



# Short Breaks Statement 2025

For families and professionals who support and care for a child or young person up to the age of 18, who has a diagnosed disability and lives in the borough of Telford and Wrekin. This Short Break Statement is designed to show how we meet the social care needs of Children and Young People with disabilities in Telford and Wrekin. It shows the levels of support available, who it is available to and how to access it.

Local Offer  
for Special Educational Needs and Disability

Discover everything you need to know about education, health and care services in your local area for children and young people with SEND 0-25yrs at [www.telfordsend.org.uk](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk)



# Introduction

## Welcome to our Short Breaks Statement

In Telford & Wrekin we work together with children, young people and their families to achieve the best possible outcomes in all areas of their life. We believe that with the 'right support at the right time' this is possible. Working together, children and young people with disabilities can and will achieve their full potential.

This Short Break Statement is designed to show how we meet the social care needs of Children and Young People with diagnosed disabilities in Telford and Wrekin. It shows the levels of support available, who it is available to and how to access it.

It explains:

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

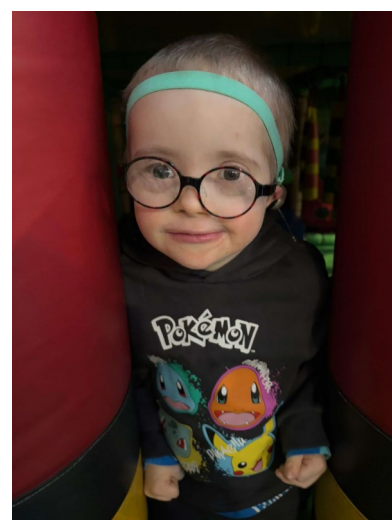
The statement is part of our SEND Local Offer. The SEND Local Offer describes the support available for families in the borough of Telford and Wrekin, who have a child with special educational needs and/or a disability. [www.telfordsend.org.uk](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk)

[Click here to view the Short Breaks Regulations 2011 guidance document.](#)



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## What are Short Breaks?

Short Breaks are solely available for children and young people with a diagnosed disability and 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, depending on assessed need.

Short Breaks provide an opportunity for children and young people 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 things together.

## What is Disability?

Telford & Wrekin Council use the legal definition of disability;

***A physical and/or mental impairment that has a long term and adverse effect resulting in significant impact on daily living/development of the child/young adult***

The Children's Act 1989 requires all local authorities to establish a register of children with a disability in their area. This is then used for statistical information and to assist service planning to meet the needs of children with disabilities and their families.

Having a disability or being on the children's disability register does not automatically mean that you or your child need to access social care support, you may instead be signposted to access 'universal services' or targeted and preventative support. This statement is intended to show you what support may be available for you based on your child's needs.

If you would like your child to join the register, email [shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk) to request an application form.

### The Legal Framework used in this statement:

Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011

Children Act 1989 (Section 17 (1))

