



Warwickshire County Council

SHORT BREAKS STATEMENT

2025-26



Please note that the short breaks statement is currently being reviewed to improve accessibility of the information for parents and carers.

Welcome to Warwickshire's Short Breaks Statement for 2025

Dear Parent Carers,

Welcome to Warwickshire's Short Breaks Statement for 2025-26. This document will tell you about short breaks, overnight respite and family care services for children and young people with a disability, for autistic children and young people, and for other children in need with complex needs who do not have a diagnosis.

We hope you find this document useful and easy to understand. It may also be helpful for your wider network and the people who work with your family to understand this document too.

This statement is part of our Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) Local Offer.

The SEND Local Offer provides information about SEND support and services in Warwickshire. It also describes the processes and routes you may come across when making decisions about your child's future.

Knowing what services are available and how to access them gives you more choice and more control over what support is right for you. You can read more on our website [Warwickshire's SEND local offer](#), or contact [Warwickshire Family Information Service](#),

To get involved in shaping the support we offer in Warwickshire, you can share your experience of SEND services in Warwickshire using this [feedback form](#) or contact the Children's Commissioning Team at: childrenscommissioning@warwickshire.gov.uk

Contents

Welcome to Warwickshire's Short Breaks Statement for 2025	2
Section 1 – About Short Breaks	4
Why might a family need support?.....	4
What is a short break?	4
Who is a short break for?.....	5
Section 2 – Types of Short Breaks	6
Types of Short Breaks Provided in Warwickshire	6
Universal Services	6
Community Services.....	7
Targeted and Specialist Services	8
How are short breaks paid for?.....	10
What if Community and Council funded services cannot meet your needs?	11
Section 3 – Helping to Shape our Local Offer	12
How can you help to shape our local offer?	12
Appendix 1 – Legal context for Short Breaks	14

Section 1 – About Short Breaks

Why might a family need support?

Some families need support from others. Having a child with a disability or special educational need can bring experiences that other families do not face. This can be particularly relevant at times of transition, like when a child is starting or changing school or when a young person is preparing for adult life.

We know that asking for help or support can be difficult. Whatever you are feeling or experiencing, we aim to offer you the right support when you need it. We want to understand your family's strengths, needs and issues and to help you to get the best possible advice and support for your situation. This could be through a regular activity in the community, help at home, overnight breaks or a range of other services and support.

All the information about help and support for Warwickshire Children and Families can be found on our website:

[Social Care support for those with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\) – Warwickshire County Council.](#)

What is a short break?

A “short break” is a broad term used to describe different types of services that give you a break from your caring responsibilities.

It covers the Council's statutory responsibility to support you to access regular breaks as part of a proactive and preventative approach to care (read [Appendix 1](#) for more information on this). This means working to keep families together, preventing family breakdown and avoiding children and young people with a disability becoming a Child in Care.

A short break should have positive outcomes for your family.

It could allow you to rest, unwind and focus on your own health and wellbeing while your child is being cared for elsewhere. It may give you the opportunity to spend time

with other members of your family, to socialise, to do some exercise or other leisure activity, or to start a course or training programme that interests you.

It should help you to maintain a good family life while providing opportunities for your child to spend time away from home, or at home with other trusted adults - having fun, building relationships and trying new things.

Who is a short break for?

A short break is a package of care, usually for children and young people aged 0 to 25 with a disability. It could also be for children in need who do not have any form of a diagnosis and are not open to the Children with Disabilities Team. Eligible children and young people are likely to have needs that impact their lives in a range of ways, but most commonly include:

