

## What is IRIS?

**IRIS is an information service for parents of children & young people with disabilities.**

We know from talking to parents of children with disabilities that they often find it difficult to get the information they really need and want. Sadly



some parents still feel that they get sent from 'pillar to post' in their search for the services, benefits or opportunities that their son or daughter needs.

We also know from that other parents - who have been or are 'in the same boat' - can be an invaluable source of information, advice and guidance.

That is where IRIS comes in. Parents have been involved in the design of the project, and will be involved in its development and delivery.

There are four key strands to the project:

- the website
- a quarterly magazine
- register of children with disabilities
- supporting parents to have greater influence and control over the way in which services are shaped



## How we are Funded



IRIS is paid for by Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils. Family Action runs the service on their behalf. Family Action is England's leading family charity. It supports over 45,000 families and children every year with over 100 services in communities across the country. It offers practical, emotional and financial help to families and individuals in their communities.

If you want to know more about Family Action visit the website [www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk).

supporting families since 1869

## How to Contact Us

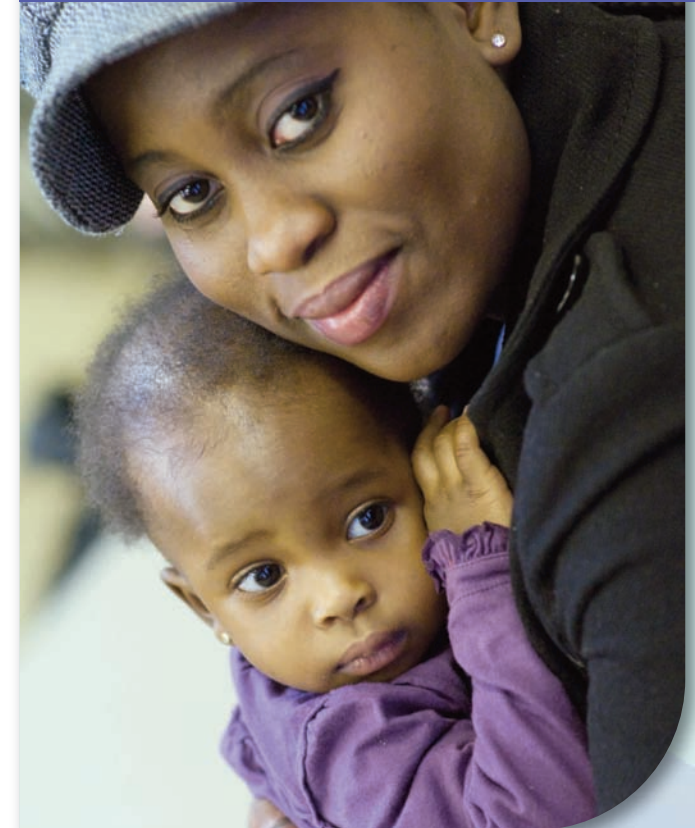
If you would like to receive the magazine, have any suggestions about news items, articles etc., or just want to give some feedback on the service, the website or the magazine then let us know, by:

**Telephone:** 0115 8533291  
**Email:** [contactus@askiris.org.uk](mailto:contactus@askiris.org.uk)  
**or Post:** **IRIS Project**  
Room 18,  
Clarendon Chambers,  
32 Clarendon Street,  
Nottingham NG1 5LN  
**Or visit IRIS at:** [www.askiris.org.uk](http://www.askiris.org.uk)



**iris**   
PROJECT

AN INFORMATION SERVICE FOR PARENTS  
OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
IN NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



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## The Website

Our aim is to make [www.askiris.org.uk](http://www.askiris.org.uk) a 'one stop shop' that provides useful and important information on a variety of subjects and services from leisure, sport, health and education to social care, support groups and transition services as well as funding and grant aid in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The website will also have links to other important sources of information, acting as a 'signpost' for parents and families. Like the magazine the website will also host news stories and include highlights and updates on local services.



Knowing that because of their knowledge and skills parents of children with disabilities are often the experts - not least because of their first-hand experience of what works well and what doesn't - our vision for the website is of a 'virtual support group'; a place where parents can share their expertise with other parents.

just  
ask  
iris!

*We want you to help us to support other parents. Why not visit the 'Get Involved' section of the IRIS website now?*

## The Register of Children with Disabilities

Although local authorities are required to set up and maintain a register of children with disabilities, registration is voluntary.

By recording the details of all children and young people who have either a disability or additional needs a really good register can help to make sure that there are the right services available - at the right time and in the right place. In short, a register will help Social Care and Health, as well as other key partners, to plan and commission services more effectively both now and in the future.

Register  
for more  
info!



The register will also make it possible to direct information to particular groups of parents - to those for whom it is most relevant and at a time when they are most likely to need it. This will help families to make informed choices about the services they access.

At the same time the register could also be used to consult parents more effectively by, for example, targeting those who have similar needs or live in a particular area of the city or the county.

## Greater Influence & Control for Parents and Families

Working with other services, projects and groups that are already active in this area, and alongside initiatives like Aiming High, IRIS will be constantly looking for ways of supporting parents to have more influence and control over the way in which services are designed, developed and delivered.



The website and the magazine will give parents a more powerful voice and over time we hope to 'catch the eye' and 'bend the ear' of those in positions of authority who are responsible for making key decisions that affect the lives of children and young people with disabilities and their families.

So get  
involved!



## IRIS Magazine

A quarterly publication packed full of interesting and useful information about new and existing services, potential sources of support, social and leisure opportunities for the whole family as well as national and local news items. Like the website, it also offers an opportunity to hear what other parents have to say.



The magazine is available FREE of charge to the families of children and young people who are on the City or County Council's voluntary register of disabled children. It can also be downloaded from the IRIS website.