



# Community buddies

## Information for parents

Community buddies is a new service provided through our short breaks programme. It is designed to enable children and young people from 7 to 19 years old with a disability and/or additional needs to access activities in the community.

### Who are community buddies?

A community buddy is:

- a volunteer or a paid member of staff
- interviewed, checked and trained before they are approved
- matched to the person best suited to them.

### What do community buddies do?

Community buddies:

- accompany a young person to their chosen activity, giving them time away from home
- help the young person to do things they want to do - it is up to the young person and their parents to decide how to use their community buddy time
- are available to provide support in all areas of the community, such as going shopping, bowling or going to the cinema.



Hampshire  
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[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

## Who can use a community buddy?

The community buddy scheme is open to children and young people from 7 to 19 years old who:

- have a disability and/or additional needs and may require support to participate fully in leisure and recreation activities
- live in Hampshire and/or attends a school in Hampshire (excluding Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight as they have similar schemes).

## How can I find out about community buddies?

You can find a list of approved community buddy providers, and the areas they cover, from Parent Voice at **[www.parentvoice.info](http://www.parentvoice.info)**

To join Parent Voice, register online, email **[parentvoice@roseroad.org.uk](mailto:parentvoice@roseroad.org.uk)** or call **023 8072 1206**.

## How much does it cost?

There is a standard charge of £5 per hour for a community buddy (plus the cost of the activity and travel). However, there is no limit on the number of hours you can use.

## When can I use a community buddy?

You can use a community buddy after school, at weekends, in the school holidays, for a few hours, or a whole day - the choice is yours!

## Further information

For more information or a copy of this leaflet in another language or format, such as large print or audio:

**Telephone: 01962 846399**

**Email: [shortbreaks@hants.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@hants.gov.uk)**

**Website: [www.hants.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.hants.gov.uk/shortbreaks)**