

# Embrace

Wigan & Leigh

Supporting people with disabilities  
to live a good life by being valued, included  
and by having real choice.

Embrace Wigan and Leigh is a user-led charity dedicated to helping people with all types of disabilities and their families who live, work or use services primarily within the borough of Wigan and Leigh, gain the support they need to live a fulfilling life. Embrace offers information, advice, support, training and advocacy to help ensure people with disabilities live a life as inclusive and meaningful as possible. Embrace believes everyone has a right to live the life they choose and not to become isolated.

Wigan  
Council

Children  
in Need

LOTTERY FUNDED

independent  
support

Working towards  
**a better life**  
for people with  
disabilities

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



for more information  
why not call us on:

**01942 233323**

[info@embracewiganandleigh.org.uk](mailto:info@embracewiganandleigh.org.uk)

Embrace understands that the problems individuals and families face are complex and diverse so we offer services that respond to individual needs.

At Embrace we realise that individuals with disabilities and their families often experience problems non-disabled people may not. In an ever changing world it can be difficult to know where or who to turn to for help and support. Embrace is here to help ensure no-one has to face their problems alone. Please take a look at the services we currently provide, to see if we can assist:



**AGES**  
**0-19**

## PARENT SUPPORT SERVICE

The main purpose of this service is to provide information, advice and advocacy to parents/carers/grandparents and others, responsible for children and young people with disabilities aged 0-19 years. Once a referral is received, the family is allocated a fieldworker who works with them.

The Fieldworkers can support families in a wide range of areas including: getting the right support; issues with education; attending health appointments; applying for grants; support with benefits; and general support with disability related issues.

**AGES**  
**0-25**

## SENDIASS

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service or SENDIASS offers independent advice/support for parents, carers, professionals, children and young people (0-25), on issues related to Special Educational Needs and Disability. Where appropriate we will support in meetings with professionals, annual reviews of Education Health Care Plans, support with resolving disagreements and provide advice on mediation and tribunals. This service is free, impartial and is available to those who live in the Wigan Borough.

## KEY WORKING SERVICE

This service is aimed at families with young children aged 0- 5 years. Key-workers will support families to get the right services involved and will act as a point of contact, so that families are able to spend quality time together which is extremely important in the early days. We are also able to provide ongoing support which is not time limited in circumstances where this is needed by the family.

One of the main issues for parents when they have a child with additional needs is the number of appointments they have to attend with some clashing and some at inconvenient times. The key-worker can help families to organise appointments and will support them to rearrange them where necessary.

## INDEPENDENT SUPPORT

The Independent Support Coordinator offers impartial and independent support to anyone going through the 20 week Education Health and Care Plan process. Many children and young people who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) require more support than their peers whilst they are at nursery, school, college or university. When this is the case, these children and young people may require an Education Health and Care Plan and our coordinator will support them throughout the assessment and planning process.



## CHILDREN IN NEED

Individuals and families who are awaiting a diagnosis of a disability or have recently received a diagnosis, can receive support from our Children in Need project. Receiving a diagnosis can be a life changing experience so this service provides families with a community fieldworker who can support them both emotionally and practically through this often difficult time. This project is funded by Children in Need and has proven to be a much needed and valued service.

## ADVENTURE SERVICE CHALLENGE

This is an inclusive 16 week course aimed at teaching young people between the ages of 8-13 a variety of life skills, working to gain certificates. The activities are varied and include First Aid, Crafts, The Living World to name a few. The young people attend the sessions once a week between the hours of 6pm-8pm. All sessions cost £2 and refreshments are provided. Young people of all ability levels are welcome. The sessions are run at Holy Family School, Platt Bridge, Wigan.



AGES  
8 to 13



AGES  
14 to 19

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Embrace's inclusive, accessible Duke of Edinburgh scheme is aimed at anyone aged 14-19. Participants will attend our weekly meetings at Spring View Rugby Club on Wednesday nights 7pm-9pm. At these sessions, participants join in with activities to help them achieve their award. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme requires participants to complete 5 sections: Skill, physical, volunteer, residential and expedition. Our scheme is designed to make sure anyone who is willing to participate can complete all 5 sections no matter what their level of ability.



