

Short Breaks Statement 2021-2022

**Haringey Short Breaks Statement
January 2021**

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Support & Services

Haringey Short Breaks statement

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1. Introduction

Our aim is to ensure that families with disabled children have the support they need to 'live ordinary family lives as a matter of course'. We aim to provide you with the best possible support and to use your expert knowledge to help us develop and improve all our services.

This statement gives information about the provision of short break services for children and young people who are aged 0-17 years old, are resident in Haringey and have a disability and/or additional needs, including those with challenging complex behaviour and multiple disabilities.

Haringey Council has a responsibility to provide a range of short break services designed to help those who provide care for children with disabilities to continue to do so.

This Statement will be reviewed annually by the Local Authority and with the involvement of children, young people and their parents and carers to ensure their needs are being met.

Information about the full range of services available for families with disabled children is available in the Haringey Local Offer :

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer>

2. Short Breaks

Short Breaks are a part of a range of services that support children in need and their families and:

- Assist parents and carers of children with SEND to access respite,
- Provide a range of play and social activities which takes account of individual children's needs and desires
- Offer a safe and friendly environment for children with SEND to play

Short breaks can benefit and provide disabled children and young people with an opportunity to:

- Spend time away from their parents
- Socialise and have fun with their peers and make new friends
- Learn new skills
- Keep physically active
- Improve their communication skills
- Access activities which support them to develop self-esteem, confidence, independence, and social interaction skills and;
- Gain independence.

Short breaks also provide families with a 'break' from their caring responsibilities and give parents a chance to unwind, rest, spend time with their other children and give brothers and sisters an opportunity to enjoy family time.

Short breaks include day, evening, weekend and overnight breaks or activities for the child or young person, and can take place in the child's own home, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential or community setting.

Examples of short breaks include holiday playschemes, family fun days and help in the home. Short breaks can vary from a few hours to a few days and can include all times of the day, evening, weekend and overnight.

Most disabled children and young people will be able to use leisure activities that can allow parents/carers to take breaks from their caring responsibilities. These include the council's universal offer and additional holiday activities that are SEND inclusive or targeted at children and young people with SEND as a result of leisure working with the Short Breaks Services . The council's universal includes:

- Pendarren Outdoor Centre in Wales which can be accessed via schools
- Adventure Play
- After school clubs including in special schools
- Youth clubs
- Sports activities
- Music lessons
- Dance and drama
- Scouts and Guides

Information on these universal services offering short breaks can be found by clicking on the links below:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/libraries/services/childrens-libraries>

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/libraries/library-events>

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/culture-and-entertainment/whats-haringey/holiday-fun>

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/culture/holiday-fun/holiday-activities-and-food-haf-programme-2021>

Most families will get the support they need from the range of universal services on offer to them and from the basic offer of Short Breaks. Where a disabled child may have difficulty accessing universal services this should be discussed firstly with the service provider, and then if additional help is needed, you should contact Haringey's Short Breaks Service via email to dctduty@haringey.gov.uk

The Short Breaks Service will be able to provide advice about a range of targeted short breaks services that are available via the SEND Short Breaks Framework for disabled children with high needs who are assessed. The Framework has a range of providers offering specialist after-school and weekend clubs and holiday playschemes that cover a range of activities from drama, life skills to sports and leisure activities.

There will also be a small number of families who will have exceptional needs that require special provision, for example hospice care, overnight stay or foster care placements. The use of specialist services is always based on a need's assessment and a related outcome.

One of the services available is the Family Link Scheme which has a number of carers who provide a range of both day and overnight stays to disabled children specifically under the age of 10, with breaks being offered in the carer's own home or in the community.

Over the years we have consulted with parents, carers, children and young people about the type and range of short breaks that should be available to families in Haringey. We have spoken to children and families about the type of short breaks that they would like to have in the borough.

We know that short breaks are a priority for families with disabled children and that they should be delivered as part of a much broader package of family support services.

Ongoing consultation and co-production with parents tell us that parents and children want us to consider the following when planning and commissioning short breaks for their children:

- Age and ability appropriate activities/ support
- Wide variety of activities to choose from e.g., sports, art, music, dance, cooking. Children want to take risk with their short breaks and want them to be exciting.
- Activities that prepare children for what it is like to work in a way that they enjoy
- Appropriately trained staff who are empathetic and understand the needs of the children and young people, and can build real relationships
- Suitable levels of support
- Appropriate sensory environments where necessary
- Accessible settings, particularly toilets and changing areas
- Ability to provide feedback
- Choice and flexible delivery
- Opportunity to access short breaks at key times, including weekends and holidays
- The needs of the whole family to be considered.
- The 'basics' - all staff DBS-checked, the facilities are safe and clean, and you know who to tell if they are not up to the standard you expect

If you need a break from caring for your child so that you can go to work, then this becomes a childcare requirement. Find further information on childcare please contact :

Family Information Service

Tel 020 8489 1000

Email early.years@haringey.gov.uk

3. Applying for a Short Break : Access and Eligibility

Children and young people are eligible for short break services if they are aged between 0 – 17 years inclusive, live in Haringey.

