



Department  
for Education

**Review of the Family Fund Trust**  
**Appendix D – Alternative Models**  
**Research Report**  
**April 2013**

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# Review of the Family Fund Trust

In April 2012, the Department for Education commissioned the Moorhouse Consortium (including Cognizant and OPM) to undertake a rapid review of the Family Fund Trust (FFT). The review, carried out between April 2012 and July 2012, had five main objectives:

1. To compare the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the current Family Fund model with alternative delivery models
2. To assess the process of awareness raising with families and allocation and distribution of funds
3. To identify the short and long term impact of initial and repeat funding on families
4. To measure the qualitative impact of home visits
5. To review the appropriateness of the role of UK Government as a direct grant provider.

Alongside the main report there is a research brief and five supporting appendices. These are:

- Appendix A: Detailed Methodology and Research Tools
- Appendix B: Summary reports from the main strands of research
- Appendix C: Individual Family Case Study Reports
- Appendix D: Alternative models
- Appendix E: Raw survey data by country, first time applicants and multiple applicants

This report covers the following comparators and alternative models:

- A. Community Care grants, which are part of the Social Fund
- B. Budgeting loans, which are part of the Social Fund
- C. The Disabled Facilities Grant
- D. Personal budgets
- E. The CAN scheme
- F. Other grant schemes open to families with disabled children in the UK

## A. Community Care grants

The Social Fund was introduced in 1988 to help people on low incomes with certain expenses which are difficult to meet out of weekly income. The Social Fund can be divided into two parts, a regulatory part and a non-regulatory part. The regulatory Social Fund consists of payments for maternity expenses, funeral expenses, periods of cold weather and winter fuel. A person has a legal right of entitlement to these payments providing s/he satisfies certain conditions of entitlement contained in regulations. The non-regulatory Social Fund consists of a system of repayable loans and non-repayable grants:

- Community Care grants (CCGs)
- Budgeting loans
- Crisis Loans for a variety of other needs.

There is no legal right of entitlement to these payments which are funded by a cash-limited budget.

Community Care grants are available to vulnerable people claiming income-related benefits. They are intended to:

- provide financial help for living independently in the community
- ease exceptional pressure on the individual or the family
- help people establish and remain in the community following a stay in institution or care home in which they received care
- help people care for a prisoner/young offender on release on temporary licence
- promote care in the community
- help people who have to cope with special difficulties

Community Care grants are targeted at:

- Those moving out of residential or institutional care to live independently
- Those moving to a new home to a more suitable place following an unsettled period in their life and are being resettled by an organisation like a local council or voluntary organisation
- A person who is setting up home as part of a planned resettlement programme following a period during which s/he has been without a settled way of life may qualify for a CCG. A programme of settlement may involve help to set up home and help with matters such as budgeting skills, literacy skills, careers guidance and benefits advice. However, setting up home is more than just moving house, it is a process which may begin with a new home.
- Those who need help to stay at home and not go into residential care or hospital
- Those who need help because they or their family face exceptional pressure, such as family breakdown or because one member has a long-term illness

- Those who are looking after someone who is ill or disabled, or has been released from custody on temporary licence.

## Average grant size and success rate

The average size of grant awarded was £465 in 2009/2010. In 2009 – 2010, the total number of applications in UK was 620,160, of which 293,260 were successful, a rate of 47%. This is a lower success rate than in 2005-2006, when 56% of applications were successful.

## The application process

To apply for a CCG, a person must be applying for a minimum of £30 and fill in a SF300 form with all the relevant documents. This form and the documents are then taken or sent to the person's local Jobcentre Plus. The decision maker looks at all the information on the application before deciding if a payment can be made. The grant carries the right of entitlement to an internal review but not to an independent appeal.

Recent reports from HM Treasury<sup>1</sup> and Citizens' Advice Bureau<sup>2</sup> have revealed:

- An unfair regional distribution of funds between regions, and a low awareness of the grants amongst pensioners and ethnic minorities.
- The Agency does not routinely monitor levels of awareness of the scheme among vulnerable people to determine if money is being targeted effectively.

The standard for the Average Actual Clearance Time for Community Care grants is nine working days. The clearance time is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received to the date of the decision, inclusive.

## Administration costs

The administration costs of the scheme amounts to 13 per cent of the funds paid out. A recent HM Treasury Report noted: *'The £19 million cost of administering the Grant is too high. Administration costs are equivalent to 13% of the £141 million paid out in grants. This seems disproportionately high for what the Department claims is a light touch administration scheme.'*

## Efficiency and effectiveness

In 2011, HM Treasury reported that *'The effectiveness of the scheme is reduced by high levels of administrative error and poor quality decision making. The Department's Social Fund accounts have been repeatedly qualified because of high error levels, and £17.1 million of this is attributable to the Community Care grant arising from missing case files and incomplete documentation'*.

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<sup>1</sup> From HM Treasury's meeting in February 2011 on the Community Care Grant

<sup>2</sup> Citizens Advice submission to the DWP call for evidence, Local support to replace Community Care Grants, April 2011

*“In addition, the Agency’s administrative “Decision Makers” frequently fail to assess and challenge applications properly, such as by verifying information by telephone or in person. As a result, around 50% of appeals against decisions succeed.”*

## **On-going challenges**

Notes from the HM Treasury’s meeting in February 2011 on the Community Care grant revealed that:

*‘The Community Care grant provides an important safety net for those most in need by helping them to obtain essential items, such as beds or cookers. The scheme has been frozen in cash terms since 2006-07, however, and the Department for Work and Pensions (the Department) expects future funding to remain at £141 million a year.*

*The way the scheme operates is both inefficient and unfair: awareness about the Grant is patchy; it is unevenly distributed across the country and across different groups of people. Errors are too common, with a large proportion of decisions challenged and over-turned; and administrative costs are unacceptably high. The Department has played a passive role in administering the scheme and the Committee do not accept the Department’s argument that it has been constrained by the legal framework from making improvements.*

*Under existing arrangements, applying for and awarding a grant is essentially a paper-based exercise and the quality of decision making in Jobcentre Plus is unsatisfactory. Around half of the appeals considered by the Independent Review Service were found to contain significant errors because decision makers were making poor judgements based on incomplete information and without challenging applicants’ statements. At 12% of total Grant funds distributed, administrative error is too high. The risk of fraud and error is further increased by a lack of basic checks and balances: customers are not required to keep receipts and no spot checks are carried out by the Department. Moreover, at £19 million in 2008-09 and 13% of total funds distributed, administration costs are unacceptably high, especially for a scheme intended to be light touch and discretionary.*

*The Committee also has concerns about the fairness of the scheme. Funding is not fairly distributed across the country, with a clear imbalance between funding in each district and potential demand and need. Thus, an applicant’s chances of receiving a grant vary according to where they live. The Committee considers the Department should do more to forecast demand based on established patterns and trends. Regional funding allocations are decided by Ministers but it is up to officials to provide clear advice about changes needed to improve the fairness of the scheme.*

