

# Inclusion & Family Services Poole

## SHORT BREAKS SERVICES INFORMATION STATEMENT



## What is a Short Break?

In the [2007 Aiming High for Disabled Children review](#), families told the Government that their number one priority was regular and reliable short breaks from caring. Children and young people told the Government that they wanted more things to do and more places to go. For this reason the majority of the available funding for Aiming High for Disabled Children was put into short breaks.

A short break is for children from 0-19 years and can be from 2 hours to overnight depending on the circumstances and needs of the child with a disability and their family. It can be time spent away from the home, in the community, or in the home with or without their main carer. The essential purpose of a short break is that the child or young person is able to participate in a positive and enjoyable activity and the carer has a break from their caring role. Therefore the two distinct elements to the short break are to provide more choice and flexibility for families to access a short break and to raise the quality of experience of a child with disabilities when accessing a short break.

## Introduction

This statement has been prepared to keep families updated with service/contact changes. The original statement was prepared in consultation with the Poole Parent/Carer Special Needs Forum (now Parents Carers Together) and the forum will be consulted on the revision of this current statement. It will form the basis of plans for future years so that we are looking to buy and provide the range of short breaks that families value and need. Parents and young people will help us develop and monitor the quality of all our short breaks and help decide what we change and what we keep.

## What have you told us and what have we done?

### Parent Consultations through Poole Short Breaks and the Parent Carer Forum

Formal consultations have taken place over the years and the last major consultation in 2017 was done with families and young people. Furthermore, Poole Short Breaks consult with both parents and young people after the Summer holiday activities by means a questionnaire and a family event

The 2017 consultation evidenced that Poole has a good level of legal compliance from provision of information for families on the availability of a range of short breaks and how to access them, through commissioning internal and external provision, to service delivery and review. Families reported good to very good levels of satisfaction with both care and leisure break arrangements.

### What have Parents told us about Holiday Activities, After School Clubs & other Short Breaks?

**It would be nice to encourage holiday clubs and after school clubs which we don't have.**

**Parents of children with disabilities want:**

- Increased flexibility and choice of short breaks for the under 8s, under 5s and over 12s including longer breaks;
- More activities for children with a physical disability;
- An increased number of short breaks, particularly for children with the most severe disabilities;
- More sensory activities;
- Opportunities for their children to make more friends and to be with their brothers and sisters;
- Opportunities for children to mix with others in inclusive/mainstream settings.
- More holiday and after school clubs suitable for children with a disability;
- Sessional support for children with complex needs but who are not deemed to be severely disabled;
- The continued development of the Parent Carer Forum to enable them to work more closely in partnership with the council to ensure they are involved in the planning of services and that changes to services happen.

**What have we done?****Invested in holiday and weekly activities as follows:**

- Continued the very popular swim and gym and trampolining sessions during the summer holidays (these particularly suit some more severely disabled children)
- Maintained or increased the number of Short Breaks year on year.
- Funding to Coping with Chaos since 2009 to enable families to be together and have the opportunity to access a wide variety of fun activities with support.
- Funding to Potens to enable the running of a Play scheme during the Summer holidays at Montacute School
- Commissioned youth clubs and holiday clubs via Winchelsea School.
- Continued to offer Poole Short Breaks specifically for teenagers.
- Introduced particular activities due to feedback from families.
- Worked with Youth Development Workers to increase opportunities, eg Thorpe Park trip, use of youth workers to run activities.
- Run fortnightly soft play sessions at Lemur Landings. These are for the exclusive use of parents/carers with children with disabilities and their siblings.
- Continued to fund 'Fun Times' for the under 5s in partnership with Old Town Children's Centre and provide specialist training to sessional staff.
- Continued to run family swim session on Sunday mornings. This has been taking place at Montacute School pool since May 2015.
- Relunched the two youth clubs, SENsational Mondays (12-16 years) at Creekmoor and SENsational Seniors (16-18 years) at Limelights Youth Centre with a youth worker with specific SEN and disability experience.
- Improved participation of parents and carers in contributing their views to the development of services, in particular through the regular meetings of Parent Carers Together, the Poole SEN & Disability Strategic Planning group and Time to Talk sessions.
- Increased the number of longer Short Breaks.

## What have Parents told us about Childcare Providers/Information Needs?

Many parents of children who are disabled or with special needs do not use childcare. This is either because they feel that there is no-one experienced to look after their child because of their specific needs. Many rely on family to give them support.

You don't know what to ask for, you don't know what's out there.

