

Warwickshire's Integrated Disability Service **Short Break Services Statement 2015**

Please note this Short Breaks Statement has been updated to reflect the new Local Offer and that some services have changed. The Statement will be reviewed and updated jointly with parents, carers, children and young people over coming months to take in to account new arrangements and services.

A new Short Breaks Statement will be published by 1 September 2015.

1) Introduction

Short Break Duty

Paragraph 6 (1) (c) of Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989 requires Local Authorities to provide services designed to give breaks for carers of disabled children.

Regulations relating to this duty came into force on 1 April 2011, requiring each Local Authority to produce a Short Break Services Statement by 1st October 2011.

This Statement aims to inform families of the services that are available, the eligibility criteria for these services, and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in Warwickshire.

Reviewing the Statement

As required, this Statement will be monitored and reviewed through the SEND Project Board to ensure that the Statement remains relevant.

2) Consultation Process

This Statement has been compiled using information from parents, carers, children and young people and relevant professionals gathered over the course of a number of consultations on Social Care and the recent Local Offer consultation.

3) Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations (Summarised)

A copy of the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 is available for detailed reference via the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2011/707/pdfs/ukxi_20110707_en.pdf

In order to meet these regulations, Local Authorities must have regard to the needs of carers in respect of their capacity to care for, or continue to care for, their disabled child and must provide a range of services designed to meet this need. A Short Break Services Statement must be prepared and published annually, outlining how this is to be achieved.

Duty to make provision (summary)

Local Authorities must take into account the needs of carers who would:

- Be unable to continue caring for their disabled child unless breaks from caring were given;

Or

- Be able to give more effective care, if breaks were given to allow them to, for example, attend educational classes, leisure activity, meet the needs of other children in the family, or carry out necessary day to day tasks in the household.

Types of services which must be provided (summary)

Local Authorities must, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide a range of services sufficient to meet the needs of carers to care or care more effectively, including;

- Day Care in the child's own home and elsewhere
- Overnight Care in the child's own home and elsewhere
- Educational or leisure activities for children outside of their own homes
- Services in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays

Underlying principles:

- Short breaks to be additional to universal provision – where criteria are met.
- Short breaks should be preventative – not just a crisis intervention.
- Short breaks should support carers and provide benefits to children and young people.
- Short breaks should improve outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families.
- Short break services should consider siblings as part of a family assessment.
- Short breaks are personal to individual need.
- Local authorities to focus on impact of impairments on family life – not eligibility dependent entirely on conditions.

4) Definition of Short Break Services

Short breaks through SEND Social Care provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to have enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, thus contributing to their social inclusion and personal and social development. They also provide the parents and carers of disabled children with a necessary and valuable break from their caring responsibilities.

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

The Current Provision of Short Breaks in Warwickshire

Short Breaks Services for disabled children in Warwickshire have undergone considerable development and transformation from 2008/9 onwards. More recently there has been the development of a Framework of Providers so that parent, carers, children and young people to enjoy a wider variety of activities and provision.

5) Access and Eligibility to Short Break Services

The eligibility for services and short breaks is based on the following principles:

- Promoting the health, safety and well being of disabled children and young people, ensuring they can fully participate in family and community life, enjoying themselves with friends and making decisions about their lives
- Preventing family crisis through the provision of the right level of support at the right time
- The need to be fair, clear and equitable.

Not all children and families will need the same level of support and short breaks, some will need more than others because of the nature and severity of their child's disability. Some families may need more support because of their individual family circumstances. This is why the Local Authority may need to assess a child / young person and their family to ensure the right amount of support and quantity of short breaks are provided at the right time.

SEND Social Care are committed to provide individual children and young people access to a reasonable level of short breaks that also ensure there is an equitable distribution across the County. The actual amount of support provided will depend on assessed needs. For short breaks and overnight respite we currently use a tool known as the '**Matrix of Need**' (2012) as a guide to identify the level of resources that may be needed. The Low, Medium and High indicators in the Matrix of Need (2012) map to Levels 2 (additional needs), 3 (complex needs) and 4 (acute/severe needs) in the **Social Care Local Offer** framework.

Local Short Breaks

Below is a description of Short Break Services within SEND and how these are provided and accessible to families:-

(a) Universal or Mainstream Services:

Youth clubs, uniformed groups (i.e. cubs, brownies), leisure centres and activity-based groups. These are directly accessible with no assessment necessary.

Some children with special needs can be supported in child care settings through SEND Social Care Volunteer Service.

(b) Enhanced services:

These are specific services for disabled children directly accessible through a referral from an SEND professional or via a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) undertaken by a known professional outside the IDS and who is involved with a family.

This includes services provided by Warwickshire's Voluntary Sector Partners. Access to the Voluntary Sector Partners provision will be depending upon capacity and the remit of the groups.

Most providers allocate on a first come, first served basis.

(c) Targeted Services - provided through eligibility to Social Care Team

These are only allocated after an assessment by an SEND social worker and Child in Need criteria has been met. Following the assessment of need, the range of short breaks that the Local Authority is able to provide is determined by the outcome of the Needs Matrix. This is discussed with the family and a reasonable level of support is offered.

(d) Specialist Services - provided through eligibility to Social Care Teams

These services are accessible only via a Core Assessment having been undertaken by an SEND social worker or through a Continuing Health Care Assessment undertaken by a health professional. Following this assessment, families may be eligible for overnight support. This Social Care provision is considered and allocated through a multi-disciplinary overnight short break panel where the options overnight short breaks with a Family Link Carer, or a residential short break unit within Warwickshire is considered.

It is important that those families who have the highest levels of need have access to these targeted and specialist services.

See Table below for full list of Short Break Provision

6) Evaluation of Short Breaks

This comprehensive evaluation identified the following impacts short breaks have had for families known to SEND:

- Improvements in family life with increased capacity to sustain family without the need for crisis intervention from Social Care
- Children and Young People showing increased self-esteem, social interaction and participation in activities
- Through joint working there are now fewer assessments for families to under take

Our priority for the future will be to maintain a range of short break opportunities for children / young people and to continue to monitor its impact.

Short Break Provision

Name	Service	Contact
SEND Social Care In House Volunteer Service	Support to families within families homes or enabling young people to access leisure	SEND Social Care Bases South; Saltisford – 01926 413737 North; Lancaster house – 02476 368801
Direct Payments	Accessed through Social Care Initial Assessment, families are able to purchase support to meet assessed need	SEND Social Care Bases South; Saltisford – 01926 413737 North; Lancaster house – 02476 368801
Young Carers	Sibling Groups	Through SEND Social Care or contact directly: Warwickshire Young carers Project Ryton Gardens Wolston Lane Ryton on Dunsmore CV8 3ES Tel: 02476 217740 http://www.warwickshireyoungcarers.org.uk/
Community Based Short Breaks		Please follow link to Framework of Providers
Holidays	2 mobile homes in Skegness 2 mobile homes in Burnham on Sea Lodge in Northampton	Via Entrust http://www.entrustcarepartnership.org.uk Tel: 07721 198122
Overnight Respite		
Family Based (Countywide)		
Family Link Carers	Short Break Provision within Carers homes	Referral through allocated Social Worker
Residential (North Warwickshire)		
Gramer House/Holly House Atherstone	Residential Short Break Provision	Referral through allocated Social Worker
Residential (South Warwickshire)		
John Waterhouse Project, Action for Children Kenilworth	Residential Short Break Provision	Referral through allocated Social Worker