Wednesday between 7pm and 9pm either at The Families Centre in West Moors, or out and about in the community. It's a place where to get together with friends, have fun, and enjoy activities with support staff on hand if needed.

At West Moors we have a cinema room, sensory room, lots of activities and Wiis, Playstations, and Xboxes. On the other weeks we like to go out and have fun doing things like archery, climbing, BBQs, and sometimes we may even practice life skills like catching the bus or going out for dinner.

#### How do we get involved?

Through self-referral. Email [chaos@diverseabilities.org.uk](mailto:chaos@diverseabilities.org.uk) for an application form and we'll add you to the list and send over the latest timetable.

*"We are really grateful for the activities our son went on and for the support given to him – has has a fab time." "Your kindness, patience, and skills are endless. You rank well up there with my heroes."*

[chaos@diverseabilities.org.uk](mailto:chaos@diverseabilities.org.uk)  
01202 855105 or 01202 718238



### STARs

STARs is a support network for SEN siblings aged eight to 16. It's important to provide an opportunity that enables young people to realise they are not alone, hopefully giving them a support network which will last far longer than however long they wish to attend our sessions, because being a sibling never ends.

We provide a 12-week programme to children to come along and meet others in the same boat in an environment where they can access support and advice, but also take part in fun activities, make friends and be themselves.

#### How do we get involved?

Your child can access this service if they are the sibling of a child with special educational needs.

*"Your kindness, patience, and skills are endless. You rank well up there with my heroes."*

*"Thank you, at long last someone is thinking of the siblings."*

[stars@diverseabilities.org.uk](mailto:stars@diverseabilities.org.uk)  
01202 855105 or 01202 718238



## Meet Victoria

Victoria is a lovely young lady who has profound and multiple learning difficulties, as well as epilepsy and a very rare syndrome called Temple-Baraitser, which has 13 known cases in the world so far.

Her parents provide care for her 24/7, which includes washing, personal care, dressing, feeding and administering her medication. Life for Victoria's family is very organised and routine-led because Victoria is completely dependent on an adult for everything.

Victoria visits Lily's Place for the opportunity to do normal teenage activities and provide her mum and dad a well-earned break.

The respite home is the perfect place for Victoria to go to as most teenagers will have been to Brownies, Cubs, had sleepovers with friends, stayed with grandparents...but Victoria cannot do these things because of the extra support she needs.



The time that Victoria spends at Lily's Place is very precious to her mum and dad, but also to her because she can spend time doing things any other young person would do.

Respite gives Victoria experiences without mum and dad around. She went to the cinema for the first time with Diverse Abilities Children's Team and also carriage riding during the summer.



Andrea, Victoria's mum, said:

*"Victoria loves visiting the respite home. She is always very excited when she arrives and usually squeals with delight as she trots in the door - she doesn't have a second thought for me or my husband! We don't mind though as this shows she loves visiting and spending time there, and when we know she is happy, we can relax because we know she is in good hands."*

## Staff support

### Care you can count on

Children's Team staff work across all areas of the service. They follow a comprehensive induction process and are trained to a high standard by the Diverse Abilities training team, including registered nurses.

We work closely with specialist learning disability nurses, community nurses, and other relevant professionals. Training can include clinical skills, such as alternate feeding techniques, respiratory care, and behaviour management.

All staff are recruited inline with safer recruitment processes, staff complete full enhanced DBS checks, and adhere to CQC and Ofsted regulations.



### Providing a lifetime of support

We are here to support children and provide this support into adulthood. As well as our Children's Team, we provide the following services to those living with disabilities in Dorset:

- ✓ **Langside School**, a specialist school with nursing and therapy teams on site.
- ✓ **Supported Living**, providing 24/7 care in the home and community.
- ✓ **The Beehive Centre**, for adults to undertake and experience a range of activities and opportunities.
- ✓ **Advice Team**, for everything related to benefits, legal support, appeals and more.





# CHILDREN'S TEAM



## **DIVERSE ABILITIES**

Lily's Place,  
17 Manor Avenue, Poole, Dorset  
BH12 4LB

**01202 718238**  
**[www.diverseabilities.org.uk](http://www.diverseabilities.org.uk)**



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