Children and Young Persons Act 2008

Children and Families Act 2014

Short Breaks Regulations

Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970

Equality Act 2010

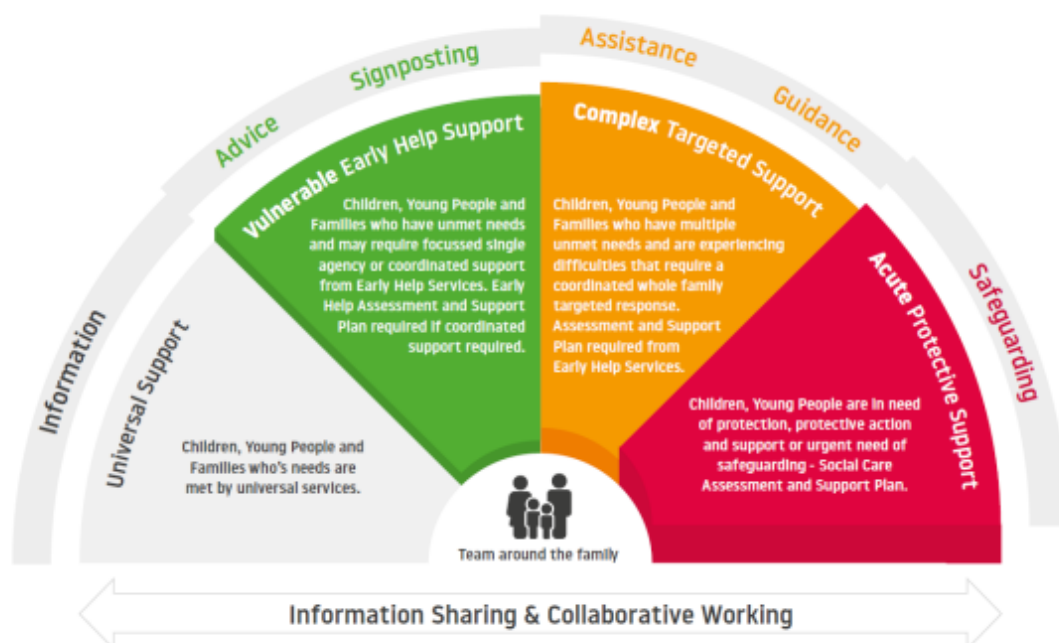
NHS Act 2006 (Amended 2012)

Care Act 2014

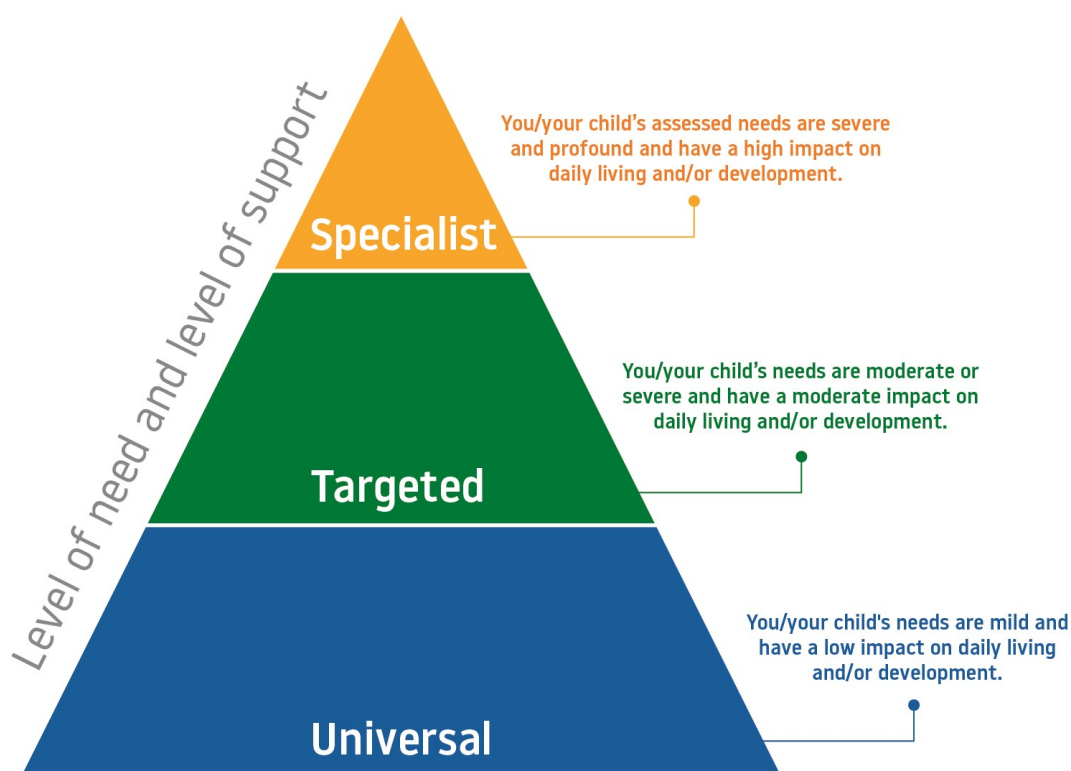
# A Tiered Offer of Support

Not all children with disabilities and their families need the same level of support. There are three levels of Short Breaks offers in Telford and Wrekin. The impact of your child's disability on day-to-day life, your child's needs, and each family's individual circumstances determine the appropriate level of support. An individual's needs may fluctuate between levels.