Children who are eligible for services for short breaks will have:

- a severe physical, learning, or severe sensory impairment, such as a severe visual or hearing impairment, which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities
- autism and severe learning disabilities
- challenging behaviour as a result of their severe learning disability
- Enduring mental health needs and a medical diagnosis in the absence of a learning difficulty, which results in challenging behaviour affecting access to the community and learning
- complex needs, including life-limiting or a life-threatening condition

The children may be eligible for services from the Disabled Children's Team or may be receiving services from Early Help or wider CYPS.

We think it is important to allocate short breaks in a fair way. Not all children and families will need the same level of short breaks; some will need more than others because of the impact of their child's disability. Some families may need more support because of their individual family circumstances. As every child and their family are different, we provide different levels of short break support.

If you are interested in applying for a Short Break for your child, you should discuss this with your child's Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) or another professional working with your child, or you can contact the Disabled Children's Social Work Team duty desk for advice dctduty@haringey.gov.uk

If your child has the level of need as specified above, a request can be made for a respite budget which goes to a panel – the Integrated Additional Services Panel IASP – for a decision on your child's short breaks. There are different offers of support that the panel can recommend or allocate. The request is made using a system called the 'resource

allocation tool' (RAS) which is similar to a questionnaire. The questionnaire asks about the following areas:

Be fit and Healthy	To be Relaxed and Happy (Emotional Wellbeing)	To Be Able to Travel Safely and Use Public Transport for Children over the Age of 11 (Independence Skills)	To Be Able to Communicate Well (Communication Skills)	To Join in With Activities With Other Children (from age 5+) (Social Skills)
To Learn the Skills I need to be as Confident and Independent as I can be. (Applicable to children over 5 years) (Independence Skills)	To have a Circle of friends (Social Skills)	To Be Safe At Home With Immediate Family	To Be Safe In their Community	Family Life is Good and There is Time for Everyone in the Family to enjoy life and pursue the things that matter to them (Emotional Well Being)
Parent/Carers get a good night's sleep (Physical Health/Emotional Wellbeing)	Parents/ Carers get the Support they need from friends, neighbours and extended family which regularly provides them with Short Breaks (Emotional Wellbeing)	Descriptors all scored at no support, some support, lots of support, exceptional support		

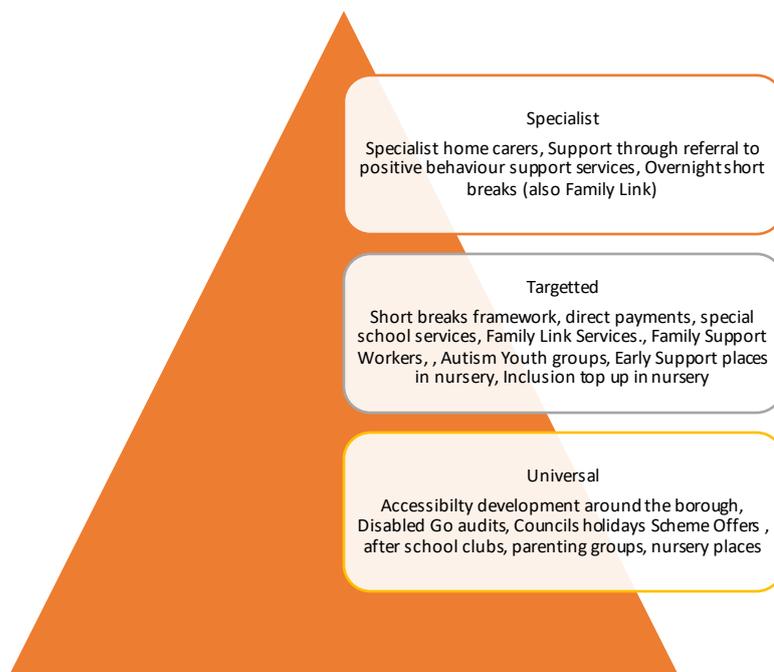
The Panel will decide the level of support that your child will be allocated for the financial year, which is based on your child's level of need, or you may be offered a child and family assessment from a social worker, if your child's needs are more complex.

If your child is allocated a Personal Budget, you can look at the different options and choose the Short Break that you think might be the best for your child. Your budget may be given to you as a direct payment, to purchase services yourself, or we may tell you how much money you can spend and ask you which services you would like us to spend it on. This is described in more detail under 'personal budgets and short breaks'.

You will receive a letter from Panel confirming the allocation of a Personal Budget or an in-house service or whether your child should access Universal Services.

Universal Services are settings like leisure centres, parks, and cinemas.

Some of the short breaks are services in our borough for free, and others are more specialist services. The activities and services available are described below:



If your child is under statutory school age, we will consider their childcare entitlement a short break, and support your child to attend through additional monies given to the setting and training to providers.

We will continue to ensure families are supported to make best use of their Short Break with advice and input from a professional, so that they can access activities that they will enjoy.

