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:
2. **Short Breaks**

Short breaks provide disabled children and young people with an opportunity to spend time away from their parents, relaxing and having fun with their friends, making friends or learning new skills. They 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.

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.

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.

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. Parents, children and young people will continue to be fully involved in helping us decide who should deliver our short breaks here 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
- 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
- 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 taken into account
• The ‘basics’ - all staff DBS-checked, facilities safe and clean, etc.

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 and are eligible for services from the Disabled Children’s Team. Children 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
• complex needs, including life-limiting or a life-threatening condition

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.

Your child will need to have the level of need to meet the threshold for a service from the Disabled children’s team. The first part of the process is to contact the Disabled children’s team. The Disabled children’s team manager’s will determine if your child has the level of need to meet the threshold for a service from the Disabled Children’s Team, and is therefore eligible for a short break. You will be asked to provide additional information to support the decision making.

If your child has the level of need as specified above, a request can be made for a resource which goes to a panel – the Integrated Additional Services Panel – for a decision on your child’s short breaks. There are different offers of support that the panel can recommend or allocate.
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. 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 cinema’s.

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:


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. The account is not intended as a saving account and monies allocated in one year should be used to purchase services in the same year without any ‘carry forwards’ if we have assessed your child’s level of need correctly.

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:
• 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**

**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).

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

**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

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 below.