The following 'windscreen of need' is used to shape the Council's Children's Services



The Short Breaks offer is illustrated in the diagram below.





# Universal and Universal Plus Support

Universal level support is open for everyone to use i.e. leisure centres, cinemas, Scouts and Guides, and should be available to all people. Universal plus is where reasonable adjustments have been made to meet additional needs particularly where disability has a lesser impact on day-to-day life.

## Needs:

- The child or young person needs support to build relationships and social skills with others in their community
- The young person needs support to prepare for adulthood

## Service Examples:

- Information, advice, guidance
- Community Resources
- Schools
- GPs, Health Visitors, school nurses
- Youth Centres/Clubs



## Inclusive Libraries

An inclusive library is one which is accessible and in which everyone feels welcome. We have a selection of resources to support our customers with disabilities and their families.

### Inclusive library stock

These books have been collected as a resource for families with children disabilities. The list includes picture books and information books. All books are located at Southwater Library and can be requested to your local library.

[Click here to download the Inclusive Library children's books list.](#)

### Book start SEND

Book start is a national programme that encourages parents and carers to enjoy books with their children from as early an age as possible. There are a variety of special educational needs and disability (SEND) packs available for children, including books for blind and partially sighted children, deaf children and children with conditions affecting their fine motor skills.

[Click here to visit the Bookstart website for more information about the Booktouch, Bookshine and Bookstart Star packs.](#)

If you have any queries, you can email [libraryenquiries@telford.gov.uk](mailto:libraryenquiries@telford.gov.uk)

# Inclusive Leisure

Telford and Wrekin’s Leisure Services offer a wide range of activities across the Borough that are inclusive to all children and families. There are SEND specific sessions, as well as inclusive to all sessions. Activities on offer include:

- Golf** There is an accessible driving range and putting green at Lawley and Horsehay Village Golf Club and Fitness Centre.
- Gym** At all Aspiration gyms, there is adaptable resistance equipment, wheelchair accessible machines and rig and free weight area.
- Stirchley Adapted Gym** Stirchley Gym is fully adapted.
- Ice Skating** All public skating sessions are inclusive to all, and there are SEND sessions held on a weekly basis.
- Skiing** SEND skiing and tubing sessions are held on a weekly basis. You can contact [yps@telford.gov.uk](mailto:yps@telford.gov.uk) to find out more.
- Soft Play** Telford Ice Rink hold Soft Play for both juniors and seniors on a weekly basis.
- Swimming** Leisure Centres hold a range of SEND swimming, family swimming and junior SEND swimming sessions throughout the week.

If you would like to find out more about the facilities within the Leisure sites, or the timetable of SEND sessions, visit [www.telfordandwrekinleisure.co.uk](http://www.telfordandwrekinleisure.co.uk)

You can also watch videos of two of our residents accessing Leisure Services, and how the activities have ‘saved their lives’ on the webpage linked above.



# Adapted Bikes

Telford & Wrekin Bike Hub have recently launched 13 new adaptive cycles which are available to hire from Telford Bike Hub in Telford Town Park.

The cycles have been added to existing fleet for hire at Telford Bike Hub with the aim of making cycling more accessible.

The new wide range of cycles suit children with a variety of learning and physical disabilities, as well as health issues.

There are a variety of cycles on offer including trikes, side by side, a wheelchair loader among others. The cycles have varying levels of assistance ranging from hand cycles to carer controlled functions.