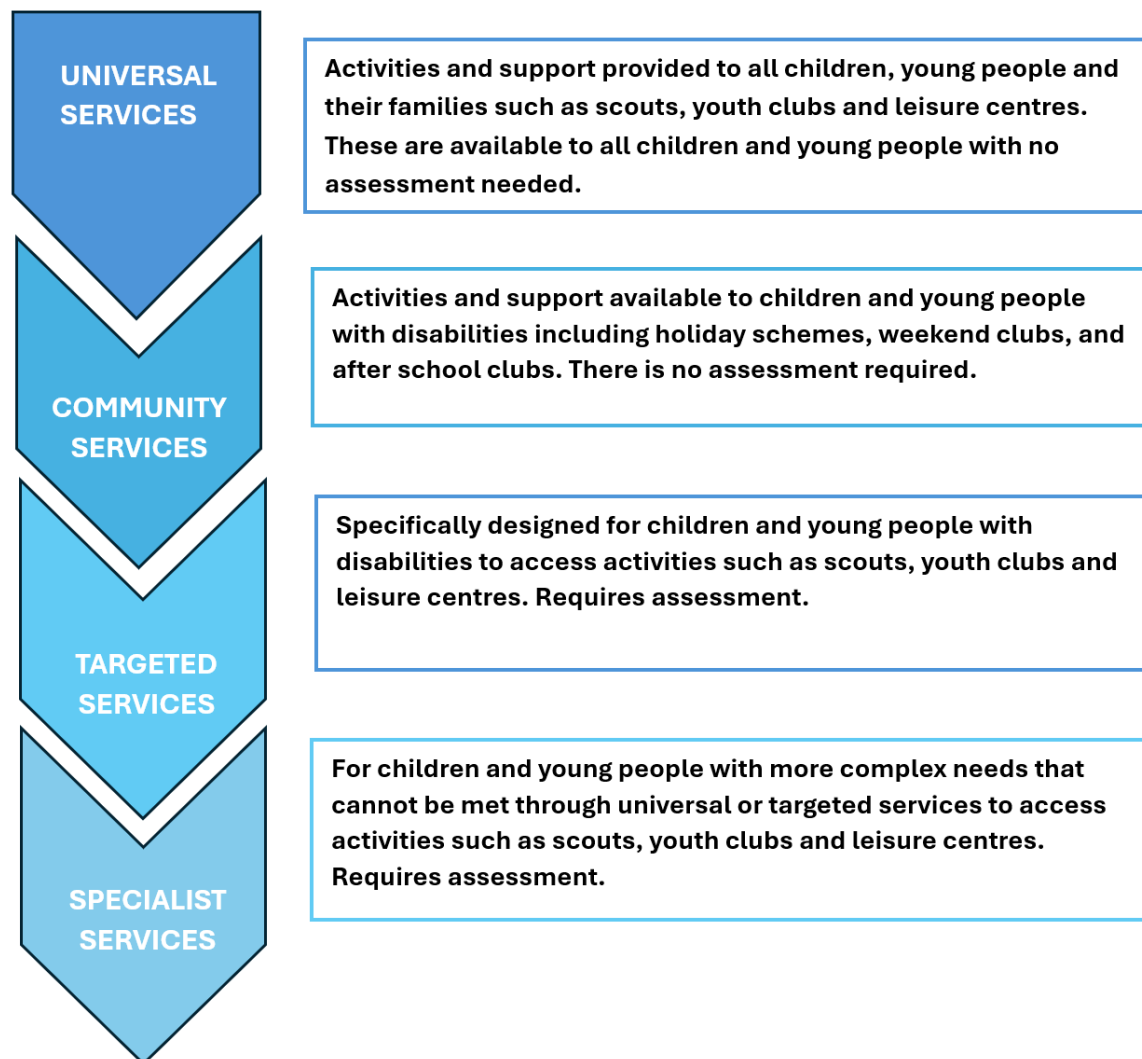
- Learning disability
- Physical disability
- Sensory impairment
- Profound and multiple learning disabilities
- Autism and/or ADHD
- Mental health needs
- Behaviours that can challenge including conduct disorders or Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD).
- Chronic health condition
- Post-operative care needs

We know that not all children and families will need the same level of support and the same type of short break. Some will need large packages of care and support throughout childhood. Others will need short term support through a particularly specific time or change in family circumstances. It is important that your child and your family have the right level and amount of support at the right time.