*Finally, the Committee considers there is scope to help more people by making the purchasing arrangements more efficient. Agreeing central contracts for frequently requested items could generate financial savings of around £14 million a year for the scheme and provide a guarantee of quality to applicants. Such an approach can be used even if responsibility for decision making transfers to local authorities. Technological advances, such as the use of store cards, could also make purchasing easier for customers while preserving their dignity.’*

## Useful reading

- CCG Treasury minutes report – February 2011
- Social Fund Community Care grant Average Actual Clearance Times April 2010 to February 2011 – Report dated March 2011
- Annual Report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2010/2011 – Report dated April 2011
- The Social Fund Commissioner’s Annual Report 2010/2011
- Social Fund Guide, May 2012
- 2012/2013 Social Fund Allocations Explanatory Note
- Social Fund use amongst older people in Britain, The Personal Finance Research Centre
- [www.lawcentreni.org/EoR/benefits-and-tax-credits/social-fund.html](http://www.lawcentreni.org/EoR/benefits-and-tax-credits/social-fund.html)



## B. Budgeting loans

A Budgeting loan (BL), part of the Social Fund, is an interest-free loan for people who have been on Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance (income-related), Pension Credit or payment on account of one of these benefits, for at least 26 weeks. Unlike Community Care grants (CCGs) and Crisis Loans (CLs), they are not limited to people facing special difficulties arising from special circumstances. However, BL awards are still subject to an overall cash-limit.

Budgeting loans are repayable awards. They help people in receipt of a qualifying benefit for at least 6 months with intermittent expenses that it is difficult to budget for. It is intended to help spread the cost of certain one-off expenses over a longer period.

### Average grant size and success rate<sup>3</sup>

In 2010/2011 over 1.1 million awards were made, worth nearly £446 million (gross expenditure). In 2009/10 there were 1,654,980 applications, of which 1,196,260 were awarded, a success rate of 72%. This is slightly lower than the 2005/06 success rate of 75%<sup>3</sup>.

The average award size in 2009/10 was £369, which is lower than the figure for 2005/06, which was £424.

DWP guidance<sup>4</sup> notes that the smallest amount that can be borrowed for a single Budgeting loan is £100. The most Jobcentre Plus can pay an individual for any one time will depend upon whether the person is:

- single
- a couple
- single or a couple with children

and whether they:

- already owe money to the Social Fund
- are able to pay the loan back
- have any savings over £1,000 (or £2,000 if them or their partner are over 60)

The total amount of all Social Fund debt that can be borrowed by way of a Crisis Loan or Budgeting loan cannot be more than £1,500.

The amount of the award depends on:

- the size of the local budget
- a person's weighting level

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<sup>3</sup> Data from the DWP, available at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-fund-spend-by-local-authority.xls>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/technical-guidance/sb16-a-guide-to-the-social/budgeting-loans/>

- any outstanding Budgeting loan debt
- a person's ability to repay
- a person's excess capital.

## Application process<sup>5</sup>

Applicants contact Jobcentre Plus, or the local pension centre, for an SF500 claim form. This is filled out and returned to Jobcentre Plus where a decision maker decides the amount awarded. Individual items or services that are needed do not need to be listed. But how much money a person wants to borrow must be stated. Once a decision is made about the application, *which is usually within a week*, the person is sent a letter informing them of the decision. If the person is offered a loan, the letter may offer up to three choices of different loan amounts, each with a different rate at which to repay. The person is asked to sign this letter, indicating which one of the offer choices they want to accept and showing that they understand the repayment terms and that the loan must be repaid. When the signed letter is returned, the loan is paid and deductions often start with the next payment of benefit. The total debt should normally be repaid in 104 weeks (2 years).

It takes an average of 6 days between receiving an application and arriving at a decision.

## Admin costs<sup>5</sup>

An independent review of the Social Fund reported that during 2010/2011, the unit cost was £86, which is lower than £99 for the previous year. This is calculated to include all direct costs of staff, non-manpower and capital expenditure; and indirect costs of accommodation and related costs which are outsourced and paid for centrally.

## Efficiency and effectiveness<sup>5</sup>

The Social Fund Commissioners Annual Report 2010 / 2011 stated that *'during 2010/2011, we received 3,383 complaints about decisions, which represented 6.3% of our workload. Errors led us to change the outcome in 167 cases which represented 4.9% of the complaints we received and 0.3% of our total workload.'*

## Ongoing challenges<sup>5</sup>

Independent review of the Social Fund reported that:  
*'During 2010/2011 Jobcentre Plus was unable to provide us with some or all of the important papers in 24% of cases. We understand that the process for scanning all Social Fund documents onto Jobcentre Plus' computer system has now been introduced across the country. We look forward to anticipated improvements in the numbers of cases with complete documentation received by us.'*

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<sup>5</sup> From The Social Fund Commissioners Annual Report 2010 / 2011. Available at: [http://www.irs-review.org.uk/infocent/reports/ar1011/IRSAR2010\\_11.pdf](http://www.irs-review.org.uk/infocent/reports/ar1011/IRSAR2010_11.pdf)

*'The main types of errors Inspectors identified in the cases they reviewed, related to Jobcentre Plus not holding the right information and not trying to obtain it before making a decision. Inspectors also identified cases for which Jobcentre Plus did not provide all of the customers' papers. This can be a significant issue in those cases where Inspectors cannot see the actual decision which has been made by Jobcentre Plus staff.'*

## **Useful reading**

- A helpful overview of Budgeting Loans is available at the Independent Review Service website: <http://www.irs-review.org.uk/faq/bl.htm>
- The Department for Work and Pension's A Guide to the Social Fund
- The Social Fund Commissioner's Annual Report 2010/2011

## C. The Disabled Facilities Grant

The Disabled Facilities Grant is a statutory entitlement which was introduced in 1996 by the Housing grants, Construction and Regeneration Act (HGCRA) 1996. It helps disabled people to live as comfortably and independently as possible in their own homes through the provision of adaptations. Entitlement to a Disabled Facilities Grant is mandatory for eligible disabled people and the grant provides financial assistance for the provision of a wide range of housing adaptations ranging from stair lifts, level access showers and home extensions. Before issuing a DFG a local housing authority must satisfy itself that the works are necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of the disabled person and are reasonable and practicable depending on the age and condition of the property.

### Average grant size and success rate

In April 2012, the government invested a further £20m in the grant, bringing the total to £200m for 2011/12. Grant applicants may receive a full grant or may be required to make a contribution towards the cost of the works. The maximum grant limit in England was increased from £25,000 to £30,000 from 22 May 2008. In Wales the maximum DFG grant has been £30,000 for some time. The means test is reviewed annually to reflect changes in the cost of living and other allowances that are taken into account as part of the test.