For more information, click to visit the [Tickets Telford website](#) or email [thebikehub@telford.gov.uk](mailto:thebikehub@telford.gov.uk)



## Community Based Activities Directory

Finding something they love to do after school or in the holidays can help children and young people with disabilities to see that we're all good at different things. Clubs and activities mean children and young people can meet peers with similar interests and make some friends. Becoming part of a group or a member of a team can do wonders for their confidence and social skills.

We are lucky enough to have a wide variety of SEND specific activities within the community of Telford and Wrekin, including gymnastics, power chair football, cricket, tag rugby, boxing, dance, arts and crafts, and much more.

[Click here to take a look at the Local Offer](#) to find services, opportunities and activities that are local to Telford and are designed to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Alternatively, you can email [shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk) to request a copy of the SEND Activities booklet.



# Targeted Support

Targeted Level Support is for children and young people where disability has a moderate impact on day-to-day life, such as:



## Needs:

- The child or young person and their family is isolated
- Caring for the child or young person has a moderate impact on the health (including mental health) of their parent/carers and/or the family unit
- The child or young person needs a moderate level of supervision and care to ensure their safety and wellbeing
- The young person needs additional support to prepare for independence in adulthood.

## Service Examples:

- Telford Childrens Autism Hub
- SEND Local Offer
- Occupational Therapy
- Early Help Offer
- Aids and Adaptation
- PODS parent carer forum
- Independent Living Centre
- SEND Information, Advice and Support Services (SENDIAS)



## Parents Opening Doors (PODS) Parent Carer Forum

PODS is a parent carer/peer led charity with staff and volunteers who have the relevant 'real life' experience to support families who have a child with a disability or additional need (0–25 years). PODS provide support in a number of ways, including:

- Hold family groups and activities across Telford and Wrekin
- Provide emotional and practical support to families
- Work in partnership with Telford and Wrekin Council, Health, Social Care, Education, Voluntary and Community Services.
- Hold social and fundraising events for PODS families
- Provide relevant information via information events, family groups, e-bulletins, website and other social media, such as Facebook and Twitter

You can find out more about PODS and how to become a member by visiting [www.podstelford.org](http://www.podstelford.org)



## SEND Information, Advice and Support Services

- Listen to your concerns and provide information and advice
- Work with you to explore your options
- Help you prepare for meetings
- Help to explain reports written by professionals
- Give you information in relation to SEND law to enable you to participate and make informed decisions regarding your child's education
- Signpost you to other sources of information and support
- Work in partnership with schools and the local authority to develop positive relationships and outcomes



Find out more by visiting [www.telfordsendiass.org.uk](http://www.telfordsendiass.org.uk) or calling 01952 457176.

## Telford Children's Autism Hub

Whether your child has received a diagnosis or they are on the pathway to an Autism assessment and you are looking for information to help your child flourish, the team are there to offer you guidance and support. The Children's Autism Hub is open to all children and their families, who have a diagnosis of Autism, or are waiting for diagnosis, and are a resident of Telford and Wrekin.



As well as providing advice and support, the Children's Autism Hub hold activities and support groups for children and parents. Find out more by visiting [www.telfordautismhub.org.uk](http://www.telfordautismhub.org.uk) or calling 01952 916109.

## Independent Living Centre

The ILC was commissioned to offer support to individuals to enable them and their families to live well and safe in their community. You can go along to receive help to and assess your needs to enable informed decisions and enhanced life choices. A purpose built environment provides a 'show home' with built in features to both physically and digitally promote independent living and use of modern technology and Assistive Equipment solutions.

Find out more or view a virtual tour of the ILC by visiting [www.telfordandwrekin.gov.uk/independent-living-centre](http://www.telfordandwrekin.gov.uk/independent-living-centre) or calling 01952 916109.

## Early Help

Early Help is about identifying needs within families early, and proactively offering preventative support before the problems become more complex. Those coming into contact with families e.g. teachers, the Healthy Child Programme (health visitors and school nurses), childcare practitioners, the police, volunteers etc. all have a responsibility towards identifying emerging needs as early as possible.