To see what help might be needed, we will need to do an assessment. The Children with Disabilities Team commit to children and young people having fair access to short breaks. We also want to make sure there are short breaks available across the county.

Section 2 – Types of Short Breaks

Types of Short Breaks Provided in Warwickshire



Universal Services

These services are available to all children and young people. You can find universal in the Warwickshire online directory, called [Search Out Warwickshire](#).

It is important to remember that there is a legal duty to ensure that universal services are inclusive of children with disabilities by making reasonable adjustments so they are not excluded from their offer. This includes:

- Libraries
- Youth clubs

- Uniformed groups like Cubs and Brownies
- Leisure centres
- Sports and activity groups
- Faith and community groups

However, we understand that a lot of children with disabilities and other complex needs may find it difficult to access and enjoy activities. We have local partners and networks that can help you find accessible and adapted services for a range of needs.

A good place to start a conversation about this is through your local [Children and Family Centre](#), by visiting the [Family Information Service](#) (FIS), or calling 0800 408 1558 or 01926 742 274.

You might also want to consider if siblings of your child with disabilities would benefit from some support. This is available via Young Carers Caring Together in Warwickshire. You can reach them by calling 0800 197 554, emailing hello@caringtogetherwarwickshireorg.uk or by visiting their [website](#).

Community Services

These services are available to all children and young people with disabilities. You can find community short breaks in the Warwickshire online directory, called [Search Out Warwickshire](#).

This includes:

- After school clubs
- Term time activities
- School holiday activities

You might want to consider if siblings of your child with disabilities would benefit from some support. This is available via Young Carers Caring Together in Warwickshire. You can reach them by calling 0800 197 554, emailing hello@caringtogetherwarwickshireorg.uk or by visiting their website.

Targeted and Specialist Services

It is important to know that Council funded short breaks (**Targeted and Specialist Services**) can only be accessed after your child's and family's needs have been assessed as eligible through a **Child and Family Assessment**. These are social care assessments, and your social worker or Family Help Lead Practitioner will work with you to complete the assessment. This person is usually from Warwickshire County Council but could also be a trained practitioner from the community who knows you best.

To explore this option and request an assessment, please call Family Connect on 01926 414144.

For more information about social care assessments, please visit [Family Help Assessments \(Child and Family Social Care Assessment\)](#)

In Warwickshire, there are 6 types of short break that are paid for by the Council and which can be accessed by families who have been assessed as eligible.

- **Community Groups and Clubs:** Local, accessible clubs and groups in the evenings, weekends and school holidays - to suit a range of ages, needs and interests, and provide the chance to socialise and learn new things
- **Supported Exploring in the Community:** Opportunities to get out and about in public and community spaces - after-school, weekends and school holidays - to grow confidence, skills and independence and get opportunities to play inside and outside
- **Day Support at Home:** Daytime support at home with care, routines, hobbies, play, enrichment activities and life skills – with personal care if needed
- **Night Support at Home:** Overnight care and support at home to provide help with routines and carer respite – with personal care if needed
- **Home from Home Beds:** Familiar beds in familiar settings with familiar faces - overnight on weekdays, weekends and school holidays
- **Activity Breaks and Holidays:** Overnight stays and adventures in new places - weekends and school holidays - both independently and with siblings and parent carers

All providers that offer one or more of these services are awarded contracts through a rigorous application process to make sure they meet need through the services they offer. We ensure providers have the necessary skills and experience, and that they provide good value for money. They are all required to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

These requirements are reflected in our contracts and Commissioners meet with providers regularly to ensure they are delivering the services we expect. Any quality, safeguarding or services issues are quickly responded to through our checking and visit processes, called Quality Assurance.

