

2b7

Special Needs

Do

Check that the community setting can accommodate the person's unusual support requirements.

Story

Angela wanted to go swimming at the local pool. The worker visited to check that there was wheelchair access to the poolside and a working hoist, along with trained staff available to assist.

As part of modernising their day opportunities, one local authority has given a staff member the role of identifying financial assistance available to make community buildings more accessible.

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Special Needs

Hints & Hazards

Where a supporter is seeking community opportunities for a number of people, it may be helpful to devise a checklist of issues to look out for when visiting a possible venue. Wherever possible, support the person as they explain their own needs to staff at the venue. Don't forget to check that support is available for joining in with the social or relaxation events that other participants use, such as the café as well as the swimming pool. Resist any suggestion that special needs should be met at special times, rather than all the time.

The extra support needs could be highlighted and underlined on the application form, to ensure that staff at the venue paid attention to this factor, but this carries the risk that it will emphasise the person's disability rather than ability.