Support can be offered early in life or early after the emergence of a particular need which can arise at any point throughout childhood and adolescence. Early Help support is available for families and with children and young people aged 0-18 and up to 25 if they have a special educational need or disability.

You can find out more about the service or details of the weekly drop-ins at: [www.telfordfamilyhub.co.uk](http://www.telfordfamilyhub.co.uk)



iCan2 provides targeted and preventative level support for children and young people with a diagnosed disability that has a moderate or severe impact on day-to-day life. iCan2 activities are commissioned by the local authority for children with moderate, severe, and profound disabilities who are unable to access universal/universal plus services.

In order to be eligible to access iCan2, children and young people must:

- Meet the criteria of the 'Targeted and Preventative Level Support' due to a diagnosed disability
- Be aged 17 or under
- Be a resident within Telford and Wrekin

## How to apply

If you or your child would like to apply to be an iCan2 member and access these fantastic opportunities, you can download an application form on [www.telfordsend.org](http://www.telfordsend.org) or email [shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk). If you are eligible, we will send you an information pack and a membership card in the post.



**Youth Clubs** – opportunities for children and young people aged 11-17 to socialise in a safe environment with support and supervision. 4All Foundation run two youth clubs each week, Monday 4.30-6pm at Hub on the Hill, Sutton Hill and Friday 4.30-6.30pm at Arleston Community Centre.

**Creative Arts** – sessions centred around music, dance and drama, with an arts and crafts table available for those who want to be creative. 4All Foundation run three sessions each week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 4.30-6.30pm at Admaston House.

*'The creative arts session offers a range of activities in a relaxed and engaging environment. My daughter loved colouring and decorating t-shirts, bookmarks and keychains. The multi sensory display and activities help her stay calm and comfortable during the sessions. She has enjoyed interacting with the sensory toys, listening to her favourite songs and the relaxing sensory colourful lights. The creative arts session is perfectly designed to engage children with disabilities and we really appreciate the offer.'*

**Sports and Leisure** – a varied sports session, supported by qualified sports coaches and care assistants to allow children and young people to have fun and be active. Genius Tuition run the session every Saturday morning 10-1pm at Southall School.

*'Geniuses person centred approach means they are working with me to build further independence and social skills within the session. My son enjoys the sessions and is excited to go. He already accesses staff who were unfamiliar to him when he started and socialises with other children, as well as undertaking new activities, such as the adapted bikes, passing a ping pong ball and practicing catching. Everything is done at his pace and I really feel like all the staff are as chuffed as me for every achievement with my son.'*



**4 All FOUNDATION** Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council **ican2**

**ICAN2 SHORT BREAKS**  
**CREATIVE ARTS SESSIONS**

<b>Dance Sessions</b> Every Monday 4:30pm until 6:30pm £2 per session	<b>Music Sessions</b> Every Wednesday 4:30pm until 6:00pm £2 per session	<b>Drama Sessions</b> Every Friday 4:30pm until 6:30pm £2 per session
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**ADAMSTON HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE, TELFORD TF5 0BN**

Arts & Crafts Fun Games Instruments



**Genius Tuition** £5 PER SESSION

**FOR ICAN2 MEMBERS**

**SATURDAY SPORTS & LEISURE CLUB**

**A WEEKLY SPORTS & LEISURE PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

**WHERE: SOUTHALL SCHOOL, TELFORD, TF43PX**

**WHEN: 10AM TO 1PM DATES: COMING SOON**

**AGES: 5 TO 17 YEAR OLDS**

**REGISTER NOW**

**VISIT: WWW.GENIUSTUITION.CO.UK/ican2**

**EMAIL: SUPPORT@GENIUSTUITION.CO.UK**

Department for Education Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL support@geniustuition.co.uk 03303 126 860 www.geniustuition.co.uk



**4 All FOUNDATION** Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council **ican2**

**ICAN2 SHORT BREAKS**  
**YOUTH CLUBS**

<b>Monday Youth Club</b> Every Monday 4:30pm until 6:30pm Hub on the Hill (Sutton Hill)	<b>Friday Youth Club</b> Every Friday 4:30pm until 6:30pm Arleston Community Centre
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**FREE OF CHARGE!**

XBOX Corner Arts & Crafts Fun Games Darts Pool

**Activity Passes** – our activity passes currently cover entry to Tenpin Bowling, Shugborough Estate, Attingham Park, Hoo Zoo and Dinosaur World, Challenging Perceptions Sensory Room and all Ironbridge Museums.

