

Barnet Short Breaks Duty Statement 2017/2018

Introduction

Since 1 April 2011, Barnet has had a statutory duty under the Break for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 to:-

“Provide short breaks to those who care for disabled children when it would improve their ability to care for their disabled child, or when they could not continue to provide care without a short break” and to “Publish information to parents about the service available in their area and criteria for accessing it by 1 October 2011”.

Short breaks are provided to give disabled children and young people enjoyable and stimulating experiences which contribute to their social and personal development while also offering their parents, carers and families a break from their caring responsibilities.

These breaks can include day, evening, overnight and weekend activities and can take place in the child’s own home, in a community or residential setting. They come in a range of formats and each one can last just a few hours to a few days, and occasionally longer, depending on the type of provision and the needs of the child and their family. *(Short Breaks Implementation Guidance. DCSF, DoH 2008)*

Short breaks previously referred to as ‘respite care’ have been offered to families as part of the wider family support offer for many years, and the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme (2008/2011) with its additional investment has enabled a transformation of these services to take place. In Barnet this has meant that a larger number of children and young people have been able to access services and there has been a wider range of opportunities for them to choose from including both specialist and universal services.

The Government allocated funding for short breaks via the Early Intervention Grant from 2011 and Barnet has allocated funding of £630,000.00 for services in 2017/2018.

This Short Break Duty Services Statement has been developed in consultation with families and partners in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors. It will be reviewed annually to ensure that it reflects changing need, the learning from the delivery of short breaks and changes arising from policy and practice developments.

Barnet's Short Break Service

The principles underpinning Barnet's short breaks service are:

- enabling children and young people with disabilities and complex health needs to have the **same opportunities** and choices as their peers and for families to have the **opportunity to enjoy 'ordinary lives'**
- recognising that the uniqueness of individuals means that services must be **personalised** to reflect the diversity and changing nature of their need
- Short breaks are an integral part of the **wider offer to families** and with few exceptions, children and young people's needs are best met living with their family and as members of their local community
- children and young people's access to high quality, enjoyable and challenging short break activities which enable them to make friends; develop social skills and independence; and promote learning is more likely to secure **better outcomes** for them in childhood and equip them better into adulthood.

Objectives

- empowering families to **make informed choices** about the short break services they access
- ensuring **fair access to services**, through transparent criteria, joined up working and common assessments
- providing a **range of timely and responsive short breaks**, which offer children and young people with severe and complex disabilities and/or life limiting conditions positive experiences which promote their social and emotional development and independence
- encouraging children, young people and their **families to contribute to service planning, delivery and evaluation** in ways that they choose; and ensure that their views are reflected in services
- maintaining **high standards** including the safeguarding of children across all service providers, through effective commissioning, performance management and working in partnership with them on workforce development

Barnet's eligibility criteria and access arrangements

Barnet's recent need assessment demonstrated that although more families were accessing short breaks there was still a need to strengthen access arrangements particularly to improve the availability of information about services and transparency in the way that resources are allocated to families.

The principles underpinning our eligibility and access arrangements for short breaks are that:

- services should be additional to universal provision and disabled children and young people, their families and services, will be supported to achieve access to local and universal services
- Short breaks should be preventative, intervening to offer early support and not just as a crisis intervention
- services should target resources to those families in greatest need or at greatest risk of breakdown
- access arrangements should be clear, simple, transparent and available to families and those in contact with them
- eligibility criteria should not be applied mechanistically and decisions about services should reflect the individual circumstances and changing needs of families
- disabled children and their families are entitled to request an assessment of their needs under the "Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families"
- eligibility criteria will be applied to determine if children and young people are eligible for services and the type and level of service to be offered
- families with high volume and/or high cost packages of short break services should be reviewed on an on-going basis to ensure that the services they are using are still meeting their needs and offering best value.

Who can receive Short Breaks?

Children and young people with higher levels of needs receive priority and a higher level of funding.

These are children and young people in the following target groups:

Group A

Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD). They are likely to have other impairments such as Severe Learning Disabilities or behaviours which challenge. Children in this group will display behaviour which challenges services or behaviour which causes injury to themselves or others. Not all children with ASD will require specialist additional short break services.

Group B

Children and young people with complex health needs including those with disability and life limiting conditions and/or those with associated impairments such as cognitive or sensory impairments and who may have moving and handling needs or require specialist equipment.

