



Short Breaks Fee Waiving Policy

Diverse Abilities wishes to help families in crisis access our drop-in services such as Coping with CHAOS sessions when they have an emergency which has resulted in no means of payment. It is important that a worry about lack of funds for a family is not a barrier to accessing services, especially during times of a crisis.

As a charity, our funds are very limited however we will designate an amount to support families where there is an identified need due to lack of funds. This will only be a stop gap solution rather than a permanent solution and all requests for emergency support must be authorised by the manager of the service.

It is important to us that the procedures we follow are transparent, fair and non-discriminatory. Therefore, we have developed this policy to outline criteria for referral; the referral and decision-making process, response time, limitations on support and referral pathways for ongoing aid.

Criteria for referral:

A sudden family crisis, for example:

- Illness of main carer or sibling
- Death in the family
- Relationship break up

A significant family problem, for example:

- Recent diagnosis; statutory provision not in place
- Family relocation; support framework not in place
- A financial problem/cash flow crisis such as a delay in benefits being paid

This provision is intended to support families with children with profound physical disabilities and/or severe learning disabilities. We will only waive fees for children with a diagnosed condition.

The referral process:

Families can self-refer children with disabilities, all referrals will need to be made to the manager of the service and they will liaise directly with the families to devise either a payment plan or to waive the fees completely.