

Patient information factsheet

Social worker support

At the Wessex adult CF service we believe it's important to address all aspects of your wellbeing. Therefore, as well as medical treatment, the team works closely with specialist social workers to help support you, your family and friends. You will probably meet a social worker at your annual review or clinic appointments.

The social work team is available between 8.30am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

What do social workers do?

Social workers offer support to people to deal with personal and social difficulties, offer advice on social resources and help people to gain access to essential services.

The cystic fibrosis social work service is part of the CF multidisciplinary team. We offer support to patients during the transition from children's to adult services and throughout adult life. The service is also able to offer support for families and carers, providing information and advice as well as offering practical help and/or emotional support.

What could a social worker help with?

Our social work team can offer support and advice in dealing with practical issues such as:

Benefits: Understanding entitlements and claiming benefits for you and your family.

Education: Help with balancing your education and treatment, including liaising with your college or university about your CF and any help you may need. Also support around exams and deadlines and applying for student loans/grants.

Employment: Support with looking for your first job, changing jobs or reducing your hours of work.

Housing: Understanding housing options when you want to move out or support if you require advice on being rehoused on medical grounds, for example. Help with other housing issues (for example damp that is impacting on your health), or adaptations that may be required to your property.

Transport: Support with Motability Car Schemes and vehicle tax exemption or grants for driving lessons, blue badge scheme, travel pass concessions or help with hospital travel and parking expenses.

Holidays/charity grants: Help with seeking information about travel insurance and finding out about support or grants that may be available.

Home care: Getting help at home if you have difficulty managing with your personal care or if your carer needs more support.

Prescription charges: Ensuring that you receive any help with prescription charges that you are entitled to, and advice on paying for prescriptions in the most cost-effective way.

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To meet with a social worker

The social work team try to see all patients at annual review.

You can contact our specialist social worker directly on **023 8120 6801**.

You can also ask to see a social worker at an outpatient appointment, or while you are an inpatient. Home visits can also be arranged.

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audiotape, please telephone 023 8120 4688 for help.