



**CORNWALL
COUNCIL**
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Together 
for Families

Cornwall's Short Break Statement

For disabled children and young people
2019/20



www.cornwall.gov.uk

This short break statement is for families living in Cornwall who have a disabled child or young person aged 0 - 18 years.

It sets out Cornwall Council's vision of short break services and simply states who can access a short break and how. For some short breaks we may need to assess your child and family to ensure that we provide the right level of support and short break services.

Information about short break opportunities can be found in Cornwall's Local Offer at:
www.cornwall.gov.uk/localoffer
or on the Family Information Service website.

Introduction

In Cornwall, we understand that short breaks are important for many families with disabled children. Disabled children and young people can access short break services as part of a broader package of family support services, or independently.

The Local Authority provides a range of short breaks for disabled children under the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011¹.

These regulations require each local authority to produce a short breaks service statement.



We aim to ensure that families of disabled children have the support they need to live 'ordinary lives' as a matter of course.



We recognise that all children and young people are unique and may require different levels of support and different types of short breaks depending on their needs and circumstances.



We know that children, young people and families needs will change and services will be reviewed to reflect this.



Cornwall Council continues to work in partnership with disabled children and young people, their families and key stakeholders to develop short break services.

This short break statement has been developed in partnership with parents, partners in health and the independent sector to ensure that families of disabled children know how Cornwall Council sets out:

- what a short break is
- that all disabled children are entitled to use mainstream services
- how Cornwall Council decides who is or is not entitled to more specialist short break services.

¹ Types of services which must be provided by Local Authorities:

(1) In performing their duty under paragraph 6(1) (c) of Schedule 2 to the 1989 Children Act, a local authority must provide, so far as is reasonably practicable, a range of services which is sufficient to assist carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively. Ref: The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011.

Consultation and participation

There are a number of consultation and participation events with disabled young people, their parents and providers held on a regular basis, such as the Aiming Higher conference on 1 October 2019.

At these events we ask disabled young people and their families what they want us to consider when planning and commissioning short break services. We also link closely with Parent Carer Council who have over 901 members; they provide us with feedback and take part in a variety of consultations regarding service development.

Views gained by Ofsted through their bi-annual inspection of residential short breaks. All residential short break settings delivered by the LA are on average rated as 'Good'. An integral part of LA contract monitoring and evaluation of community based activities such as Aspires, Get Out There, Action for Children is that commissioners receive feedback from disabled children and young people who use these services and their parents and carers.



The themes that have emerged in relation to short break services are:

- Fun and positive opportunities for disabled children and young people.
- To have a choice of short break activities.
- To know that disabled children's needs will be met by appropriately trained staff.
- To have flexible services to meet changing family needs.
- Opportunities to take part in inclusive activities with non-disabled children and young people.
- Fun time as a family together.
- Provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to develop friendships and socialise.
- Short break services that support disabled children and young people with complex needs to have opportunities to mix with peers and access community opportunities.
- To prevent family crisis through the provision of timely support to meet individual family needs.
- To be clear and transparent with regard to the decision making process.

We also hold two provider network events annually so that we can liaise with short break providers from statutory and voluntary sector organisations. This enables us to communicate our commissioning intentions, share good practice and listen to the issues that service providers may be facing.

“ A short break is meant to allow families to spend time together with or without their disabled children doing ordinary family things.

As well as providing a break from caring, short breaks are also about disabled children having fun, trying new activities and developing friendships. ”



Range of service delivery

Approximately 549 disabled children and young people receive a range of short break services.

Cornwall offers a continuum of provision through voluntary, independent sector and statutory providers to meet the divergent needs of disabled children, young people and their families.

The table on page 6 illustrates some of the service areas and gives an overview of the types of short break services we have developed in Cornwall as a result of listening to what disabled young people and their families have told us.

In Cornwall we recognise that each family is unique and that the needs of families change.



Examples of short break services

Family fun days

Provide inclusive play opportunities for disabled young people and the whole family. These play opportunities take place all over the county and may be delivered by a range of organisations.

School holiday breaks

School holiday breaks that run throughout the county for a broad range of disabled children and young people. These days offer fun opportunities throughout the holiday periods.

Direct payments/ personal budgets

Direct payments/personal budgets can be used in a variety of ways to meet the needs of disabled children, young people and their families. This a very flexible arrangement that parents directly manage.

A range of different group based opportunities

Specific services offer a range of short break opportunities for disabled children depending on their need. Each service has its own set of criteria. Different service providers offer 1:1 support for disabled young people to help support access to community and locality based opportunities.

Specialist youth clubs

Provide a weekly youth club for young disabled people to meet, socialise and consider youth issues in a supported environment.

Short breaks and residential services

Short breaks in family homes or children's homes offer a range of social and friendship opportunities. This may also include overnight stays. These services are specialist and support children and young people with more complex needs.

How to access short breaks

Children and young people are eligible for short breaks if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial long term effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities².

- Physical or mental impairment.
- Sensory impairment.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Children who may have challenging behaviour as a result of their learning disability.
- Children who have complex healthcare needs and who may have palliative care needs, or a life limiting or life-threatening condition will require specific support from qualified health professionals.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership Guidance and Procedures. Also the Safeguarding Children Partnership Threshold Tool which can be found at:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/cornwall-and-isles-of-scilly-safeguarding-children-partnership/policies-procedures-and-referrals/policies-procedures-and-referrals/>

Local offer - The range of short break services for disabled children covers universal, targeted and specialist provision.