The proportion of people eligible, average size of grant and the overall cost of grant vary considerable for different groups of households. CLG's 2011 report titled *'Disabled Facilities Grant allocation methodology and means test'* reveals that:

- About 41 per cent of all grants would go to those who own their homes outright and about a third (34%) to owners with at least £80,000 worth of equity in their home.
- Grants tend to be higher for adults of working age with no children and for lone parents and lower for households over 60.
- The average amount of grant is significantly higher for those aged under 20 (£9,076). However, because so few grants are for this age group, they only amount to 7 per cent of the total amount needed. Those aged 16-59 also, on average, qualify for larger grants (£7,094) and their need amounts to 43 per cent of the total sum required.
- The average grant varies substantially by region being highest in the South West (£6,693) and lowest in East of England (£3,727). Grants in three regions (North West, South West and London) account for almost half (49%) of the total estimated need to spend.
- The average size of grant also varies by deprivation, but not in a systematic way. However, about a third (32%) of the total expenditure needed relates to households in the most deprived fifth of areas.

Grant applicants may receive a full grant or may be required to make a contribution towards the cost of the works.

## Application process

Local authorities (in particular their housing or environmental health departments) across the UK administer the grant locally. The local authority provides an application form which sets out the further documentation required to support an application. An application is only valid if it is made on the council's form and if it includes all the information required.

The council must return a decision in writing within six months of receipt of a completed valid application and of any additional information they may require. In a few cases a local authority may specify a date before which grant is not payable. This will be no later than 12 months from the date on which the application was made.

The grant will only be paid when the council are satisfied that the work has been completed to their satisfaction and in accordance with the grant approval. The individual applying for the grant is responsible for ensuring that their builder meets the standard they require. Grant can only be paid on provision of an acceptable invoice, demand or receipt of payment for the works.

The English house condition survey analysis has found that there is a very large backlog of need that has not been either recognised or addressed by the current system.

## On-going challenges

The challenges facing the DFG programme are

- a very high and increasing demand for the grant. This is because of the mandatory nature of the grant entitlement combined with a rapidly increasing age profile of the population. Over 70 per cent of DFG grants go to people aged over 60 and it is this section of the population which is likely to grow dramatically in the future; and the increasing number of children with severe disabilities, including complex health conditions. Such cases currently account for under 10 per cent of the number of DFG applications but the average expenditure per case is higher than average. The removal of the means test for these adult cases will also have a significant resource effect.
- the existing pressure on resources within the DFG programme which has meant that, despite the increases in Government funding for the programme since 1997, this has led to long waiting lists of grant applications in some areas;
- the means test which is designed to channel assistance towards those most in need is poorly targeted and can be seen to treat particular groups harshly;
- there are limitations to grant entitlement under the DFG programme because of the restricted purposes for which grant must be made available and because of the maximum limit. Although assistance may also be available from other social care and housing programmes to meet specialist needs this may not always be forthcoming and the multiplicity of support programmes adds to the complexity and confusion of the system; this complexity is compounded because DFG is often operated independently of other social care and community equipment programmes;

- entitlement to DFG applies across all housing tenures but the complexities of the various funding streams means that in practice inequities can occur and cause hardship and resentment; and
- the service which is offered through DFG to disabled people is not normally widely publicised and the support available to help the applicant through the process is not always available.

## **Useful reading on the Disabled Facilities Grant**

- 'Disabled Facilities Grant allocation methodology and means test – Final report' – Communities and Local Government, February 2011
- House of Commons Library Standard Note: 'Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)' – February 2012, by Wendy Wilson, Social Policy Section
- The Commission on the Funding of Care and Support (report) – July 2011
- Disabled Facilities Capital Grant 2012/2013 (tables showing grant allocations by Authorities)
- Disability Law Service document on the Disabled Facilities Grant
- Disabled Facilities Grant, Communities and Local Government
- York University Table: 'Private Sector Improvements and DFGs'
- DFGs paid by region 1996-2011 (Excel Spreadsheet)
- The Disabled Facilities Capital Grant and Addition 2011/2012
- Review of the Disabled Facilities Grant 2005 (An interdepartmental review)
- A Review of Demand for the Disabled Facilities Grant, October 2007
- Reviewing the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme, Bristol University, October 2005

## D. Individual Budgets for Disabled Children

The Aiming High for Disabled Children individual budgets scheme began in 2009 (under the former DCSF), as a set of pilots from April 2009 until March 2011 across six Local Authorities (LAs) and their Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). It now falls under the DFE. An individual budget (IB) applies to an arrangement whereby a service user gains direct control over the application of funding allocated to them following an assessment process or processes, and where funding is sourced from a number of income streams held by local statutory bodies. The intention in bringing different funding streams together is to go beyond current direct payment arrangements, and provide a more holistic and joined up package of support.

This is a pilot scheme and as such has only been available in a fixed number of Local Authorities each year over the last three years. Individual budgets (IB) widen the scope of choice and control to include more funding streams. In an individual budget, different funding streams to which a person is entitled are integrated, allowing the user greater flexibility to choose how resources are used. Users can choose to take this monetised budget as cash, services or a mixture of the two. The flexibility of individual budgets allows individuals to tailor the support they receive to meet their needs as a whole, rather than being provided with compartmentalised and fragmented support. IBs can also be held and managed by a broker who in turn can support service users in: managing the budget, arranging care, facilitating a package of support designed around the beneficiary, coordinating provision of services and avoiding duplication in provision, and in improving outcomes for the family.

Government is providing funding and support to boost sustainable parental engagement in the planning and delivery of disabled children's services and we would also expect parents, as well as disabled children and young people to be involved in the development of each local IB pilot.

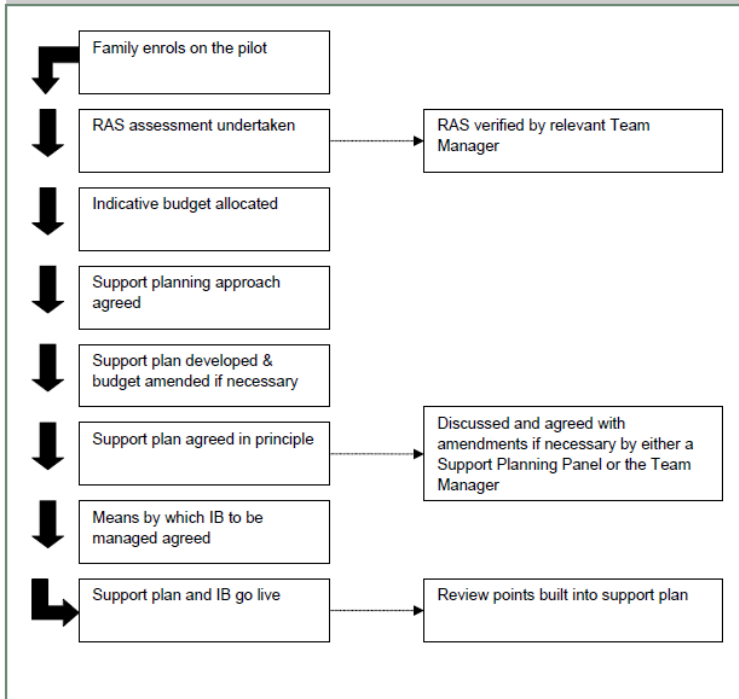
### Available funding

Over each of the last three financial years, the following LAs each received £150,000: Coventry, Derbyshire, Essex, Gateshead, Gloucestershire, and Newcastle upon Tyne. It was aimed at children 17 years or under. The individual budgets are administered locally by the Local Authority along with their Primary Care Trust.

