

Local Offer
for Special Educational Needs and Disability

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Short Breaks Service Statement

For families and professionals who support or care for a child or young person aged 0 to 18th birthday, who has a disability and lives in Telford & Wrekin

Draft for Consultation

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Welcome to our Short Breaks Service Statement!

This short break statement is for families and professionals who support or care for a child or young person aged 0 to 18th birthday, who has a disability and lives in Telford and Wrekin.

It explains:

- What Short Breaks for disabled children and young people are,
- Who can have a Short Break
- What sort of breaks are available
- How to access a Short Break

The statement is part of our SEND Local Offer. The SEND Local Offer describes the support available for families in Telford and Wrekin, who have a child with special educational needs and/or a disability. [Telford & Wrekin SEND Local Offer](#)

This Statement will provide a clear service offer to local families and professionals regarding Short Breaks Services. Our aim is to co-produce the Short Breaks service offer using feedback from local families. The Statement also sets out the way in which targeted activities are commissioned.

Short Breaks are intended to benefit both children with disabilities and their parents. Children benefit from new interests, relationships and activities, while parents can catch up with 'everyday activities' attend to their physical and emotional wellbeing, access learning opportunities, and maintain and develop social networks.

Short Breaks Regulations

The Short Breaks regulations are used to guide Telford & Wrekin Council's Short Breaks Services offer.

The regulations place a duty for all local authorities, to produce a statement explaining what 'short break services' are available to children with disabilities and their families, and how they could access them. The council has to publish the statement online, and review it regularly to ensure that information is up to date.

In summary, Local Authorities must provide a range of short breaks services; that are:

- Flexible, reliable and regular to meet changing family need
- Reach groups of parents who may be more difficult to engage
- Build on universal services
- Promote greater levels of confidence and competence for moving towards adult life
- Include: day-time care, overnight care
- Participate in educational and recreational activities
- Culturally and age appropriate

Use this link to view the regulations in full: [Short Breaks Regulations 2011](#)

The Legal Framework used in this statement:

Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011

Care Act 2014

Children Act 1989

Children and Young Persons Act 2008

Children and Families Act 2014

Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970

Our Short Breaks Commitments

We are committed to ensuring that the children and young people with disabilities within the borough can say the following:



I can be involved in local community life, alongside my peers and schoolfriends

I have enough information that is clear and straightforward to help me make decisions about services how to access them;

I feel like I have enough choice about what is available to me to help make decisions that can best improve my daily life

I feel listened to and that my views will be used to improve the quality of my life

I value partnership working and I'm glad to be involved in making decisions, regarding development of support services

I will be able to access support to become more independent in a safe and supportive environment



What are Short Breaks?

Short Breaks span a range of activities, care and support options that a child/young person with disabilities may need.

A short break can last from a few hours to a few days, an evening, overnight, a weekend, and school holiday daytime activities.

Short Breaks provide an opportunity for children with disabilities to spend time away from their carers, try out new things, have fun and make new friends. Short breaks can also provide families with a chance to do ordinary things together.

Eligibility for Short Breaks

Short Breaks are solely available for children and young people with a disability. Disabilities can vary widely in terms of their nature and severity. Our definition for disability is guided by legislation.

- The Short Breaks Regulation 2011 refers to 'A child who is disabled (defined by the regulations as 'blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from mental disorder of any kind or is substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disability as may be prescribed).'
- The Equality Act 2010 refers to disability as having a 'physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities.'

This may include a physical or learning disability, a hearing or visual impairment. It includes children who have moderately to severe behaviours of concern (challenging behaviour) as a result of their learning disability or autism. It also includes children who have complex needs and who may have palliative, life-limiting or a life-threatening condition.

The following section sets out how the range of Short Breaks aligns to individual need.

Universal, Targeted and Specialist Short Breaks

Not all children and families will need the same level of support. There are three levels of short break offers in Telford & Wrekin, aligned to the individual child/young person's level of need and each family's circumstances.

Level 1 – Universal	These are services, activities and opportunities available to everyone, i.e. Leisure centres, cinemas, clubs, libraries.
Level 2 – Targeted	A range of activities specifically designed for children with disabilities i.e. Sports & Leisure, Play schemes. These are for children that are not able to access Universal activities.
Level 3 – Specialist	Specialist Support for children with the most complex needs that cannot be met through Universal and Targeted activities.

Children eligible at level 2 or 3 can also access offers at lower levels.

Universal Services

Community based services are open to everyone to use, for example, Leisure Centres, Scouts and Brownies.

Community services are required to put in place reasonable adjustments to enable all people to be able to access them (Equality Act 2010).

Where a child with a disability is not able to access a community service, they may be eligible to access a targeted short break activity.

Targeted Short Breaks Activities

Targeted Short Breaks Activities are specifically designed for children and young people with disabilities. The Targeted Short Breaks Activities are found on our Local Offer.

The Targeted Activities are for children and young people that are:

- resident in Telford & Wrekin
- have a disability as set out above
- aged 0-18, however each activity may set its own age criteria

Targeted Short Breaks Activities are subsidised and are required to charge a child with a disability at no more than the rate as a mainstream child.

Access to Targeted Short Break Activities

A registration and membership scheme is in place in order to access targeted activities.

Specialist Support

For children with the most complex needs, an assessment by a Social Worker can be requested at any time and is not means tested.

The assessment is based on individual family circumstances and this process will discuss the available options and services. Eligible families are provided with a personal budget/direct payment to support assessed need and individual outcomes, and may enable additional support in order to access activities.

Specialist services may include: 1:1 support for the child; personal care; overnight stays.

Use this link to find out more about the assessment and personal budget process.
[Short Breaks Personal Budget - SEND - Local offer \(telfordsend.org.uk\)](http://telfordsend.org.uk)

Transport

Parents and carers are responsible for transporting their children to Short Breaks activities, unless agreed as part of a child's Social Care plan. Where transport is provided, this will be made clear by the activity provider.

Planning and Reviewing the Short Breaks Service

We use a range of information to plan Short Breaks services that meet the need of local families. We do this by:

- Using data to ensure we understand local need
- The Short Breaks forum includes parent carers and young people
- Using surveys and feedback

The Local Authority commissions a range of Targeted Short Breaks activities, using feedback to shape the types of activities that we support. Our aim is to encourage a wide range of targeted activities to be developed locally.

This commissioning process sets out the provider requirements for quality and training to meet the needs of children with disabilities.

This Short Breaks statement will be reviewed regularly with consultation with local parents and carers, their young people, providers and professionals.

Get in touch with us

We hope you find the information useful but if you have any queries about Short Breaks then please email: ShortBreaks@telford.gov.uk