They can be used by iCan2 members and their parent carers or PA. You can book a pass by sending the child's name, the pass you would like to book and the date and time of the booking to [shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk)



*'We have recently accessed the iCan2 passes for Ironbridge Museums and Hoo Zoo. It is so easy and simple to get the passes. It's amazing that these passes are available to families. The quick turn around on the passes is good, we had sent an email on a weekend and had a response on Monday morning at 9am saying that the passes were available. Without these passes, as a family, we would be lost as we wouldn't be able to afford the price of individual tickets.'*



# Specialist Support

The Children with Disabilities Service provides specialist level support for children and young people with severe, profound and complex diagnosed disabilities up to the age of 18 years. The service includes a range of professionals, they are:

- Social Workers
- Social Work Assistants
- Short-Break Co-ordinator
- Direct Payment Officer
- Occupational Therapy Team

The Children with Disabilities Team work with children and young people where their assessed diagnosed disability related needs are severe, profound and complex and significantly impact on their ability to have opportunities to be safe, develop skills for life and be part of their local community growing up. The specialist support and services, are provided for children and young people whose assessed diagnosed disability related needs cannot be met through universal, targeted or preventative services.

The Occupational Therapy Team provide support with specialist equipment, aids and adaptations to support/improve everyday tasks.

The social workers within the team adhere to the same statutory requirements as other local authority social work teams, as well as further specific criteria for the Children with Disabilities Team. Appropriate referrals to the team include:

- Children with Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy and other complex, physical disabilities that significantly impact on the child's wellbeing;
- Children and young people diagnosed with severe learning disabilities;
- Children and young people with a diagnosis of Autism with associated learning disability which has a significant impact on their communication needs, social and behavioural development;
- Children and young people with severe, profound or multiple disabilities;
- Children and young people with severe global development delay;
- Children and young people with severe sensory impairment;

The Children with Disabilities Team do not support children whose primary needs centre around emotional/behavioural development and/ or mental health, for example, some children with Asperger's syndrome, Autism, ADHD, or attachment disorder.

A Child and Family Assessment will be completed by a social worker to determine unmet needs, the impact of the disability on the child and their family and caring responsibilities of parent/ carers. The Assessment will holistically review the needs of the child and family while incorporating individual diagnosed disability related needs.

Eligible families may be allocated a social work assistant to work alongside the social worker and family to develop a needs led, outcome based plan of support. The plan can be a combination of support provided in addition to support provided by social care.

Children and young people under Specialist Services are categorised as a Child in Need, Section 17, Children Act 1989 and will be reviewed through a Child in Need Plan to ensure clear identified outcomes are achieved. The Plan will include Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound needs led outcomes. The plan is reviewed through a multi-agency Child in Need meeting to ensure identified needs are being met and outcomes are being progressed in a timely way. The frequency of meetings and visits will be determined by the level of need, which is reviewed jointly by the allocated worker and Team Manager.

You can view a list of our [approved care providers here](#).

## Planning and Reviewing Short Breaks

Commissioners work alongside professionals and parents to review and develop short breaks services. This ensures lived experience and best practice approaches is central to commissioning work. The parent carer forum 'Parents Opening Doors' (PODS) is a key strategic partner in this work bringing a wealth of feedback from families to the table. In Telford and Wrekin, we work together with children, young people and their families to achieve the best possible outcomes in all areas of their life, believing that with the 'right support at the right time' this is possible. Working together, children and young people with disabilities can and will achieve their full potential.