The **bronze award** is for young people aged 14-15 and takes one year to complete.  
The **silver award** is for young people aged 15-16 and takes one year to complete.  
The **gold award** is for young people aged 16-19 and takes two years to complete.



You do not need to have completed the bronze or silver award to start on gold so we will accept any participants between the ages of 14-19. All sessions cost £2.50 and refreshments are provided.





## PARENT PARTICIPATION

The Parent Participation Co-ordinator co-ordinates the Wigan Parent Carer Forum. We aim to engage as many Parent Carers of children and young people with disabilities or special educational needs in Wigan as possible to have their voices heard. We also want to hear about issues that affect them. Our aim is to effectively influence and develop changes within Education, Health and Care. This project aims to ensure parents/carers and their children, young people with disabilities or special educational needs are able to lead full and enriched lives by being able to actively participate, influence and contribute to the decisions that affect their lives.



## LET'S CONNECT - COMMUNITY CONNECTING

Being lonely and/or isolated is a negative experience for anyone. This project is about helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness and supporting adults who feel lonely or isolated to get actively involved, engaged and connected with their local community. This project is not limited to disabled people but anyone who feels lonely or isolated and is over the age of 18 years.



The Community Connectors meet with people who are referred (or self-referred) to find out what their interests are and then supports and encourages their participation in community activities of their choice, usually by 'buddying' them up. This project works in close partnership with other groups and initiatives across the Borough that tackle social isolation and loneliness.





**AGES**  
**0-18**

## JUNIOR CIRCLES

Junior Circles of support gather a small network of people around a child or young person, with a view to understanding their dreams and wishes and helping to make them happen. These circles develop strong community links, ensuring the individual at the centre of the circle has the opportunity to get involved in activities and groups that every non disabled child takes for granted. This support network helps to increase community engagement and reduce isolation for the most vulnerable individuals in our society. Embrace also offer a similar service for adults (see page 7).

**AGES**  
**18+**

## SUPPORTING PARENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

This project is a person-centered service for parents with learning disabilities who require early intervention and additional support to enhance their skills and empower them in their parenting role.

**AGES**  
**18+**

## TRAVEL TRAINING

Travel training provides tailored and practical help with travelling by public transport. The individually tailored approach will get to understand the needs and capabilities of each individual, what risks to look out for and the hands-on support an individual will need to travel independently. We will help to give people greater access to jobs, services and social networks. We will empower people to take greater control in their lives, enabling them to learn new skills and take advantage of opportunities in their communities.



## PERSONAL ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT SERVICE

Embrace supports people who have a Direct Payment (DP) a Personal Health Budget (PHB) or who Self-Fund to recruit Personal Assistants (PAs). We have created a register of people wanting to be a PA and have on file details of their respective skills, attributes and experience. We check requirements against the PAs on our register and forward on to the person wanting a PA the details of PAs that match with their requirements. If we do not have a PA that meets with their requirements then we will support them to advertise by making a person centred advertisement. Once potential PAs have been selected and shortlisted, an Embrace fieldworker will provide support with the interview process if this is required. We can also assist with the completion of all the required paperwork for the new PA employee.



## DISABILITY EQUALITY TRAINING

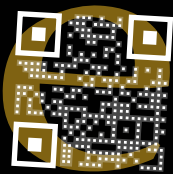
Embrace encourages knowledge and understanding to affect positive attitudes. Embrace have been supporting families and individuals with disabilities for many years and one of our core principals is equality for everyone in our community:

- Equal Rights
- Equal Opportunities
- Equal Participation

To do this training is provided designed to educate people around disability and stress the importance on both understanding and connecting. Just because people are different doesn't mean that they do not want to be included and valued.

## LET'S CONNECT - CIRCLES OF SUPPORT

Embrace has been developing and offering Circles of Support for adults with disabilities and complex needs since 2008. Circles offer a simple but highly effective way of ensuring community inclusion for some of the most vulnerable and excluded members of our society. Each Circle involves gathering a small network of people known to the individual at the centre of that Circle. The aim is to find out about their wishes, dreams and goals and work towards how these can be achieved. Each Circle works hard to develop natural community links and informal support networks to increase community engagement and reduce isolation.



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