### **Parents of children with disabilities want:**

- Advice and support to help them identify appropriate childcare;
- Information about providers' ability to care for their children so that they can leave them in confidence. For example, parents want reassurance that staff are sufficiently qualified, trained or experienced in working with children with the most complex needs.
- An interactive website, making it easier to search for childcare providers using categories;
- Children's Services information to be more joined-up;
- Provision and promotion of opportunities for parents to meet together.

It's like looking for a place to rent or buy and you type in the location and how many bedrooms you want

### **What have we done?**

- The Family Information Service (FIS) launched the online [Family Information Directory](#) (FID) in June 2011. The FID enables parents to search for childcare and activities, including short breaks. In addition to this, the FID holds a wide range of information relevant to all aspects of family life including Education, Welfare and Benefits and other Children's Services.
- The Local Offer  
In response to The Children and Families Act 2014, the Local Offer publishes information about services and support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities from birth to 25 years across education, health and social care. The purpose of the Local Offer is to bring information together in a clear and accessible format, as a resource for children and young people, parents and carers, professionals and practitioners. The Short Breaks Statement forms part of the Local Offer. We are currently developing a single BCP Local Offer.

Please follow the link for further information:

[www.bcpfamilyinformationdirectory.com/localoffer](http://www.bcpfamilyinformationdirectory.com/localoffer)

- The Family Information Service provides information to families and partners, such as schools and early years settings, via a range of channels: phone, email, face to face at our Welcome Area and via Outreach work in the community. This includes information on specific services and activities for children and young people with SEND and general signposting to the range of information available on the Local Offer.
- Regular signposting is also provided by the staff at Lemur Landings and SENSational clubs.

## **What have Parents told us about Children's Services and Health?**

### ***Parents of children with disabilities want:***

- A joined up approach to services (so they do not need to have contact with different services within the Council) which focuses on the children's and the families' needs.

### **What have we done?**

- SEN Statutory Services, Educational Psychology and Child Health and Disability teams (CHaD) have been brought together into a combined SEND Service. (Occupational Therapy and Shared Care part of CHaD).
- Formed the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH for BCP), bringing agencies together in a shared space to enhance the safeguarding of children.
- Introduced the Early Help Advice Point (EHAP) to understand the needs of families and give advice on how professionals can best work with them and what other agencies need to be involved.
- Provided SEND Information Advice and Support (SENDIASS for BCP) to give support to parents/carers and Children and Young People to help them make informed choices.
- Working with health at Pan-Dorset level to develop joint commissioning of services.
- Ensured Lead professional arrangements are in place.
- Given families a response which is tailored to their needs. If they do not want or need a social worker they can still access short break services.

**I want to go out more with my friends.  
I want to go on day trips.**

## **Short Breaks Review Summer 2017**

### **What have Children & Young People told us?**

#### ***Children and Young People want:***

- Opportunities to go out in the community
- Day trips to theme parks
- More evening activities
- More sports activities
- More sessions which are longer than 2 hours

## What have we done?

- Introduced new activities, including a trip to Thorpe Park, Adventure Wonderland, Football Academy
- Included more longer activities

## What Short Breaks Provision is currently available?

### Universal & Specialist Services

Universal services are those which are open to all whereas specialist services are targeted at specific people and are usually accessed via a referral from health, eg a GP, a school, social services etc. It is recognized that some disabled children and young people will need additional support to access facilities which are available for all (leisure centres, childcare settings, libraries, youth clubs for example). There have been increased opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to access these facilities with appropriate support, such as:

- **1:1 Sessional Work** to enable children and young people to access particular clubs and activities through the support of a trained sessional worker on a regular basis;
- **Fortnightly soft play sessions with support from sessional staff;**
- **Workforce development to promote inclusion in childcare settings,** particularly for the under 5s;
- **Two Monday night youth clubs** to enable disabled young people to access the same type of facility as their mainstream peers.

*These type of Short Break activities are vital for the children as they get so much enjoyment & are ideal for social interaction especially as my son needs this so much.*

There are two types of short breaks, those delivered by Poole Short Breaks and specialist short breaks.

### Poole Short Breaks & Commissioned Services

In 2009 Children's Services set up its own holiday programme and financially contributed towards other programmes and activities that parents can self-refer to. Therefore breaks can be accessed directly without the need to go through Social Care and have an assessment.

'[Poole Short Breaks](#)', a holiday programme offering a wide variety of activities such as drama and dance, music and creative workshops, golf, sailing and kayaking etc, from 2 hours to full days;

Commissioned Services - funding given to organisations/schools to run Short Breaks (see page 2 for further details).

## **Specialist Short Breaks**

CWD (Child with a Disability) Support to families where there is a child with a severe disability

### **What we do**

CWD offer specialist support to children when there are a combination of factors related to disability or health condition, the family's abilities to cope and the resources available to the family.

