

# Congratulations on the birth of your baby!

Information on services available for children with Down's syndrome in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



For any clinical queries, please contact your GP

## Introduction

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This leaflet, produced by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust has information on various services available for children with Down's syndrome by providing links to relevant websites. They include local and national agencies involved in helping children with Down's syndrome and their families.

## Care pathway for children with Down's syndrome

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The combined care pathway for children and adults with Down's syndrome in Leicester provides information on services available from health, education and voluntary agencies. It also provides information on health needs, follow up services and transition to adult services.

<https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/downs-syndrome-pathway/>

## Therapy services

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Most children with Down's syndrome need some help to learn to communicate. Speech and language therapists can work with you to help your child at any age. Following referral to the Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service, a speech and language therapist will contact you to talk about your child's speech, language and communication needs. All children are different, and can communicate in different ways, so the support offered will be tailored to the needs of your child.

## Healthy Together

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Healthy Together is a 0 – 19 public health nursing workforce delivering the national Healthy Child Programme. Our Healthy Together workforce includes public health nurses (formerly health visitors and school nurses), Healthy Child Programme nurses, practitioners and support workers. 'Healthy Together' is for all children. This includes five mandatory visits between the antenatal period and 2½ years of age. They also offer bespoke packages of care for example around infant and child nutrition, toileting and behavioural issues.

Healthy Together is available through home visits, advice clinics and also offers advice and support by text: 'chat health' text: 0752 061 5282

## **Nutrition and dietetic service**

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Information on accessing this service, if needed, can be found in the care pathway for children and adults with Down's syndrome on the Leicestershire Partnership Trust website. Information on nutrition for children and adults is also available on the Nutrition and Dietetic Service website: [www.lnds.nhs.uk](http://www.lnds.nhs.uk)

## **Down's syndrome association**

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The Down's syndrome association is a national charity which provides support services to people with Down's syndrome and their families. Specialist advisers are available on the dedicated helpline to answer questions. The 'new parents pack' is available by clicking on the 'For new parents' tab on their website: [www.downs-syndrome.org.uk](http://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk)

The tab 'For people with Down's syndrome' provides life stories and information about how to get involved in work and sport.

## **Leicestershire Down's syndrome group**

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This is a local group supporting families and young people with Down's syndrome. It is associated with the national Down's syndrome association and provides information on local events. <http://www.leicesterdownsgroup.co.uk/>

## **Down's heart group**

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The Down's heart group is a charity which offers support and information related to heart conditions associated with Down's syndrome. The group aims to provide unbiased, up-to-date facts, enabling individuals to make informed choices: [www.dhg.org.uk](http://www.dhg.org.uk)

## **Education services**

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Provision of educational services for children with Down's syndrome varies between Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Rutland.

Access to 'Early years support team' services in Leicester city is through the link

<https://schools.leicester.gov.uk/services/special-education-needs-and-disability-support-service/early-years-support-team/>

Services available to children in Leicestershire County include portage- [Leicestershire Portage Service | National Portage Association](#) and the early year's special education needs inclusion service through [Early years | Leicestershire County Council Professional Services Portal](#)

Rutland County Council's website provides information on Early years inclusion service- [Early years inclusion service | Rutland County Council](#)

## Menphys

Menphys provides a specialist outreach service for children and young people with special needs. Contact information is available by clicking on the 'contact' tab of their website: <http://www.menphys.org.uk>

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in a different language  
or format such as large  
print, Braille or audio,  
please ask a  
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staff.**

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