### The application process

Individual budgets, unlike direct payments, bring together multiple funding streams and areas of expenditure to provide a more holistic joined up package of support for the user. IBs can be held and managed by a broker, with the advantages that this better supports service users to manage the budget, reduces the responsibility for arranging their own care; and facilitates the provision of a package of support designed around the child and family, encouraging coordinated provision of services and avoiding duplication in provision and improving outcomes for the family.

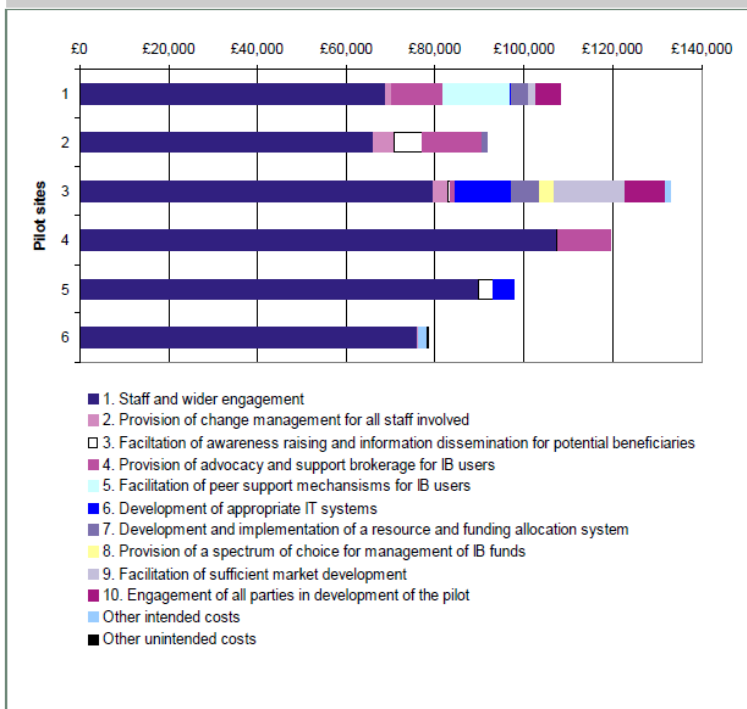
Figure 5-1: Resource allocation and support planning process for sites using the RAS



Source: SQW case study research

## Admin costs

Figure 7-2: Breakdown of 2009/10 financial costs by element of the CDM



Each pilot site is represented by a number 1-6

Source: SQW Consulting



## AHDC IB Pilot Principles

### Focus on the child and family

- The wellbeing of the disabled child is the most important consideration. The assessment of the needs of the child must take account of the needs of their carers and family in care planning.
- The purpose of the IB will be to promote improved outcomes for the child and family.
- Individual budgets must be purely voluntary – no one will ever be forced to have a budget and a LA does not have to provide one if they are not satisfied that the services commissioned would not safeguard and promote the welfare of the child.
- While the local authority will have to ensure that the budget is spent on the purposes for which it was agreed, the individual budget holder will have as much flexibility as possible in deciding the balance of services to achieve the agreed outcomes.
- There will be regular reviews to
  - focus on the impact of the services commissioned on outcomes for the child and family,
  - ensure that the IB has been used appropriately and ensure that support services are in place to help the family manage the IB.

### Useful reading

- Individual Budgets for Families with Disabled Children – Interim report 2010, SQW Consulting
- Introducing individual budgets and self-directed support for disabled children, young people and their families and carers, October 2007, OPM
- Individual Budgets pilot specification and application pack (for Local Authorities)
- Extension of the Evaluation of the Individual Budget Pilot Programme for Families with Disabled Children, Final Quarterly Report, January 2012, SQW
- IBs for families with Disabled Children, Resource Allocation thematic, DFE 2011
- IBs for families with Disabled Children, Final Case Study Report Gloucestershire pilot site 2011
- IBs for families with Disabled Children, Final Technical Report, 2011
- AHDC Individual Budgets, DFE Website:  
[www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/send/ahdc/a0068208/individual-budgets](http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/send/ahdc/a0068208/individual-budgets)
- 2011-2012 AHDC IB Pilots Grant Determination
- 2011-2012 IB Pilot statement of expenditure

## E. CAN (Classes & Advice Network) Parent

This is a new government scheme for parents, led by the Department for Education. The CAN parent network brings together mums, dads, community organisations, and specialists in how children grow and develop. It aims to:

- help parents find and enjoy sources of advice and support
- help all parents to get the support and information they want, how they want it.
- encourage a growth in the number and type of high quality, universal parenting classes available.

It will also intended to create a culture shift so that accessing this form of support is as normal to parents as attending antenatal classes. The trial will also be looking at what parents want from parenting education support, what has the best results and what motivates them to take up an offer of a parenting class<sup>6</sup>.

The CAN website<sup>7</sup> states that Parents will be eligible for £100 vouchers which can be spent with the CANparent classes and advice network to get support with issues such as:

- communicating and staying calm
- managing sleep issues
- learning through play
- coping with difficult behaviour
- rules and routines
- parents working together as a team
- understanding different stages of your child's development

CANparent is an endorsement brand that is being used by a range of organisations and individuals, who are committed to connecting all parents to high quality support, advice and classes about parenting that they are looking for. CANparent is backed by government – including the Department for Education and the Department of Health – to enable the public, private and third sector to work together for the benefit of parents and children.

Classes are already running in Camden and will be available for booking in all three trial areas from 17 May. The trial will last for 2 years to give everyone a chance to use their voucher before May 2014.

A consortium including Ecorys, Parenting UK and Orion Security Print will provide local support and voucher services for the trial. This support involves engaging stakeholders in the trial areas, project management including collating management information for the evaluation, and printing and distributing vouchers. The evaluation is being carried out by CEDAR, TNS-BMRB, Bryson Purdon Social Research, and London Economics.

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<sup>6</sup> Description and aims from: <http://www.vac.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/CAN-Parent-Brief.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.canparent.org.uk/about.html>

The management of the CANparent voucher scheme is undertaken by a consortium of organisations:

- [Ecorys UK](#) is Europe's premier provider of management services. We provide support to the public, private and third sectors to develop and implement programmes to achieve their strategic priorities.
- [Parenting UK](#) is a national membership organisation formed in 1995 for those working with parents. Their mission is to raise public and professional awareness of the vital role of good parenting, to support people who work with parents to be more effective, and to foster good parenting in every family that requires or requests it.
- [Orion Print](#) is a leading manufacturer of security printed products, which include vouchers, tickets, certificates and many others.