Access

Access to the Short Break service is currently via an online application which can be accessed at www.barnet.gov.uk/shortbreaks. Applications can be made by families, keyworkers, professionals or schools.

All services are subject to availability

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Short Break Services

Organisations offering short breaks

Short breaks are provided by a wide range of organisations within Barnet and beyond.

These include:

- voluntary organisations such as Norwood, Fairplay Barnet, Barnet Mencap
- statutory services such as the Children's continuing care team and Children's centres.

Information about Barnet Short Breaks including the services and activities available can be found at: www.barnet.gov.uk/shortbreaks

Additional information about Short Breaks and other services for children and young people are available as follows:

- the directory for young people, carers, parents and professionals can be found at www.barnet.gov.uk/directme and this provides up to date detailed information on activities including short breaks.
- things to do in Barnet: also provides more general information about services available.
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/children-young-people-and-families/youth-support/young-peoples-organised-activities.html>

Short breaks funded through the Early Intervention Grant.

Barnet has recently undertaking a re-commissioning of its short break and respite services. These services are being commissioned under the four service areas set out below:

Group based social, sport, cultural and play activities in universal and specialist settings

These services will be available during school holidays and at the weekends. Some Services may also be available during the day for pre-school children.

The services must offer children and young people a safe and stimulating environment that supports them to make friends, develop new skills and participate in exciting activities. The activities should principally be about offering fun, challenge and enjoyment; while at the same time reflecting the value of 'ordinariness'.

These group based activities could be offered as single events 'activity days', a structured programme over a number of weeks or throughout the year; or as consecutive days such as holidays.

Overnight short breaks in a community setting

Traditionally short break service provided overnight has been offered from within a residential setting although locally there has been an increase in community based overnight provision through the Short break programme. Nationally, and in Barnet there has been a decline in the demand for overnight service compared to other types of short breaks with the most popular being activity based overnights including camping and in activity centres.

Barnet delivers a limited number of overnight activity breaks for disabled children and young people with varying degrees of needs and these are run during the school holidays.

Enabling service - personal assistants

Principally the purpose of this service is to support disabled children and young people to take part in a community activity but may also include activities and support in the child's own home.

This service is available mainly but not restricted to the main school holidays, basis and should be available at a range of times to suit the child and family, including daytimes and evenings. The service should be able to respond to requests for emergency provision if required to meet the needs of disabled children and families, and in exceptional cases, where the need arises an overnight may be offered where this provides consistency of care for a family.

The service will require workers taking disabled children/young people and possibly their friends or siblings to a range of universal and specialist activities and events. This could include the potential for a small number of workers and disabled children to do specific recreational activities together. The service may also entail supporting the disabled child in their own home with the focus on enabling them to undertake leisure and play activities alone or with their friends and siblings. The service may include a combination of home based and out of home activities agreed with the family. Workers may accompany families on outings to lend "a pair of hands", where this enables the whole family to take part in an activity

All services are subject to availability.

Specialist Respite services

This service will provide residential day and respite care offering a break to families identified as having acute social care need.

As well as offering planned respite breaks, the service will be able to respond to requests for emergency provision if required to meet the needs of individual disabled children and families. This service will be for those children eligible for social care provision, based on the assessment of social workers. The majority of children and young people eligible for this provision will require a series of regular day or overnight respite breaks throughout the course of the year although in exceptional circumstances a longer period of residential respite may be required to support a family in crisis.

Providers appointed successfully onto the Framework for 2017/2018 are as follows:

Service/Organisation	Offer	Need	Age range
<p>Action for Kids 15a Tottenham Lane Hornsey London N8 9DJ www.actionforkids.org</p>	<p>Holiday activity programmes focusing on independence and life skills. Work Taster (office work skills), Sports such as Tennis, Volley Ball and Martial Arts.</p>	<p>Physical, learning speech and language difficulties</p>	<p>14 - 19 years</p>
<p>Barnet Mencap 35 Hendon Lane Finchley London N3 1RT www.barnetmencap.org.uk</p>	<p>Personal assistants for children and young people within the home or community for up to three hours per fortnight. TAB offers three styles of breaks of approximately three hours which can take place in the family home or out in the community or as an extra pair of hands if the family want to go out together.</p>	<p>Complex healthcare needs, ASC, severe learning disabilities, speech and language difficulties</p>	<p>3 - 19 years</p>
<p>Community Focus First Floor Friary House Friary Park Friary Road London N20 0NR www.communityfocus.co.uk</p>	<p>Dance, Drama and Mixed Media and Visual Arts Project and Puppetry Workshops.</p>	<p>Autistic spectrum disorder, learning difficulties, speech and language difficulties</p>	<p>11 - 18 years</p>