Since April 2025, the providers that have been funded to offer short breaks services in Warwickshire are:

Provider	Main Area(s)	Service Provision
Action for Children (Rouncil Lane) 01926 864485 www.actionforchildren.org.uk	County wide	• Home from Home Beds
Andrusida Care 07496 849940 www.andrusida.care	County wide	• Groups and Clubs • Supported Exploring in the Community • Overnight Activity Breaks/Holidays • Day Support at Home • Night Support at Home
Aroma Care People 01926 910622 www.aromacare.co.uk	County wide	• Supported Exploring in the Community • Day Support at Home • Night Support at Home
Entrust Care Partnership 01926 612748 www.entrustcarepartnership.org.uk	Warwick and Stratford Districts	• Groups and Clubs • Supported Exploring in the Community • Day Support at Home
Honey Crown Bee 07951 000678 www.honeycrownbee.co.uk	County wide	• Supported Exploring in the Community • Overnight Activity Breaks/Holidays • Day Support at Home • Night Support at Home
Lanbeth Resolutions 07424 737917 www.lanbethresolutions.co.uk	County wide	• Groups and Clubs • Supported Exploring in the Community • Day Support at Home • Night Support at Home

Milestones Support Services 02475 070350 www.milestonesupportservices.co.uk	County wide	• Supported Exploring in the Community • Day Support at Home • Night Support at Home
Oiza Healthcare 03337 721654 www.oizahealthcare.co.uk	County wide	• Groups and Clubs • Supported Exploring in the Community • Day Support at Home • Night Support at Home
Shadz 01707 682123 www.shadzcare.co.uk	County wide	• Supported Exploring in the Community • Day Support at Home • Night Support at Home
Social Care Academy 0800 0025973 www.socialcareacademy.net	County wide	• Groups and Clubs • Supported Exploring in the Community • Day Support at Home • Night Support at Home
Take a Break 024 7664 4909 www.tabw.org.uk	County wide	• Groups and Clubs • Supported Exploring in the Community

Some of these providers offer packages and activities for self-funded and Direct Payment customers, as well as commissioned packages.

Your social worker can help you to explore the options that are right for your family, with the support of a practitioner from Warwickshire's Placement Hub who specialises in matching children with appropriate providers.

How are short breaks paid for?

Once your assessment is complete and your family becomes eligible for a funded short break, there are two forms this funding could take:

1) A commissioned package of care

This is when the Council funds and arranges a range of services to meet the needs on your behalf. This funding, along with a provider's own fundraising, pays for services and activities for disabled children and young people.

Depending on your family's circumstances and your choice of provision, you might have to make a means-tested contribution to the cost of the service. You will be made aware of your options and any charges or contributions when deciding about the package that is right for your family. Your social worker will then complete a referral which will be shared with the Placement Hub. This is a team of Placement Officers who are a single point of contact between social workers and providers. A Placement Officer will work with your social worker to progress the referral to your chosen provider. Once this is accepted, the Council will set up payments directly with your provider on your behalf.

2) A Direct Payment

Direct Payments are a cash value based on the amount agreed in your personal budget. These payments are designed for you to arrange and pay for the support you want, instead of the Council arranging services for you. Your Direct Payment will be paid to you on a prepaid card if it is a regular payment or into a bank account for one-off payments.

Direct Payments offer flexibility, choice and control. Your social worker will make sure you understand what it involves. This means ensuring that your use of Direct Payment is legal, meets your family's outcomes and keeps you and your child safe and well. You can also get the support of a Direct Payment provider to help manage your funds and meet your legal obligations.

Please visit our [Direct Payments webpage](#) for more information.

Some families use a mix of commissioned packages and Direct Payments to build up the support they need. Whatever way your short break is funded, your social worker will regularly review your support plan. If your situation changes and you feel you are getting too much, not enough or not the right support, then please speak to your social work team as soon as possible.

What if Community and Council funded services cannot meet your needs?

If your assessment identifies family needs that cannot be met in the community or through one of the short break services funded by the Council, your social worker may talk to you about two other options:

1) A personal budget to pay for a bespoke package of care with a specialist provider

All eligible families can choose to fund their own choice of short break through Direct Payment. However, if you need very big or specific package of care, you may be supported to use your personal budget to find a specialist provider who can meet your needs. This would be discussed and coordinated with your social worker, with the support of a practitioner from Warwickshire's Placement Hub who specialises in matching children with appropriate providers.