4. **Personal Budgets and Short Breaks**

A Personal Budget is a dedicated amount of money that the Council allocates towards the cost of a Short Break for your child. You may also receive a Personal Budget for part of your child’s education, health and/or care needs.

Personal Budgets aim to give you and your child more flexibility, choice and control over the care or support your child receives. This allows you to have a greater input about what types of activities your child attends and the support you know your child needs.

You can look at the different options and choose the Short Break that you think might be the best for your child. If you see a Short Break that you like, you can contact the provider directly to enquire about their services.

You can find Haringey's list of short breaks on the Local Offer under:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer/support/short-breaks-and-respite>

There are different ways you can receive your Personal Budget. This can be as a payment instead of services where you receive the money on a monthly basis to contract, buy and manage services yourself to meet your child's needs. This is a Direct Payment.

If you opt for a direct payment, you will need to sign a Personal Budget agreement and open a separate bank account for the money to be paid into. This account will be used just for your Personal Budget account.

You can vary the amount you spend each week or month, to save up for a more costly short break service, as agreed with the Council.

Your short break budget will be reviewed with you yearly to see if your child's or your family's needs have changed.

If you are unable to spend the money you should discuss this with the Disabled Children's Team (contact details on Page 8).

5. Travel Assistance

Transport for short breaks is not automatically provided. However, we know that transport is provided by some short breaks providers to allow their child to get to their short break. Families should ask the respite provider if transport is provided as part of their offer.

We do run travel training activities over summer holidays to help children learn to get out and about and practice their route to school.

If your child would like to try the travel training summer scheme and go out with a buddy for a few hours a day in the holidays, please apply through the transport application on the Local Offer.

6. Transition

We want transition from childhood to adulthood to be an exciting and optimistic time for young people. We want to support them as they become young adults and take their place in the world. Developing positive activities for young people, allowing them to take part in local community activities, will support them in their development of their independence skills.

This means that we will jointly provide short breaks with our colleagues in Adult Services. We want to ensure that short breaks address the 'transition' needs of young people moving from childhood to adulthood. Young people have told us that they want to continue to spend time with their school friends once they are 18 and not lose contact because they can only attend short breaks provided by Adult Services. So short breaks will be developed to reflect their needs as teenagers, ensuring friendship and activity groups are supported to continue beyond the school years.

They will also provide opportunities for them to extend their independence and life skills e.g:

- Employment
- Independent Living
- Friends, Relationships & Community
- Good Health

We will help to produce these outcomes by supporting young people to:

- manage risk, whilst keeping themselves safe in the community
- develop decision making skills
- manage money
- travel independently
- improve their social interaction skills through modelling by their peers
- lead ordinary lives, enjoying and contributing to everyday activities

7. The impact of Short Breaks

We will ensure that our short break services focus on improving the life chances of disabled children and their families through continuing to develop our strategy with parents and young people.

We know that the views of families, both parents and children, are essential for future success. We will therefore ensure our parent forums and children's consultation forums are supported and developed.

We will ensure that all the short breaks we provide make a positive difference to our young people. We will ask ourselves the 'so what' question – 'so what if we provide disabled children with an activity club at the weekend, what difference will that make?' Answer – 'it will provide the children with an opportunity to meet and play with their friends, to have fun and to become more independent. It will provide their mums and/or dads with a chance to spend time with their other children, to do the shopping or simply to have a break!'

We will continue to measure children's satisfaction, parental satisfaction and staff confidence and skill in meeting the needs of disabled children in a variety of short break settings.

We will continue to monitor and record the views of children, parents, and staff so everybody feels involved and supported and to ensure we develop a cycle of continuous improvement.

Any changes we make in response to consultation with parents, carers, and young people, will be publicised on the Local Offer web pages.

8. **Contacts for further help**

Personal Budget Officer Contact details:

Location

Integrated Service for Children with SEND
Level 2 Alexandra House,
10 Station Road,
Wood Green
N22 7TR

Telephone: 020 8489 4545 / 3003

Email: DCTPersonalBudgets@haringey.gov.uk

You can also contact:

Haringey Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Informative, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS)

If you would like to speak to someone about any of the services available to you and your child, then feel free to contact the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Informative, Advice & Support Service (SEND IASS).

<https://markfield.org.uk/sendiass-2/>

SEND IASS provides impartial information, advice and support for young people and parents/carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Monday: 09:30-13:00

Wednesday: 15:30-19:00

Thursday: 14:30-16:00

Location: Markfield Park, Markfield Road, London, N15 4RB

Telephone: 020 8802 2611

Nearest Tube: Seven Sisters / Tottenham Hale

If you require any further advice, support or any of the documents referred to in this update, please visit Haringey's website www.haringey.gov.uk for the local offer or contact the Personal Budget officer based in the Integrated Service for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – See above

Listening to you

As we want to continually improve our services to families and young people, please feel free to call us with any suggestions as to how we can improve. Although we may not be able to respond to every suggestion, as we start to develop our Parent's Forum you will be able to have a voice in how our services are delivered.

If you require further information about the Haringey Short Breaks Statement

please contact:

Disabled Children's Team

Telephone 0208 489 3671 / 3672