CANparent will run in three areas: Middlesbrough, High Peak (Derbyshire), and the London Borough of Camden. The aim is to reach over 50,000 parents. Parents can choose from a range of different options to suit them and their lifestyle from online support to local groups. Only one voucher can be redeemed per parent in the two year trial. Parents will be able to choose from a range of providers in each area. All providers and their courses have been approved by the Department for Education and are based on a strong background of evidence of impact and success.

Vouchers will be available through local Boots stores and people working in local children's centres, GP surgeries, play associations and other relevant roles. Parents can redeem their vouchers from an assured list of local providers. The vouchers are being distributed to parents by children's workforce professionals through the Foundation Years' workforce in the trial areas including health visitors, midwives, doctors' surgeries and Sure Start Children's Centres. You can also pick up a voucher from selected Boots Stores in the trial areas.

## Useful reading

- **Project website:** [www.canparent.org.uk](http://www.canparent.org.uk)
- **Project brief:** [www.vac.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/CAN-Parent-Brief.pdf](http://www.vac.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/CAN-Parent-Brief.pdf)
- **DFE: Parenting Class Trial:** Essential evidence-based principles to guide implementation of parenting classes: <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/p/parenting%20classes%20trial%20-%20essential%20evidence-based%20principles.pdf>
- **Supporting families in the foundation years**  
[www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/early/a00192398/supporting-families-in-the-foundation-years](http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/early/a00192398/supporting-families-in-the-foundation-years)
- **Foundation Years website:** <http://foundationyears.org.uk/>
- **Parenting classes trial statement by DFE:**  
[www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/b00200255/parenting-classes-trial](http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/b00200255/parenting-classes-trial)

- **Trial Details:**

[www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/b00200255/parenting-classes-trial/details](http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/b00200255/parenting-classes-trial/details)

## F. Other Grant Schemes Open to Families in the UK

### Financial grants available to families with disabled children

#### Action for Kids

Action for Kids supports disabled children and young people up to 26 years with physical and learning disabilities. They are able to purchase mobility equipment such as custom built wheelchairs and trikes, therapeutic equipment and communication aids. The equipment remains the property of the charity as they undertake responsibility for servicing and repairs.

To apply either call their helpline 0845 300 0237 or e-mail [support@actionforkids.org](mailto:support@actionforkids.org)

Action for Kids also run work related learning programmes and training in essential life skills for disabled young adults. An advice and guidance service is available to support parents of disabled children.

[www.actionforkids.org](http://www.actionforkids.org)

#### BBC Children in Need - Emergency Essentials

BBC Children in Need have launched an Emergency Essentials programme to help struggling families with children's basic needs. This might include a bed to sleep in, a cooker to provide meals, clothing, baby equipment or other essential items. It is available to children and young people under 18 years living in the UK. Estranged, orphaned and vulnerable young people under 21 years who are living independently will also be considered.

Emergency Essentials is managed by the [Buttle UK](http://www.buttleuk.org) who run it alongside their small grants programme. Applications must be made by a statutory agency or charitable organisation that is able to assess the needs of the child or young person. To apply: register and complete the on-line form or e-mail to request an application form.

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

#### Boparan Charitable Trust

The Boparan Charitable Trust is a new charity supporting children and young people under 18 years who live in England or Wales and are disadvantaged through poverty, disability or terminal illness.

Each application request is judged on its own merits and must be approved by an independent professional such as social worker or doctor to ensure that the child will benefit from the request.

To apply [download an application pack](#) from the website. Financial details are required and three independent quotations if you are applying for specialist equipment.

[www.theboparancharitabletrust.com](http://www.theboparancharitabletrust.com)

## **The Buttle Trust**

The Buttle Trust provides grants for children facing difficult circumstances. They are divided into three categories:

- Child Support Scheme - Funds for essential household equipment and furniture.  
Applications to be made by a professional
- School Fees Scheme - Grants for independent day or boarding school
- Written applications to be made direct to the Trust
- Students and Trainees Scheme - Financial support for young people aged 16-21 years.  
Apply through letter or e-mail.

## **Caudwell Children**

Caudwell Children provides funding for children under 19 years who have a disability or chronic illness. They have previously funded specialist equipment for mobility, computer access, sensory needs and medical items such as nebulisers and monitors. The charity also provides for the cost of specific therapies and treatments.

[To apply](#) complete the on-line application form. Financial information is required as funding is only given to families whose income is less than £45,000 gross a year. Caudwell children also funds and organises group holidays for children with a life-threatening condition.

[www.caudwellchildren.com](http://www.caudwellchildren.com)

## **Children Today**

Children Today helps disabled children and young people up to the age of 25. They provide grants for specialist equipment and aids such as communication aids, educational toys, trikes, lifting equipment and electric wheelchairs.

Applications must be made direct by the applicant, their parents or guardian by calling 01244-335622 to discuss their application. All applications are means tested.

[www.children-today.org.uk](http://www.children-today.org.uk)

## **The Children's Hope Foundation**

The Hope Foundation aims to improve the lives of children and young people affected by illness, disability or poverty. They provide funding for anything (with a few exceptions) that will benefit the child such as medical equipment, computers, holidays and days out.

[To apply](#) download the on-line application form. Financial details are required.

[www.childrenshopefoundation.org.uk](http://www.childrenshopefoundation.org.uk)

## **CHIPS**

Chips, the charity of the casino and gaming industry provides specialised powered wheelchairs for children and young people who may have a short life span. It will only fund powered wheelchairs not provided by the NHS. Applications can be made using the [on-line application form](#). Each application is considered on it's own merits and depends on available funds at the time of the application.

[www.chipscharity.org](http://www.chipscharity.org)

## **Daytrippers**

Daytrippers helps groups of children/young people up to 21 years with disabilities, life limiting conditions or terminal illnesses. It supports group trips of at least 8 children/young people and their main carer. Other adults and siblings will need to be self funding. Reasonable transport costs will also be reimbursed. Funding is agreed in advance and reimbursed after the trip by providing evidence of the approved expenses.

To apply: [Download an application form](#) and follow the [step by step guide](#).

[www.daytrippers.org.uk](http://www.daytrippers.org.uk)

## **The Elifar Foundation**

The Elifar Foundation funds a wide range of specialised equipment and respite for children and adults with profound disabilities, physical disabilities or learning disabilities. Items funded in the past include: Wheelchairs, beds, specialised seating , trikes, communication aids, sensory equipment and specialised holidays for the disabled.

[To apply](#) complete the on-line application form. Financial details and supporting evidence from a professional is required.

[www.elifarfoundation.org.uk](http://www.elifarfoundation.org.uk)

## **Free Cakes for Kids**

Free Cakes for Kids UK is a network of local groups that bake cakes for families who are unable to provide a birthday cake for their child.

The cakes are baked by passionate volunteers who enjoy making homemade themed cakes linked to the child's interest. Recent cakes have included Bob the Builder cakes, princess cakes and football cakes.

Families are able to refer themselves or they may be referred by local organisations. Applications should be made preferably 10 days before the child's birthday.

View the [on-line map](#) to find out whether there is a local group near you.