<p>Core Assets Malvern View Saxon Business Park Hanbury Road Stoke Prior Bromsgrove B60 4AD</p>	<p>Steps to Independence A programme to assist disabled young people to gain independence skills</p>	<p>Autistic spectrum disorder, learning difficulties, speech and language difficulties</p>	<p>14 – 19 years</p>
<p>Core Assets Malvern View Saxon Business Park Hanbury Road Stoke Prior Bromsgrove B60 4AD</p>	<p>Barnet Glee Club Weekend club offering creative music, song writing, dance, drama and performing arts.</p>	<p>Autistic spectrum disorder, learning difficulties, speech and language difficulties</p>	<p>5-11 & 11yrs plus</p>
<p>Fairplay Barnet St. Josephs Pastoral Centre St. Josephs Grove Hendon London NW4 4TY www.barnetplay.org</p>	<p>A menu of activities including social, physical and independent programmes such as residential outings, play schemes, Messy Play Sessions (under fives), Supported Swimming Lessons, Adventure Days, Sleep Over's, Taster Breaks and Additional Support Workers.</p>	<p>Complex healthcare needs, ASC, severe learning disabilities, speech and language difficulties</p>	<p>0 - 19 years</p>
<p>Noah's Ark 3 Beauchamp Court Victors Way Barnet EN5 5TZ</p>	<p>Sessions of Specialist Care at home or within the community and a range of activities for all the family to take part in.</p>	<p>Children with life limiting/life threatening conditions.</p>	<p>0 – 18 years</p>
<p>Oakleigh School Oakleigh Road North Whetstone London N20 0DH www.oakleighschool.co.uk</p>	<p>After school club operating four days a week (Monday to Thursdays) from 3.30pm to 5pm during school term time (35 weeks a year) Transport with 2 escorts for children attending the after school club session.</p> <p>FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING OAKLEIGH SCHOOL</p>	<p>Complex healthcare needs, ASC, severe learning disabilities, speech and language difficulties</p>	<p>4 – 11 years</p>

<p>Resources for Autism 858 Finchley Road London NW11 6AB www.resourcesforautism.org.uk</p>	<p>Holiday activity programmes and weekly youth clubs which may include outings and a range of activities such as Arts & Crafts, Outdoor Ice Skating, Pantomime. One to one support is always provided as necessary.</p>	<p>ASC, severe learning disabilities, speech and language difficulties, behaviours which challenge</p>	<p>8 - 19 years</p>
<p>Norwood Broadway House 80 – 82 The Broadway Stanmore Middlesex HA7 4HB www.norwood.org.uk</p>	<p>In-Betweeners Social group for young disabled people who have learning disabilities and associated physical disabilities.</p>	<p>Learning disabilities and associated physical disabilities</p>	<p>14 – 21 years</p>
<p>Norwood Broadway House 80 – 82 The Broadway Stanmore Middlesex HA7 4HB www.norwood.org.uk</p>	<p>Teeny Tiny Fun Play Activities include arts, crafts, cookery, music, ball games, sensory room and garden play area, drama and art therapy sessions.</p>	<p>Children with complex health care needs that preclude them from mainstream activities</p>	<p>18 months – 5 years</p>
<p>Norwood Broadway House 80 – 82 The Broadway Stanmore Middlesex HA7 4HB www.norwood.org.uk</p>	<p>Unity Holiday Play Scheme Daily sessions during the school holidays with activities such as arts, crafts, cookery, music, dance and drama.</p>	<p>Complex healthcare needs, ASC, severe learning disabilities, speech and language difficulties</p>	<p>5 – 11 & 12 - 18</p>
<p>Norwood Broadway House 80 – 82 The Broadway Stanmore Middlesex HA7 4HB www.norwood.org.uk</p>	<p>Unity Sunday Club Term time on a Sunday. Weekly sessions during term time with activities such as arts, crafts, cookery, music, dance and drama.</p>	<p>Complex healthcare needs, ASC, severe learning disabilities, speech and language difficulties</p>	<p>5 – 11 & 12 - 18</p>