Our priority aim is to ensure the family is fully supported, the child develops to their full potential and is free from harm, neglect and abuse.

Most of the children we work with have multiple disabilities and health conditions that result in them having exceptional care needs.

### **How do families access our service**

Families can request an assessment of their situation through the BCP MASH, Telephone: 01202 735046.

Following assessment, if the child's disability meets the threshold for a service from CWD, the team can help in a range of ways depending upon the individual family circumstances. These may include:-

- Co-ordination of a multi-agency plan to support the child and family.
- Support with behaviour management.
- Referrals to other specialist services for support.
- Access to Sessional workers
- Provision of Direct Payments to purchase additional care and support.
- Overnight breaks for disabled children.

If a case does not meet the threshold for CWD Services we can provide advice and referral to other sources of support including:

- Poole Short Breaks
- Play schemes that experienced and skilled in meeting complex needs.
- Youth clubs that can meet the needs of young people with SEN and disabilities (are experienced and skilled in meeting complex needs).
- CYPSC Families First
- CAMHS Learning Disability Service
- Referrals to appropriate targeted services.

### **Shared Care**

The Shared Care scheme provides family-based short breaks for disabled children with high level needs. The child is linked with a shared carer (matching is very important)

who provides care in their own home on a regular basis; either day care or overnight care, usually at weekends.

The aim of shared care is to provide the child with a valuable break, introducing them to new experiences and friends, and to provide parents (and siblings) with regular respite to enable them to continue caring for the child at home in an effective and positive way. There is ongoing recruitment to ensure a pool of carers with a good range of experience and skills.

Shared Care can be accessed through the BCP MASH who may direct you to CYPSC Families First (West or East) or the CWD team.

## **What Has Been Achieved?**

- The number and range of short breaks provision has significantly increased since the beginning of 2008
- Numbers of children taking part in short breaks has significantly improved.
- Despite budgetary constraints funding has not been reduced (as of March 2019) in Poole whereas other areas have cut their Short Breaks services.

## **What are our Priorities for the Future?**

### **We would like to:**

- increase access to short breaks and positive activities for families;
- look to develop our provision of short breaks at weekends/evenings;
- seek the views of parents/carers, children and young people on all short breaks;
- seek the views of those who have not accessed short breaks;
- continue to improve the Family Information Directory so that families have access to clear information and link this to the Local Offer.
- ensure that our short break services focus on improving the life chances of disabled children and their families through continuing to develop our participation strategy to young people and introducing a Parent Participation Strategy;
- ensure the Parents Carers Together continues to be supported and developed;
- review and explore increasing opportunities for those children and young people with the most complex needs;
- continue to improve the training of the workforce who deliver short breaks (shared carers, PAs, sessional staff, artists and coaches etc).

**We would also welcome your help. If you would like to comment or be involved, please contact:**

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Inclusion and Family Services  
Telephone: 01202 261908  
Email: [a.bowran@poole.gov.uk](mailto:a.bowran@poole.gov.uk)

or

Parents Carers Together (Bournemouth Christchurch Poole)

T: 07852 422089

Email: [info@parentcarerstogether.org.uk](mailto:info@parentcarerstogether.org.uk)

Website: [www.parentcarerstogether.org.uk](http://www.parentcarerstogether.org.uk)

or

**SEND Information Advice and Support Co-ordinator**

T: 01202 261933

Email: [sendiass@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

**SENDiass** for BCP

*Special Educational Needs and Disabilities*

*Information Advice and Support Service*

Number 18 (previously Poole Quay Advice Centre)

18 Hill Street

Poole BH15 1NR

Web site:

<http://www.poolefamilyinformationdirectory.com/kb5/poole/fis/service.page?id=34Y-7extzQ>

## **APPENDIX**

### **Background**

This information is for families living in the unitary authority of the Borough of Poole who have a disabled child aged 0 – 19 years.

Paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to provide a short breaks service designed to assist individuals who provide care for disabled children. This duty and the **Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011** came into force on 1 April 2011.

The Short Breaks Regulations (as they are known) provide further detail on how local authorities must perform their duty to provide, as part of the range of services they provide to families, breaks from caring for carers of disabled children to support them to continue to care for their children at home and to allow them to do so more effectively. A Short Breaks Services Statement must also be published by 1 October 2011 on the Local Authority website. This statement must be kept under review and where appropriate revised, and it must be prepared and reviewed with regard to the views of carers in the area.

### **Short Breaks Services Statement (summary)**

In their statement Local Authorities must set out:

- the range of services available;
- the eligibility criteria for these services; and
- how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of carers.