

## Liaison

The WeSail team comprises of staff from KIDS and other agencies, including Family Services, Connexions and NHS Wakefield. This multi agency team contribute to the advice and information offered by WeSail and can also offer short term support.

Jan Bray, Connexions Worker, offers support and advice to families and other professionals who are entering or are in the transition process aged up until 25.

Laura Ward, Children and Family Worker, provides short term support to families following identification of a sensory impairment or after a diagnosis of Autism.

Ash Mahmood, BME Community Development Worker, is also working with WeSail to ensure information and support extends into all communities.

Jane Kiddie, Children's Community Nurse will provide the specialist health element of the WeSail Service.

## About KIDS

KIDS was established in 1970 by John Mulcahy. John was a teacher and wanted to improve communication with a disabled child in his class. To do so John sought guidance from the child's mother. This in turn established the KIDS ethos of working in partnership with parents and carers.

KIDS have been established in Yorkshire and the Humber region since 1988. We currently help over 1,000 disabled children and their families within the Yorkshire region each year.

## Contacting WeSail

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## Wakefield Early Support Advice Information Liaison Service

WeSail is funded by

  
Wakefield District

  
wakefieldcouncil  
working for you

## What is WeSail?

Wakefield Council and NHS Wakefield District have funded KIDS, the disabled children's charity, to deliver a new service to families caring for a child with additional needs and living within the Wakefield District aged 0 to 19 years.

Wakefield's Early Support, Advice, Information and Liaison Service (WeSail) is a service for all families who care for a disabled child or a child with additional needs. The intention is to provide a first stop for families in terms of information, advice, support and signposting.

## Early Support

Early Support is for families with disabled children. It provides families with information, guidance and resources to ensure the best support for disabled children.

- WeSail provides Early Support through a district wide Designated Keyworker Service. At present this is for children aged 0-8.

- WeSail also provides Early Support at the time of identification of a sensory impairment or following a diagnoses of Autism, through its multi agency Team.

### Designated Keyworker Service

Parents of disabled children can benefit from a Designated Keyworker, who acts as a co-ordination point for getting the right support in place, giving advice, information and emotional support.

The Designated Keyworker's role is to ensure that the help and support parents/carers receive is well planned, co-ordinated and targeted to their child's specific needs. The service is family focused and works across agencies including health, education and social care.

The Designated Keyworker Service is available where a child has more complex needs which require support from two or more specialist agencies. Referrals can be made by parents or by professionals working with families. However the parent's consent is always required for referrals.

Referrals can be made over the phone or by faxing a completed Pre Common Assessment form.

## Advice and Information

WeSail has a dedicated Information and Involvement Officer, Omar Shefta. An advice line is open during office hours, (8.30am-5pm Monday to Friday). This service is open to all families of disabled children or children with additional needs, (0-19), along with professionals working with them in the Wakefield area.

WeSail also manages the **Information Network**, this is for families of disabled children, children with additional needs or professionals working with families who want to receive regular information and the **'News and Views'** newsletters about services and events for disabled children.

WeSail has produced a booklet called **'Starting Point'**. This is a Directory of Services for Disabled Children in the Wakefield District. Starting Point is also available online at [www.wakefieldfis.gov.uk](http://www.wakefieldfis.gov.uk) WeSail regularly updates information for families of disabled children on this site and also the online Directory of Services [www.wakefieldfsd.gov.uk](http://www.wakefieldfsd.gov.uk)