

# Building for the Future



of Children and Young People  
with Additional Needs



Building  
for the  
Future

Our House  
Toutley Rd, Wokingham  
RG41 1QN

Registered charity no.  
1121458



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES



**Building for the Future is a fantastic Wokingham-based, parent-led, grassroots-funded charity set up in 2007. It has provided a fabulous custom-designed play space called “Our House” which has been meeting the needs of local children and young people with disabilities since 2014 at which it has offered activities, support and therapy.**

**The charity works in partnership with other disability/community groups to provide a joined-up local service and is very proud to have been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. This award has helped the charity gain support from a large number of local and national businesses.**

**Building for the Future is an outstanding charity which supports disabled children in my constituency and across Wokingham Borough. I have keenly observed and supported its progress since its foundation in 2007. “Our House” allows disabled children and their families to come together, find support and information and access therapies. It provides a range of facilities and is a truly impressive achievement.” Rt Hon Theresa May.**





**11% of children in the UK have a disability - equating to an estimated 4,200 children in Wokingham Borough alone, or 48,000 across East Berkshire. For these children, the most common reported impairments are Autistic Spectrum Disorder (41%) and mental health (30%). 63% have a learning disability and 5% have a physical disability.<sup>1</sup>**

**Receiving a diagnosis of disability can be a frightening and overwhelming experience for families. 72% families of disabled children report feeling isolated, detached or without an adequate supportive network. Many of the children we support report feeling visibly different, facing bullying, and struggling to make friends. It is essential to provide these children with a safe and inclusive environment where they can learn, play, and thrive without fear of judgement or discrimination.**

**In our immediate area, there is a specific concern regarding the increase in additional needs being recognised in the early years and approximately 30% of children in the Reading/Wokingham area are estimated to be "not school ready". These children may be struggling with communication and language skills, personal and social development, physical development and curiosity. Without early intervention and support, these challenges can significantly hinder their educational progress and overall development. These children urgently need early intervention and support.**

**Building for the Future recognises the critical need for a safe space where families can come together, share their experiences, and find solace and support from others navigating similar journeys. We are committed to addressing these pressing needs and creating a brighter future for disabled children, young people, and their families. With your continued support, we can make a lasting impact and ensure that every child has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they deserve.**

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<sup>1</sup> DWP Family Resources Survey 2019, Wokingham Borough Council 0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2022-2025



## Our Vision

**Building For The Future aims to bring parents of disabled children together in order to raise the profile of disabled children, raise awareness of issues that families with disabled children face and to continue to operate its purpose-designed community centre for disabled children and their families to use.**

## Our Mission

**To enable the disabled community to thrive by providing access to Facilities- Support - Therapy - all of which is informed by those living with disabilities and their carers.**



## Our House

**Building for the Future provides the only community centre for all disabled children and their families in Wokingham and the surrounding areas. Our building, in the heart of Wokingham, is a place where disabled children feel welcomed and appreciated regardless of the nature of their challenges. A place which provides comfort and support for all the family as well as somewhere to socialise, play and enjoy the facilities.**

**‘Our House’ is a unique accessible play centre with a range of facilities, including soft play, a sensory room, teen chill-out zone, PCs, gaming and free play area. At ‘Our House’, disabled children can relax, have fun and be truly valued and accepted for who they are.**

## Services that we currently offer include:

- A specialist weekly pre-school session (Ladybirds)
- Regular weekend family play schemes for children with different levels of disability
- Holiday family play sessions
- Monthly youth group for teenagers
- Regular facilities hire for local disability groups such as Busy Bees, Activate Learning, Wokingham Borough Council HAF Programme
- Special Key Events e.g. Christmas Parties, Easter Egg Hunts, visiting entertainment e.g. local theatre group, circus, animal/pet groups, science sessions etc.
- Parent information and support sessions hosted by BFTF and run in-house by outside specialists - e.g. sleep workshop, sensory integration, online safety, DLA form completion.
- Service-signposting and information library for parents covering a range of needs and disabilities.
- Offering our accessible centre for small disability groups to hire at reduced rates such as Reading College's educational offering to young adults with profound and multiple learning difficulties.
- Hiring out of accessible facilities for private parties/events.





Unfortunately, local provision for adults with disabilities is very poor. There are major gaps in provision for day services, social activities and employment opportunities. There is limited capacity for residential care, supported living arrangements, day programs and other adult social care services. Many areas have extremely long waiting lists to access (years in some cases). The transition from children to adult services often leads to a breakdown in consistency of care, expertise, and support networks. This lack of adequate, consistent, sustainable support can leave young adults with complex disabilities facing isolation, deteriorating conditions, and being trapped at home without meaningful activities or independence after school. It places huge strain on families and carers as well.

Since 2021, we have been offering Building for the Future Plus for local adults once they have left school. This is a service providing life-fulfilling opportunities for young adults with disabilities who have left school or college. Such opportunities could include employment, socialising and the pursuit of hobbies and other activities.



As a charity we are totally dependent upon fundraising and donations to enable us to run and maintain Our House, provide activities, therapies and events, and to support the families who use our facilities each year. We receive no funding from local authorities, central government or national bodies. If you would like to find out more about how you can help us please contact us.

- **School Fundraising**
- **Corporate Charity Partner**
- **Individual Fundrasier**
- **Community Events**
- **Grants**
- **Donations**
- **Legacy**

We would be delighted to hear from you.



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[www.bftf.org.uk](http://www.bftf.org.uk)