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NHS
Tameside and Glossop

Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs
Rowan House
Grange Road South
Hyde
SK14 5NY

Tel: 0161 366 2050
Fax: 0161 366 2080

8th April 2011

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

This 6 year old little girl has Spina Bifida which affects the spinal nerves into her legs. This has resulted in considerable weakness, reduced muscle control and loss of sensation in her legs with the left leg being the worst affected. These aspects of her presentation will never improve as the damage to the nerves is permanent.

She is unable to walk independently and uses a K-Walker. Her walking is limited to short distances because of the amount of effort needed for her to walk. For longer distances she is wheelchair dependent and needs to be pushed. She can self-propel her wheelchair, but again this is limited to short distances due to the effort it takes to do this causing rapid fatigue. She needs constant supervision for safety whether using her walker or self-propelling her wheelchair. She is unable to stand unaided requiring a support to hold onto and she requires someone to assist her with all transfers.

This little girl needs to be able to access transferring into and out of the family car with as much independence and dignity as possible. This means that the car needs to be brought as close to the house as possible, ideally to a driveway at the side of the house. This would enable her to self-propel or walk with her K-walker out of the house to the side of the car. She then requires a rail on the drive so that she can stand from the wheelchair or walker and hold onto it for support. At present she has to be lifted into and out of the car seat due to her small size and inability to step her legs up into the car due to the weakness caused by the Spina Bifida. In time, as she gets bigger, she may be able to manage the transfer out of the car with assistance. In order to maintain her privacy and dignity whilst practicing the transfer out of the car in the future, and whilst currently being lifted into and out of the car, she needs vehicle access next to the property.

For all the above reasons I fully support the application being made for a driveway with support rail next to the family property.

Julie Faulkner M.C.S.P.
Children's Physiotherapist

Tameside and Glossop Primary Care Trust

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