

# Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database

Are you the parent  
or carer of a child or  
young person with  
an additional need  
or disability aged  
0-19 years?

If your child has additional needs, you can register them on the Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND). For example:

- Multiple and complex health needs
- Special sense impairments such as hearing loss
- Visual impairment or deaf-blind
- Physical disability
- A chronic physical illness
- Autism (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) and communication disorders ADHD
- A significant pre-school delay
- A Learning disability

## What can HAND do for you?

- A newsletter each term <http://handnews.hertscc.gov.uk>
- Concessions on leisure facilities
- Parent carer forums and consultations
- An opportunity to influence planning of future services

## How to join HAND

You can join HAND online at [www.hertsdirect.org/hand](http://www.hertsdirect.org/hand)  
or call **01992 556984** for a paper copy of the  
membership form and further information

**FREE TO JOIN** and all information is held confidentially

Children, Schools and Families  
[www.hertsdirect.org/HAND](http://www.hertsdirect.org/HAND)  
0300 123 4043



# Who can join HAND?

To join HAND the child or young person's special needs will have a substantial impact on their everyday life. They are likely to need additional support, adjustments and/or aid and adaptations to help them at school and at home.

## Do we have to join?

**No.** Joining HAND is voluntary; whether you choose to join or not it will not affect eligibility for services following an assessment. However, if you join we can send you information about services and new developments. It will also mean that we have a picture of the additional needs of children and young people in Hertfordshire, which will help us to improve services in the future.

## A confidential service

No personal details about children or young people are shared. The information shared is statistical, and will not identify individual children.

### The benefits of joining HAND

- A membership card will be issued to HAND members, which can help in getting assistance and understanding for your child in many different situations. Some leisure providers have agreed to give concessions to families who have a membership card
- Members can subscribe to HAND News, a termly newsletter with news and information on services, support groups, holiday playschemes, activities, money advice and more
- With permission the database will be used as a mailing list to inform and consult children and young people and parents and carers about new services, changes in services, playschemes, holiday schemes and welfare benefits
- The information held on HAND will contribute to the overall picture of children and young people with additional needs so that these needs can be effectively planned for
- HAND will provide information to other agencies that plan services for adults, for example, future housing needs.