

PAMIS Area Offices



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pamis

promoting a more inclusive society

Family Support Service



For children and adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities and their families



www.pamis.org.uk

What is PAMIS?

PAMIS is a registered charity working with people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and complex healthcare needs, and their family carers. PAMIS is acknowledged as a centre of excellence for research, education and service development in the area of PMLD both nationally and internationally.

The importance of families

For all of us, close family are very important to our well-being and happiness. To a child or adult with profound learning disabilities, their family also provides very significant levels of practical care and commitment, day by day, year by year.

Research shows that, on average, these family carers carry out personal care tasks like washing, toileting or eating & drinking for between 7 ½ and 10 hours daily. Helping the person they love to enjoy life, and go out and learn new skills only begins once these basic needs have been met.

The PAMIS Family Support Service currently has Directors in Fife, Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Grampian, South Lanarkshire and Tayside. They are the main point of contact with PAMIS for families. They offer:

- information and help on all aspects of PMLD
- commitment to develop opportunities for choice, inclusion and improved quality of life for children and adults with PMLD
- support to families in their own right as carers
- raising awareness to ensure that families' knowledge and expertise is recognised – and their views taken fully into account.

Partnership working with families and with relevant professionals is at the heart of all PAMIS activities and the key to the Directors' role.

The support offered to families?

When a family contacts PAMIS, the director will offer to visit them at home. This is an opportunity to discuss individual interests and concerns, give information about PAMIS activities and any other services that may be helpful.

PAMIS Directors offer families:

- practical information and advice
- one-to-one ongoing support
- training workshops on a wide range of topics e.g. moving and handling, epilepsy, the law
- contact with other families
- local leisure activities e.g. wheelchair ice-skating, adapted bikes.

They also provide a link with other aspects of PAMIS' work, for example

- information service, with an on-line library catalogue
- joint campaigning for better services and facilities, both locally and nationally
- a voice in local and national consultation influencing policy and services.

Families and professionals, who do not live or work in one of these areas, can access our Information and Library Service, and be involved in our campaigning and consultation events

t: 01382 385 154

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No charge is made to families for any of our core services

The PAMIS Family Support Services are partially funded by grants from local authorities and NHS Boards in the areas where PAMIS operates