2) Health funded overnight respite

Specialist or emergency overnight respite (for children known to the service) can also be accessed through a joint health and social care assessment for children with learning disabilities who require nursing or clinical oversight of their care. This is provided by Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT) and is paid for by the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (CWICB).

Children and young people will have a diagnosed learning disability and an additional physical and/or mental health need and/or life-threatening illnesses.

Referrals to this provision are made through a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) allocations panel. Please speak to your allocated health or social care practitioner to find out more.

Section 3 – Helping to Shape our Local Offer

How can you help to shape our local offer?

It is important that we speak to people with lived experience about the services we provide. We have Experts by Experience who work with us through Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice and IMPACT (Warwickshire's SEND forum for Children and Young

people) and we are always looking for more people to get involved and contribute their views and experiences.

You can get involved with Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice by emailing hello@warwickshireparentcarervoice.org or visiting the [Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice website](#).

Our [Children and Young People's Hub](#) has information for young people to help them to be happy, skilled, healthy, heard and safe. The "[Be Heard](#)" link will help young people to share views about Warwickshire and shape where we live.

You can also contact the children's commissioning team directly with any comments, insights, experiences or ideas on childrenscommissioning@warwickshire.gov.uk.

See, hear, act is our process for continual improvement of the quality of care throughout Warwickshire. Our [Quality Assurance webpage](#) outlines how we will do this for specialist care and commissioned services (services that other organisations deliver on our behalf).

Additionally, if you have complaints or concerns about a provider or service, you can visit the following link: [Children's Social Care Complaints](#).

We also have lots of other sources of information to shape and improve our offer, including local education, health and social care data, survey data, assessment data, regional and national research, and census data. The more sources of information we have, the better picture we have for making informed decisions. Please take any opportunity you can to inform and shape our services and remember to reach out if you would like to get more involved.

Please follow the link for more information about [Warwickshire's SEND local offer](#).

Appendix 1 – Legal context for Short Breaks

The [Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011](#) and associated [Department for Education Advice for Local Authorities](#) provide details of how local authorities are required provide breaks from caring for carers of children and young people with disabilities.

In summary, the regulations require local authorities to:

- ensure that, when making short break provision, they have regard to the needs of different types of carers, not just those who would be unable to continue to provide care without a break;
- provide a range of breaks, as appropriate, during the day, overnight, at weekends and during the school holidays; and
- provide parents with a short breaks services statement detailing the range of available breaks and any eligibility criteria attached to them.

The Department for Education summarises its advice as follows. Local authorities must:

- provide a range of short breaks services;
- give families the choice to access short breaks services using a direct payment
- publish a statement of their short breaks services on their website
- keep their short breaks statement under review;
- state in their short breaks service statement the range of short breaks services available, the criteria by which eligibility for services will be assessed, and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in their area;
- consult parents as part of the review of the statement;
- consider the legal implications of the eligibility criteria they apply to short breaks services; and
- not apply any eligibility criteria mechanistically without consideration of a particular family's needs.

Local authorities should ensure that:

- short breaks are reliable and regular to best meet families' needs;
- local authorities should try to reach groups of parents who may be more difficult to engage;
- parents are engaged in the design of local short breaks services;
- short breaks can build on and be offered by universal service providers;
- they are working in partnership with health services to understand the range of short breaks services in their area and to train the workforce;
- short breaks promote greater levels of confidence and competence for young people moving towards adult life;
- local authorities should ensure that those who use short breaks services have the chance to shape the development of those services; and
- they continue to develop their workforce in relation to short breaks services. It is good practice for local authorities to ensure that:
 - a "local offer" is considered in order to provide families with access to some short breaks services without any assessment;
 - formal assessment of families' needs leads to a tailored package of services for them;
 - in preparing the short breaks services they have thought about how best to share information about disabled children between agencies within existing data protection requirements;
 - they have considered working together with partners to ensure strategic sign-off and shared accountability locally for the statement and the services it refers to; and
- commissioning is leading to more responsive short breaks services.