[www.freecakesforkids.org.uk](http://www.freecakesforkids.org.uk)

### **Helping Children Locally**

Helping Children Locally (HCL) provide grants to disadvantaged children under 18 years including children with disabilities and children with disabled parents. Grants are allocated dependent on need. They have previously funded holidays, medical equipment, therapies, transport costs and sports fees in the past.

To apply, download the grant request form. Financial details and supporting evidence are required.

[www.helpingchildrenlocally.org](http://www.helpingchildrenlocally.org)

### **Kidsout**

Kidsout helps children and young people with disabilities and life threatening illness. It also supports children disadvantaged through poverty or rural isolation.

Working with Rotary International they provide funding towards days out such as trips to theme parks or the seaside. They also provide a toy boxes filled with brand new toys for children who have escaped from domestic violence.

[www.kidsout.org.uk](http://www.kidsout.org.uk)

### **Lifeline 4 Kids**

A voluntary organisation which helps disabled children from birth to 18 years. It provides support to purchase a range of resources such as communication aids, wheelchairs and specialist computer equipment.

To [apply](#) you need to write or e-mail brief details about your child and their condition. If you fulfil the charity's criteria an application form will be sent requiring further information, supporting reports from health professionals and financial statements.

[www.lifeline4kids.org](http://www.lifeline4kids.org)

### **Me & Dee**

Me & Dee offers treats to disabled children and adults with life threatening/shortening conditions. The treat is usually funded up to £100 for absolutely anything from a gift to a day out for the family.

To nominate for a treat complete the on-line Contact Form with information about the person's

- Gender and age
- Their condition
- The suggested treat



Alternatively, contact Maria Hanson on 07834 546 496 / 07582 759 239 or e-mail: [meanddeecharity@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meanddeecharity@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.meanddee.co.uk](http://www.meanddee.co.uk)

## **Merlin's Magic Wand**

The Merlin Entertainment Group provide magical experiences for seriously ill, disabled or disadvantaged children. The experiences are primarily offered at their attractions including Legoland, Alton Towers, The London Eye, Madam Tussauds though other requests may be considered. Individuals may apply using the [on-line application form](#) or by post.

Merlin also offers a special discount rate at Merlin attractions for individual charities providing experiences for children.

[www.merlinsmagicwand.org](http://www.merlinsmagicwand.org)

## **Newlife**

The Newlife Foundation provides essential equipment to terminally ill and disabled children under 19 years who live in the UK. Grants are provided for items such as wheelchairs, beds, communication aids, and therapy equipment. Initially, telephone (0800-902-0095) and discuss your child's needs with Newlife Nurse.

If eligible, an [application form](#) can be downloaded from their website. A Therapist report is required and the grants are not means tested.

[www.newlifecharity.co.uk](http://www.newlifecharity.co.uk)

## **Project Linus UK**

Project Linus UK is a voluntary organisation of needlewomen across the UK. They create beautiful patchwork quilts and crocheted blankets for sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers, hospices and sensory rooms at special schools.

To apply contact your local branch.

[www.projectlinusuk.org.uk](http://www.projectlinusuk.org.uk)

## **REACT Charity**

The React charity helps families caring for a child with a life threatening illness in the UK. It provides financial support towards basic essential needs such as specialist or medical equipment, household items and hospital expenses. The charity is also able to assist with funeral and memorial expenses.

Families can also apply for a one week holiday at one of their mobile homes at 6 sites around the UK.

To apply for either the grants or the holiday [download an application form](#) or telephone: 020 8940 2575 A professional such as your social worker or doctor will need to endorse the form. Financial information is required on the form but this is very straightforward.

[www.reactcharity.org](http://www.reactcharity.org)

## **Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity**

The Roald Dahl charity provides helps families cope with financial difficulties when living and caring for a sick child. It supports children and young people with serious, rare blood or brain conditions including severe epilepsy and acquired brain injury. They will only consider families on certain benefits or an income below £22,000pa.

Grants (up to a maximum of £500) may be awarded for items such as specialist equipment, sensory toys, white goods such as cookers and washing machines, utility bills including telephone bills, and travel costs. Applications for funding must be made by a health professional or social worker on behalf of the child.

An [application form](#) can be downloaded from the website.

[www.roalddahlcharity.org](http://www.roalddahlcharity.org)

## **Smile for Life**

The Smile for Life Charity helps children under 18 years living in the UK and disadvantaged through poverty, illness, disability, behavioural or psychological difficulties. The charity is able to fund specialist equipment such as wheelchairs and softplay, special activities and events.

[To apply](#), complete the application form and post to the Smile for Life Children's Charity with supporting documentation.

[www.smileforlife.org.uk](http://www.smileforlife.org.uk)

## **True Colours Trust**

The Trust operates a small grant programme to support small local organisations and projects that help disabled children and their families. It provides one-off grants up to £10,000. The Trustees are keen to support:

- Hydrotherapy pools
- Multi sensory rooms
- Mini buses
- Young carers projects
- Sibling projects
- Bereavement support

Applications should be made using the [on-line application form](#) which requests project details and information on the organisation.

[www.truecolourstrust.org.uk](http://www.truecolourstrust.org.uk)

## **Variety Club**

The Variety Club provides funding towards wheelchairs (electric, manual and sports), buggies, trikes and bikes. It supports disadvantaged and disabled children and young people up to 19 years old who live in the UK. [Further details](#) of their grant criteria and an application form can be downloaded from their website. A therapist report and financial details are required.

The Variety Club also offer other support to children and their families to improve help their daily lives.

[www.varietyclub.org.uk](http://www.varietyclub.org.uk)

## **Well Child**

Well Child helps children aged 1-18 years with serious illness and life threatening conditions across the UK. Their Helping Hands scheme uses volunteers for hands-on projects to benefit the child and their family. This may include tasks such as decorating the child's room or adapting the garden.

[To apply](#) contact the charity direct or complete the on-line application form.

In addition, they have an expanding programme of Well Child Nurses across the UK to support families with the care of their sick child.

[www.wellchild.org.uk](http://www.wellchild.org.uk)

## **Whizz Kidz**

Whizz Kidz helps provide mobility equipment to disabled children and young people up to 18 years old. The child must have a permanent condition and the equipment they require must not be available through the NHS. [To apply](#) either download an application pack from their website or telephone 0845 052 1231. A therapist report will be required.

Applications may take some time as each child is assessed according to their need. You will be informed how long you will be expected to wait but even high priority cases may take 8 months.

The wait is worthwhile as the organisation uses their own Occupational Therapists to make a detailed assessment of your child's immediate and future mobility needs.

[whizz-kidz.org.uk](http://whizz-kidz.org.uk)

## **Support for carers**

### **Carers Holidays**

The Carers Support Centre in Bristol provides low cost holidays for carers and their families. It has 8 caravans (of which 4 are accessible) located on two sites in the Cotswolds and Torbay. There are two and three bed caravans. The holidays are available to anyone but only carers are eligible for the discounted rate. It may be booked with or without the person you care for. Although open to anyone in the UK priority is given to local residents in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

To make a booking: Check availability and use the on-line application forms.

