**PROVISION POLICY**

**INTRODUCTION**

SNAPS has always tried to be as inclusive and transparent as possible in providing the Saturday morning opportunities for therapy, fun, friendship and enjoyment for children with additional needs,

their brothers and sisters and parents, grandparents and carers and other supporters. And things have always gone well, almost without exception, each Saturday.

We have take the opportunity to expand our offer/provision because we have raised more funds and found a new venue with a slightly different set of rooms and equipment. We also want to try new things/outings during school holidays and hope to offer activities and experiences that might appeal to a wider age group as well as being suitable for a wider range of additional needs.

So instead of the ‘one size fits all’ regular session we may be able to tailor the type of activities on some Saturdays to suit different groups. For example, children who need a quieter or less stimulating environment (like a multi-sensory or time out room) to enjoy their experience to the full. Or children who thrive on the rough and tumble of outdoor activities with outdoor toys and equipment.

By doing this we feel we will overall be able to be more inclusive for a wider range of needs amongst the large number of children with additional needs in the Leeds area and beyond, most of them not having tried a SNAPS experience yet. But with this widening of our programme, it might be necessary for us to suggest, very occasionally, that some sessions might not be suitable for some children. Either for a particular child on a particular day, or at that particular stage of their development. This might be obvious to the parents, staff and volunteers just from the description of the experience provided by the session, and the parent's experience of their child's reaction to similar environments. But it could also become gradually obvious during a session containing new and different experiences.

If the environment and experience we were able to provide on that occasion were causing a child to be distressed or to behave in a way likely to cause distress for the other children in the session, it might be necessary to end the child's participation on that occasion. If a child's reaction was thought to be likely to cause a risk to their own safety, or to the safety of others during the session we might also need to ask for the child to be withdrawn on that occasion.

We would hope to be able, through discussion with the child, family and anyone with information about or experience of different alternatives for the child concerned, to provide a more suitable offer on another occasion if our resources can meet the requirements. For example we could try to

find extra staff or volunteers with relevant experience for extra support during a session. Or we could modify the experience provided in the session, on a planned future occasion, to better meet

the child's needs.

So we hope that by explaining what we are trying to provide for as many children as possible, and with a wider range of different additional needs, we can explain to everyone what to expect if a session does not initially go as well as everyone hoped and expected on a particular day. And what we will try to do to make the experience a better one on another occasion.

Everyone at SNAPS wants to make coming to a SNAPS session or special event a great experience for all the children who attend and their families. We have gained lots of experience over the years that we have been running sessions but we really do need your expertise as parents and carers to help make this happen. So we would welcome any advice or feedback about what we offer, what we could offer in the future, and what we could try to do differently or as an extra for your child or other children with similar additional needs, to make it a better experience. It might take some time, or even a bit of extra fundraising, but we will do our best to make it possible for everyone who comes to SNAPS to take away a great experience.