Local Authority representatives meet regularly with parent carers to exchange information, gain feedback, make decisions and plan ahead. This is an important forum and we are grateful to the parent carers for the investment of their time and the insights and ideas they bring. If you would like details of future forums, please email [shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk)

Commissioners gain feedback from families in many ways:

- The Short Breaks forum
- The feedback that providers collate from families
- Using complaints and compliments
- Using PODS annual surveys and targeted discussions they may have
- Formal consultations

This Short Breaks statement will be reviewed annually in consultation with local families, providers and professionals.

All updates are communicated with families via the Short Breaks webpages, and monthly newsletter.

- 2 Homepage
- 2 Glossary of Terms
- 2 You Said, We Did
- 2 SEND Parent Carer FAQs
- 2 Consultation and Engagement
- 2 Fair Share Fund
- 2 Feedback and Queries
- 2 Local Offer Annual Report
- 2 Olsted & CQC Area SEND Inspection
- 2 SEND & AP Change Programme

## Short Breaks

### What are Short Breaks?

Short Breaks are solely available for children and young people with a disability and 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, depending on assessed need.

Short Breaks provide an opportunity for children and young people 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 things together.

Short Break services use the wide definition of disability as found in the Equality Act 2010.

Telford & Wrekin Council uses the legal definition of disability:

***A physical and/or mental impairment that has a long term and adverse effect resulting in significant impact on daily living/development of the child/young adult***

Telford & Wrekin Council consulted on a new Short Breaks Statement which provides a much needed update, with clear eligibility criteria and how we aim to commission short breaks activities.

## Short Breaks Newsletter

News, Updates and Activities for Children with Disabilities and their Families in Telford



### SIGN UP—iCan2 Scheme

iCan2 is the membership scheme managed by the Children with Disabilities Team to offer fun and engaging activities to children and young people 0-17 with disabilities. iCan2 includes providers that deliver creative arts, sports and leisure, as well as passes for local attractions.

In order to access all of the wonderful activities and local attraction passes, membership is required. If you would like to become a member and access these exciting opportunities, you can download the membership form and find more details, including eligibility criteria [here](#).

### BOOK NOW—iCan2 Creative Arts

iCan2 members can now book a place on the brand new Creative Arts Club! These exciting activities are divided into dance, drama, and music workshops with an arts and crafts table. The sessions are centred around child led play and they can play instruments, design and colour costumes and masks, enjoy the music and have a boogie.

The sessions are now being held on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening, 4.30-6.30pm at Admaston House. We have received positive feedback from parents who have already attended the sessions, some saying that their children do not want to go home, and we are excited to hear how the sessions progress. Parents do not need to stay at the sessions, but are welcome to if they would prefer.

If you would like to book a place or ask any questions, please email [info@telffoundation](mailto:info@telffoundation)

### BOOK NOW—Sports and Leisure

iCan2 members can now book a place on the brand new Sports and Leisure Club, starting in January 2025! A new provider has been commissioned to provide the club—Genius Tutors. They are an experienced provider, already working with our Southall and Queensway schools to provide holiday clubs.

Southall school will be the new venue for the club. The programme is promising to be varied, supported by qualified sports coaches and care assistants, offering indoor and outdoor sports, games, quiet arts table, as well as a child led play approach.

We have increased this to be one 3 hour session each Saturday morning - children are able to leave the club early on arrangement. There are up to 30 places per session available. As this club is subsidised by the Local Authority, the cost to you for a 3 hour session is £5 per child. Parents do not need to stay at the sessions, but are welcome to if they would prefer.

If you would like to book a place or ask any questions, please email [support@geniustutors.co.uk](mailto:support@geniustutors.co.uk)



## Get in touch with us

We hope you find this statement and the information it contains useful to you. If you have any queries about Short Breaks and/or the content of the statement, please email us at [shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk)



Telford and Wrekin Short Breaks



All photos used in this document are of local children accessing our services and consent has been provided.