[www.carersholidays.org.uk](http://www.carersholidays.org.uk)

### **The Kiloran Trust**

The Kiloran Trust was set up to provide "Time out" to family carers to help them recharge their batteries from full time caring. Based in a London residence the Trust provides large ensuite rooms and communal facilities with meals provided. The breaks run from Monday to Saturday and are available at a subsidised cost though funding may be available for those on low income.

To apply telephone: 020 7602 7404 for further information and a booking form.

[www.kilorantrust.org.uk](http://www.kilorantrust.org.uk)

### **Margaret Champney Rest and Holiday Fund**

The Holiday Fund provides small grants to carers to enable them to have a complete break from their caring role while the person they care for is receiving respite. Applications for grants may only be made by a suitable professional such as a social worker or community nurse on the carer behalf.

Further details may be obtained from The Ogilvie Trust who administer the Fund at The Gate House, 9 Burkitt Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4JJ, telephone: 01394 388746 or e-mail: ogilviecharities@btconnect.com

[www.theogilvietrust.org.uk](http://www.theogilvietrust.org.uk)

### **Saga Respite for Carers Trust**

The Trust helps carers over 50 years of age who have been caring for over a year and have not had a significant break from their caring role. You can apply yourself or someone else can nominate a carer of their behalf. Applications will open on 1st January 2012. To obtain an application form send a stamped addressed envelope to: The Trust Manager, Saga Respite for Carers Trust, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE

The scheme is not open to professional carers.

[www.saga.co.uk](http://www.saga.co.uk)

## **Short breaks/holidays for families**

### **Barnardo's**

Barnardo's provide support to young carers by providing fun activities and breaks from their caring role. It allows the young carers to spend time with other young people in a similar situation to themselves. They also provide short breaks for disabled children to enable them to enjoy new experiences and much needed respite for their families.

Barnardo's run a large number of projects around the UK. To find out what's provided in your local area check their [interactive map and list](#).

[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

### **The Bruce Wake Trust**

The Bruce Wake Trust provides specialist narrow boat canal and riverboat holidays for the disabled. All cruises start from the Upton Marina on the River Severn at Upton-upon-Severn near Worcester. They have three boats which have been designed for wheelchair users with hydraulic lifts and ceiling hoist. Each sleeps 6/7 people.

The boats are available from April to October with prices from £550 a week. The price includes tuition from a qualified skipper.

[www.brucewaketrust.co.uk](http://www.brucewaketrust.co.uk)

### **H.E.L.P. Holidays**

H.E.L.P (Holiday Endeavour for Lone Parents) provides the use of 3 caravans at discounted prices to lone parents and their children. The caravans are located on an Haven site near Filey (between

Scarborough and Bridlington) in North Yorkshire. All caravans sleep six people and available for bookings of 4 or 7 nights.

To use the caravans you must first join the organisation for a £5 membership fee. The organisation also has arrangements with Haven and Pointins for other discounted holidays for members.

[www.helphols.co.uk](http://www.helphols.co.uk)

### **The Oliver Curd Trust**

The Oliver Curd Trust was set up in memory of Oliver by his parents. It provides holiday accommodation for families supporting young people with childhood cancer and other life threatening illnesses.

The Trust has two caravans:

- A two bedroom, 6 berth caravan at Crowhurst Park, Battle, East Sussex
- A three bedroom, at Combe Haven Holiday Park, St Leonards-on-Sea

To apply for a brochure contact: The Oliver Curd Trust, PO Box 105, Rye, TN31 6DJ Telephone: 01797 230329 or email: [enquiries@theolivercurdtrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@theolivercurdtrust.co.uk)

[www.theolivercurdtrust.co.uk](http://www.theolivercurdtrust.co.uk)

### **Scout Holiday Homes Trust**

The Scout Holiday Homes Trust provides low cost specially adapted self catering holidays to the disabled, carers and their families.

The Trust have 13 caravans and one chalet at a number of UK locations. Of these, only 2 (at the time of writing) have level access showers.

The accommodation is of a high standard and is very popular so early booking is advised. You do not have to be a member of The Scout Association to apply.

To obtain further details and a booking form contact The Scout Holiday Homes Trust, Gilwell Park, Chingford, LONDON E4 7QW Telephone: 0208 433 7290 or 0208 433 7291

[www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

### **The Seagull Trust Cruises**

The Seagull Trust Cruises offers free canal cruises to the disabled and those with special needs. Day cruises with a volunteer crew run between April and October. They operate a number of narrow boats and one, the Marion Seagull at the Falkirk branch is able to offer a family cruises from a few days to a week.

There are four branches Falkirk, Highlands, Kirkintilloch, and Ratho near Edinburgh.

- [www.stcruises-falkirk.org.uk](http://www.stcruises-falkirk.org.uk)
- [www.stcruises-highland.org.uk](http://www.stcruises-highland.org.uk)
- [www.stcruises-kirkintilloch.org.uk](http://www.stcruises-kirkintilloch.org.uk)
- [www.stcruises-ratho.org.uk](http://www.stcruises-ratho.org.uk)

To find out further details on arrangements and booking check out the individual branch websites listed above.

[www.seagulltrust.org.uk](http://www.seagulltrust.org.uk)

### **Refresh**

Refresh are able to provide respite breaks or convalescence for severely physically disabled people and those on breathing machines. Set in beautiful grounds near Southampton and is fully equipped for those with heavy care needs. It has nursing staff and is accessible to wheelchairs. Applicants who may be teenagers or adults may come alone or with a carer.

Refresh operates on the principal that no-one should be denied a break through lack of money. It is able to help obtain funding from the NHS or Social Services and is pleased to accept donations from the applicant or their family.

To find out more telephone: 020 7188 5643 (Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

[www.refreshcare.co.uk](http://www.refreshcare.co.uk)

### **Vitalise**

Vitalise provides short breaks and other services for the disabled, visually impaired and carers. It has four accessible centres across the UK. All have restaurants and leisure facilities and all provide care with the exception of Churchtown in Cornwall. Vitalise are able to give advice on funding sources to help make the holiday more affordable. They are also able to offer funding towards the cost of a holiday through Vitalise's Joan Brander Memorial Fund.

The company also allow you to pay for your holiday in instalments to spread the cost of your holiday.

[www.vitalise.org.uk](http://www.vitalise.org.uk)

### **3H Fund**

The 3H Fund provides grants to help physically and mentally disabled people, their families and carers to have a holiday in the UK. Applications for 2011 will open in November 2010. Evidence of disability and low income will be required.

The Fund also runs a subsidised group holiday programme for the physically disabled with volunteer helpers to enable carers to have respite.

