

AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN SHORT BREAKS PROGRAMME

Haringey Common Access Framework for Short Breaks.

COMMON ACCESS FRAMEWORK

The following is an agreed common access framework for Short Breaks that has been developed to promote transparency and consistency across the North London cluster group comprising Haringey, Camden, Enfield, Islington and Waltham Forest.

SHORT BREAKS

Information for families

The Government has provided money to help local areas provide more short breaks for disabled children, young people and their families. We are using that money in Haringey to offer more short breaks and more choice in what is on offer.

Short breaks used to be called respite care/breaks. They are now called short breaks because we want everyone to think positively about disabled children and young people. Short breaks are there to give children and young people the chance to do something they enjoy doing away from their parents. They are also a chance for parents to have a short break from caring.

In Haringey we aim to create a service where disabled children, young people and their families can have a short break when they need it and have a good time.

We have asked children, young people and their families to help in designing the services they want. We use this feedback to further improve our services.

We think it is important to share out the short breaks in a fair way. Some families will need more support than others because of their needs and circumstances. Often families/carers could really enjoy a break as well as the children and young people themselves. A short break can help to reduce stress and isolation.

Because every child/young person and their family are different, we will provide short breaks within three different bands of support for different levels of need. Parents and young people in our 'opinion groups' have agreed this is fair and sensible.

Disabled children and young people tell us they want to be able to do the same things as other people of their age. Some disabled children and young people go to mainstream activities with support. We are working on making all the services in this local area right for disabled children and young people.

Other severely disabled children and young people will need short breaks that are designed around their particular needs as well as joining mainstream activities

A small group of severely disabled children, young people and families will need help from specialists to enjoy a short break. We will offer short breaks with extra, specialist care to this group.

Access to the short break service – how decisions are made

We aim for children, young people and families to have short breaks they want, when they want them. We include children, young people and their families in deciding which short breaks are for them.

We try to make access to short breaks as simple as possible for families. We offer three main 'pathways' for short break services. Children, young people and their families may move between pathways as their needs change.

For each of the three pathways we try to use information and assessments we have already – not do new assessments. We aim to have all the professionals working together with families, children and young people to make the plans and provide the short breaks.

Pathway 1:– This pathway offers access to mainstream activities with support from the services providing the activity. This is open to all disabled children and young people. Any specialist worker involved with the family can access these short breaks. The specialist worker can help the family and young person to decide which short breaks to access.

Examples of short breaks in Pathway 1 would be extended school activities, play schemes, Youth service activities, leisure and sports services, Dance and Drama etc.

Pathway 2:– offers short breaks with support designed around a child or young person's particular needs, as well as the short breaks offered in Pathway 1.

For this pathway, a meeting with the child, young person and family will be arranged to discuss the kind of support they need and want. Before the meeting, one of the professionals involved with the child or young person will make an assessment of their needs. This will help everyone decide what support would be most helpful.

Examples of short breaks in Pathway 2 would be specialist extended school activities, specialist clubs, additional support to access leisure services/ mainstream services.

Pathway 3 is designed for the small group of children, young people and their families/carers who need short breaks with extra, specialist care. Again this could be in a mainstream activity or another type of short break.

Examples of short breaks in Pathway 3 would be specialist activities with additional training and experience in working with children with disabilities on an individual or group basis.

A panel of people from the different services who provide support to disabled children meets regularly. This group looks at the best way of providing and paying for short breaks for children and young people with the highest levels of need.

When they are looking at a package of short break support, the panel takes into account the opinions of the specialists who work with the child or young person. The parents'/carers' opinions about the kind of short break that is needed and the child/young person's ideas are also very important.

The panel brings everyone's ideas together to work to out how best to provide the right short break package for the child/young person and their family.

Getting better all the time

We want to make sure our short breaks get better and better. We continue to find out what users think of services and we use that information to help make improvements.

We plan to continue working with parents/carers through our Haringey Involve Parents' Forum to understand what they want. We will also be developing more opportunities for disabled children and young people to give their views and contribute to planning.

Tell us what you think by contacting Mezan Ahmed

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or contact the Parents/Carers Forum – Haringey Involve –

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