

Why Can't I Play?



This is an Easy Read document that explains the main points of our Regional Review of Leisure Inclusion for Children with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities.



People with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (sometimes called PMLD) describes people who have more than one disability and a severe (profound) learning disability that makes it very hard to understand, learn, and communicate.



A review is a clear overview of information and research.



This review covers what leisure activities are available in the North East and North Cumbria.

This review was written by Inclusion North and all of the research was done by Little SENDsations.

About the review



Leisure activities are fun activities done in free time to allow for enjoyment, relaxing and trying new things. Like swimming, going to the park or dancing.



There are not many activities for children with profound and multiple learning disabilities.



Activities need to be changed so children can take part. They need to be made accessible.



Accessible means that everyone can be included and take part in the activity. It may be changed in some way.



Sometimes staff may need training or different equipment to help make an activity more accessible.

What we found out



Families can look online for activities wherever they live through a website called the local offer. The local offer is a website that families can look at to see what is available in their area.



19% of all activities on local offers were accessible for children with profound and multiple learning disabilities.



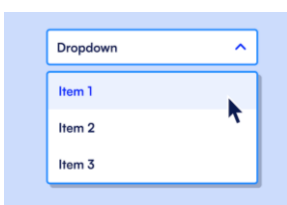
Some areas had a small number of activities available and other areas had none.



Most families had three to five local activities.



Parents and carers told us Local Offer websites were difficult.



None had a way to search for activities that were for children with profound and multiple learning

What we found out



Parents did the same searches, going through long lists and not knowing whether an activity would keep children safe or be an activity their child could do.



Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND) inspections across the region agree with these findings.



Many local offers did not have clear information. They do not make clear what age people can take part or what support would get.



This made it very difficult for families to plan days out safely.



Parents were asked questions for this review.



Families spoke about long journeys.



Families spoke about disappointment when activities did not match their child's needs.

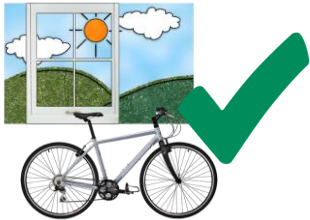
What we found out



Parents found Facebook groups, WhatsApp chats and word of mouth more helpful than the local offer.



Some places do things well. These include specialist services and groups run by parents.



Families liked sensory activities, outdoor opportunities with the right equipment like inclusive cycling.



Things work best when places are easy to use and staff know what to do.



Some areas have good activities and some areas have very few.



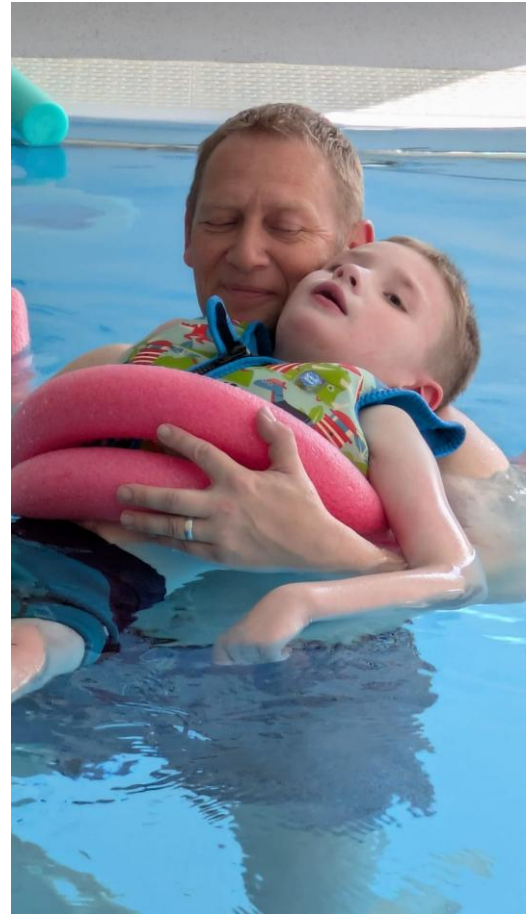
Leisure should include everyone.



Activities should be easy to find and take part in.



Photos of children and families enjoying some of the leisure activities in the area.



What we have said needs to happen next



We need people to listen and make changes from across health and social care.



Leisure needs to be seen as important.



That there should be minimum standards around accessibility, staffing, equipment and communication.



Information should be better. As families found the local offer difficult.



Things should be fair no matter where you live.



Families should be involved along the way to be involved in making any plans.

https://inclusionnorth.org/our_work/whycantiplay/