	Level 1 Universal/preventative	Level 2 Targeted	Level 3 Specialist/complex Level 4 Acute
Access to services	No assessment required, self-referral, contact service directly. Alternatively a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) may be undertaken. Services can be contacted directly.	Initial assessment required for some services and referral to services made by a professional, or direct referral by families.	Core assessment and/or specialist assessments from health may be required and referral to services made by a professional.
Examples of services/support	Cubs, Brownies, Cadets, after school clubs, leisure clubs. Family activity days, some group based activities.	Specialist holiday play schemes; group based day care; individual day care e.g. GOT Group.	Direct payments, family based short breaks, overnight stays in residential units, short break provision for disabled young people with complex health care needs (assessment by Health for children with Continuing Health Care needs).

All costs are approximate and subject to change.

² (Ref; Disability Discrimination Act 1995; Equality Act 2010).

Ongoing development and use of personal budgets

The continued use of the 'Personalisation Agenda' is a key driver to give disabled children and their parents more choice and control over the services and support they need.

Personal budgets are designed to give disabled children, young people and their families more choice, control and flexibility about the support they receive.

For more information about Personal Budgets please visit the Cornwall Council website on: www.cornwall.gov.uk and search for 'Local offer'.

If eligible for a personal budget a family can choose to ask the council to arrange care and support on their behalf, access directly provided services, receive direct payments to arrange their own care or a mix of different elements of support.



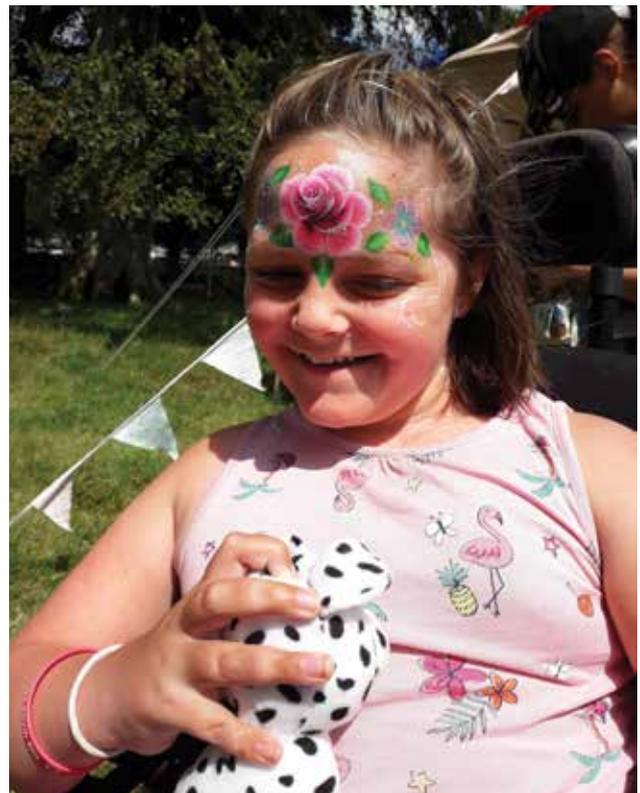
Transition

(Support in moving from Cornwall Council Children's Services to Cornwall Council Adult Services)

Cornwall Council Short Break Services work with colleagues in Adult Care as young people move from children's services into adulthood.

Support for transition arrangements starts at an early age. Some of the short break services are specifically for young people age 14 plus and they are intended to give disabled young people the opportunity to access youth opportunities and develop independence skills.

All young people who are assessed as eligible to be supported under community care legislation and meet the threshold for services from Adult Care, are likely to be assessed for an Individual Budget.



Transport

Transport is not routinely provided to access short break provision however each young person is individually assessed.

If a need for transport is identified the local authority will consider making this available under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act or Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.



Measuring the outcomes and impact of short break services

We will ensure that our short break services focus on improving life opportunities and outcomes for disabled young people and their families through continuing to develop our participation strategy with disabled children, young people and their families.

We know that the views of families and disabled children are essential to support positive outcomes. Not all disabled children and their families will need the same level of support; some will need more than others because of the nature of their child's disability and their individual circumstances.

We will continue to monitor and review the views of disabled children, parents and providers so that everybody contributes and short break services continue to develop.

Safeguarding children

If you are concerned about a child or, if you would like to report an incident of abuse or neglect, please contact:

Multi-Agency Referral Unit

Telephone: **0300 123 1116**



Contact details

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything within this statement please contact:

The Disabled Children and Therapy Service

Providing services for children and young people with disabilities and their families in Cornwall.

Further information can be found at:

www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/children-and-young-people-with-disabilities/

Telephone: **0300 1234 101**

Email: togetherforfamiies@cornwall.gov.uk

Your request will be forwarded to the appropriate team.

Family Information Service (FIS)

Cornwall Council, 39 Penwinnick Road,
St Austell Cornwall PL25 5DR

Telephone: **0800 587 8191**

Email: fis@cornwall.gov.uk

Local Offer

For further information on Cornwall's Local Offer please visit the Family Information Service (FIS) website or call them on **0800 5878191**

www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/family.page?familychannel=0



Contact us

For advice and guidance please email us at:

togetherforfamilies@cornwall.gov.uk

Or call us on:

0300 1234 101

If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

Cornwall Council, County Hall,
Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY

e: equality@cornwall.gov.uk

t: 0300 1234 100