[www.3hfund.org.uk](http://www.3hfund.org.uk)

### **Blitz Holidays**

Blitz holiday funding runs alongside the Bond Holiday Group who provide specialised holidays for people with disabilities. They provide funding to subsidise short breaks in Blackpool and St Annes for those living with a disability. To apply either complete the online application form or telephone: 01253-341218 for a form. Holidays are subsidised rather than paid outright to ensure that the donations benefit as many people as possible. They also offer substantial contribution towards organised breaks for groups of 8 or more disabled people.

If a suitable break becomes available the company will contact you with the details. You then have 48 hours to make your decision until the offer is allocated to another applicant.

"It has been fantastic and the funding was sorted out VERY quickly for us. The staff were absolutely wonderful" (Care professional who organised a Blitz holiday for a group of residents).

[www.bondhotel.co.uk](http://www.bondhotel.co.uk)

### **Break Charity**

The Break Charity provide holidays and short breaks for disabled adults and children. They offer two locations:

- Rainbow in Sheringham, Norfolk - provides inclusive holidays and short breaks for up to ten adults and children with learning difficulties. The centre offers a programme of activities with full time care support from staff. The charity will fund up to 50% of the holiday cost.
- Goldern Bay Village, Westwood Ho, North Devon - Break have two self-catering chalets overlooking Bideford Bay. One chalet sleeps 4 and the other 7/8 persons and are equipped to a high standard. The chalets cost from £140 a week depending on the time of year. You must have a family member with a disability and be on low income. To make a booking e-mail: [bookings@break-charity.org](mailto:bookings@break-charity.org) or telephone: 01263 822161

The charity also provide short breaks to children with learning disabilities, autism, challenging behaviour and associated physical disabilities at Morley House and Nelson Lodge in Norfolk. These however, are only open to children living in Norfolk with a referral from Norfolk children's Services.

[www.break-charity.org](http://www.break-charity.org)

### **The Calvert Trust**

The Calvert Trust has centres based on Exmoor, Keswick in the Lake District and at Keider Water in Northumberland. It specialises in providing outdoor activity holidays for people of all ages with physical, sensory, mental and learning difficulties.

Although the cost of attending the centres is high due to the excellent adapted facilities and experienced instructors the Trust may be able to help with bursaries for both individuals and groups.



To obtain an application form for The Calvert Trust Bursary Scheme contact the Calvert Trust direct:

- Exmoor - 01598 763221
- Keswick - 01768 77255
- Keider - 01434 250232

[www.calvert-trust.org.uk](http://www.calvert-trust.org.uk)

### **Clevedon Forbes**

The Clevedon Forbes Fund provides grants for holidays and convalescent breaks to UK residents of limited following trauma or illness. The Fund will also assist with breaks for carers.

Applications are by professional referral only. An application form may be downloaded from the website and must be completed by professional referee. It should then be posted to The Director, Mrs. Wendy Robinson, 4 Kenn Road, Clevedon BS21 6EL including any other useful information.

Grants are mainly awarded to individuals living in the South West.

[www.clevedonforbes.org](http://www.clevedonforbes.org)

### **The Farrell Trust**

The Farrell Trust supports disabled people by making a contribution towards a much needed day trip, holiday/short break or respite care for their carer.

Grant funding is given to those with physical or complex multiple disability who are on income support and DLA or in immediate and urgent need. Evidence of eligibility and a letter of support from an appropriate professional will be required.

[www.farrelltrust.org.uk](http://www.farrelltrust.org.uk)

### **Harriet Davis Trust**

The Harriet Davis Trust have four properties in Tenby, Pembrokeshire. They are for families with children but disabled adults may use a property if it is not required by families.

Three houses are adapted for wheelchair users and aids such as hoists are provided. Their latest house, "Caerwen" is adapted to provide a safe and secure environment for children with autism and other learning difficulties.

The holidays are offered at reasonable prices as they are charged at economic rather than commercial rates. The is also able to offer a limited number of grants to families in genuine financial need. An application form will need to be completed when making a provisional booking.

The houses do get booked up quickly for the school holidays.

To make a book contact Helen Lees Griffin by e-mail: [helen@harriet-davis-trust.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:helen@harriet-davis-trust.freeseve.co.uk) or telephone: 01834 845197

[www.harriet-davis-trust.org.uk](http://www.harriet-davis-trust.org.uk)

### **Camp Quality UK**

Camp Quality UK provides holidays for children aged 5 to 16 years with life threatening conditions.

The holidays are held at activity venues around the UK for up to 30 children at a time. They are an opportunity for the children to feel free of any constraints they may feel because of their illness.

The child's sibling(s) may also be able to attend.

To apply for a holiday complete the [on-line application form](#).

[www.campquality.org.uk](http://www.campquality.org.uk)

### **Donna's Dream House**

Donna's Dream House provides free family holidays for children and teenagers with life threatening illnesses and recently bereaved siblings and families.

The house in the centre of Blackpool has four family apartments with themed rooms and a garden area. The themed rooms designed to provide escapism from the sterile hospital environment aim to encourage fun, laughter and life.

The house also contains a Teen centre for young people aged 14 to 24 years suffering from serious illness with all the latest technology.

To nominate a family download the appropriate [Nomination Form](#).

[www.donnasdreamhouse.co.uk](http://www.donnasdreamhouse.co.uk)

### **The Family Holiday Association**

The Family Holiday Association helps disadvantaged children and their families with a family break in the UK.

Applications are only accepted from a welfare agent such as a social worker, health visitor or teacher who must apply on the family's behalf. The application form for 2011 will be available to download in early November 2010.

[www.fhaonline.org.uk](http://www.fhaonline.org.uk)

### **Happy Days**

The Happy Days Charity funds and organises holidays, residential trips, days out and theatre trips for children and young people aged 3 to 17 years with learning difficulties, physical or mental

disabilities. They also support other disadvantaged young people including young carers of parents or siblings.

Applications for days out and theatre trips may be made for individuals and groups. Families may apply for funding towards a one week holiday in the UK. Financial details and a supporting letter from a suitable professional are required.

[To apply](#) download the appropriate application form and return direct to the charity.

[www.happydayscharity.org](http://www.happydayscharity.org)

### **Kensington Foundation**

The Kensington Foundation's Daisy Chain Project offers respite breaks in Blackpool for families caring for a sick or disabled child, families with limited means and families rebuilding their lives after the loss of a child.

The modern accommodation is rent free with a £85 booking fee per family.

To apply contact The Project Director, The Daisy Chain Project, Kensington Foundation, Resource Centre, The Lodge, 216 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, Lancashire FY3 9JL Telephone 01253 761444 or email [kentrust1@hotmail.com](mailto:kentrust1@hotmail.com)

[www.kensingtonfoundation.com](http://www.kensingtonfoundation.com)

### **National Holiday Fund**

The National Holiday Fund provides supported holidays to Orlando in Florida for chronically and terminally ill or disabled children and young people aged 8 to 18 years.

The organisation takes groups of 12 children with the support of a doctor, physiotherapist and senior nurse. Each child has their own carer.

[To apply](#) either download the application form or complete the on-line form.

[www.nhfcharity.co.uk](http://www.nhfcharity.co.uk)



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This document is also available from our website at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/research>