



**Working in
partnership**



The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments

The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments is Scotland's national centre providing education and therapy for children with cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions. The Centre prides itself on a highly professional approach to integrating the educational and therapeutic needs of children, operating within a 'family friendly' environment.

The Centre has a distinctive status in Scotland's national educational provision, as one of Scotland's Grant-Aided Special Schools and receives funding from the Scottish Government's Schools Directorate, which enables children throughout Scotland to access its specialist facilities.

Children attending the Centre are affected by cerebral palsy or other similar neurological conditions resulting in them having a range of complex special needs.



Partnership development

The Learning and Leisure Services Department of North Lanarkshire Council and the Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments have developed a partnership to provide a service of the highest quality for children with motor impairment as a result of neurological disorders including cerebral palsy.

This partnership has assumed a greater level of importance following the introduction of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 and the associated Code of Practice. The Act and the Code of Practice place emphasis on collaborative working and partnership development. Both the Council and the Centre are committed to the spirit, ideals and requirements of the Act and the Code, to ensure that the optimum service is provided for the children who come under their care.

In order to formalise their partnership, the Council and the Centre have negotiated a Service Level Agreement which formally articulates the details of it. This Service Level Agreement covers issues such as admissions procedures, quality assurance and child protection arrangements.



Meeting the needs of North Lanarkshire's children

A feature of the Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments is that it aims to meet the educational and therapeutic needs of children with neurological conditions in a holistic and integrated manner, through the innovative process of Conductive Education.

Conductive Education is focused upon learning to address the physical, intellectual, social and practical needs of each child. It involves direct and intensive staff interaction, active learning and participation by the child in a process which is highly stimulating, physical and engaging.

The children's activities take place within the Centre's welcoming, spacious and quality environment which is conducive to learning, and custom-designed specialist equipment is employed to assist the child's activities. Children also receive hydrotherapy in the Centre's pool and use the landscaped gardens, grounds and play areas to enhance their learning.



Admission criteria

The admission of children to the Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments is determined by the procedures agreed between the Centre and North Lanarkshire Council and detailed in the Service Level Agreement.

Access to an initial assessment at the Centre is dependent on a referral by a Community Paediatrician or Senior Educational Psychologist and their subsequent approval that a placement at the Centre has the potential to meet the child's needs.

The initial assessment at the Centre includes consultation with parents and other professionals including the Centre's Medical Advisor, who is also a Consultant Paediatric physician. Following this assessment, the Centre's recommendation will be considered by the Council's Learning and Leisure Services 'Allocation of Specialist Resources Meeting' for confirmation of the appropriateness of a placement.

The combinations and complexities of the needs of children with cerebral palsy mean that absolutes related to admission criteria are difficult to determine and an element of judgement is required in making a decision. Both the Council's processes and the Centre's assessments ensure that a range of measures, professional judgement and personal insight are employed to make reasoned decisions regarding the suitability of the Centre as the most appropriate environment to meet the particular needs of each child.

The initial criterion for entry is the diagnosis of cerebral palsy or related non-progressive neurological disorder resulting in motor learning difficulties. In addition, a child normally requires to demonstrate the potential for improvement, the capability of actively participating in the Centre's programmes and the ability to interact with others. Consultation with parents is a key feature and cognisance is also taken of the guidance and advice offered by other key professionals, eg paediatric neurologists.

Regular re-assessment is conducted to ensure that the Centre continues to be the most appropriate environment to meet each child's needs. It should be noted that continued progression from one of the Centre's age group provisions to the next cannot be assumed.

There are specific requirements associated with a child attending some of the Centre's services. For a child to attend either the Parent and Baby or Parent and Child Groups, one of the parents, close relative, or carer requires to attend each session and the same adult must agree to attend on a consistent basis. Admission of a child or young person to Periodic Placements includes the capability of the child/young person to benefit from short and regular placements, the ability to participate in a group and a commitment that activities undertaken during the placement are continued by themselves, the family and school.



Methods of attendance

Children attend the Centre through a variety of methods and for most of the Centre's services, this can be integrated with attendance at the child's local nursery or school. The Centre also plays an active part in facilitating the transition between the Centre, schools and nurseries.

Attendance methods include:

- Babies and younger children attend with their parents for one or two sessions per week.
- At the age of two years, children attend up to four sessions per week, with a family member as an active and participative partner.
- From the age of three years, children can attend for up to four full days per week.
- Children of school age will attend daily throughout the year in primary one and two.
- Transition into alternative provision is completed in primary two.
- Children who attend a mainstream school may also access the Centre through the Outreach Department. Normally attendance is through four single weeks and on identified Saturdays through the year.



Further information

For further information on the services provided by the Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments please contact Anne Taylor on 01236 456100 or e-mail annetaylor@craighalbert.org.uk

Limited Company - 129291 / Registered Charity – SC008428

Friends of Craighalbert (registered charity no SC019427) is the fundraising arm of The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments.