



**Borough of Poole
Children, Young People and Learning**

**SHORT BREAKS SERVICES
INFORMATION STATEMENT**



Version 2
June 2018

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 disabled child 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 the disabled child when accessing a short break.

Introduction

This statement which has been prepared by Children, Young People & Learning to keep families updated with service/contact changes. The original statement was prepared in consultation with the Poole Parent/Carer Special Needs Forum (relaunched in October 2017 as [Poole Parent Carer Forum](#)) and Poole PCF 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.

The development of short breaks is an inherent part of the Children's Service Strategic Plan in Poole which includes as 2 of its priorities:

Improve outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities
Improve the health, wellbeing and enjoyment of children and young people

As part of "Working Together" the original Parent Carer Forum was established in 2008 to involve parents' and carers' in the planning, design and evaluation of services and to ensure their voices are heard. The group meets 6 times a year and key managers in Children's Services are invited to participate and receive feedback from parents during Consultation Coffee Mornings.

If you would like to contact the Coordinator of Poole PCF, please see the last page of this document for information.

What have you told us and what have we done?

Parent Consultations through Poole Short Breaks and the Parent Carer Forum

Formal consultations took place during the Summers of 2010, 2012, November 2015 and July 2017. The last consultation 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 of two questionnaires.

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 report 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 disabled children 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 the most severely disabled children;
- 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 disabled children;
- 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 Borough 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.
- Recruited more sessional staff to enable more '[Poole Short Breaks](#)' to be run and 1:1 sessions out in the community.
- Continued to offer Poole Short Breaks specifically for teenagers.

- Introduced tennis and Bikeability sessions due to feedback from families.
- Worked with Youth Development Workers to increase opportunities, eg fishing trip with Bourne Valley Youth Centre every August, joint picnics, use of youth workers to run activities.
- Run fortnightly soft play sessions at Lemur Landings (except for Tuesdays after bank holidays). These are for the exclusive use of parents/carers with disabled children 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 Life @Limelights (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 the Poole PCF and the Poole SEN & Disability Strategic Planning group which was formed in 2012.
- Increased the number of longer Short Breaks.

Continued to invest in equipment in 2013 by:

- New toilets and changing facilities near the Dolphin Centre car park.
- Funding equipment for Team Dorset Athletics including electronic tablets, stopwatches, race wheelchairs.
- Building new family and accessible change facilities at The Junction (YMCA)
- Accessible change facilities at Everyone Active Rossmore
- Providing equipment to long-term Shared Carers
- Installing a lift at Lemur Landings to improve access.

In 2014/15 we provided capital funding towards the new pool at Montacute School which opened in May 2015. The sensory equipment was transferred to the new pool before Lodge Hill was closed.

In addition, there have been key messages coming through from assessments including the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments and consultation with parents/carers and young people.

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 disabled children 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, which can easily be filtered to provide a listing indicating the skill set of providers and whether they have experience with particular disabilities. In addition the FID holds much more, including information about Education, Welfare and Benefits and other Children's Services to support family life.
- The Local Offer (accessible on the FID)
In response to The Children and Families Act 2014, Poole publishes information about services and support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities from birth to 25 years. 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 Poole's Local Offer. Sitting within the Family Information Directory, the Poole Local Offer provides information to help families access services across education, health and social care.
Please follow the link for further information:
www.poolefamilyinformationdirectory.com/localoffer
- The FIS provides an Outreach Service which promotes easy access to The Local Offer and its contents. In addition FIS attends local schools to provide information presentations to parents or staff and raises the profile of The Local Offer and its services
- Signposting is also provided by the staff at Lemur Landings who are there every fortnight to support and talk to families.

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

Parents of disabled children 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 Poole Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (the MASH), bringing agencies together in a shared space in Poole 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 Poole SEND Information Advice and Support (SENDIASS) 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.

Children and Young People's Services Consultation 2015

What have Children & Young People told us?



**I want to go out more with my friends.
I want to be able to go to the skate park.**

Children and Young People want:

- More places to play;
- To participate in more activities (there was a rise in participation in sporting activities: boys – rise of 14%; girls – rise of 12% between 2012 and 2014).
- To play with friends and make new friends;
- To go out with people of their own age rather than older people/to have someone to go to the park with;
- To attend a youth club
- To learn to cook
- To do archery and rock climbing
- Improved changing rooms at the swimming pools;
- More computers and a bigger choice of books in libraries.
- More support for a wide range of issues including mental health

What have we done?

- Provided two portable disabled hoists, one at 'The Junction' Leisure Centre (Broadstone) and one at the Dolphin Swimming Pool.

- Improved accessible facilities at the above swimming pools.
- Purchased play equipment for early years which settings are able to borrow, particularly appropriate for children with autism.
- Integrated Short Breaks into the Youth Service (Positive Activities Team) to promote more opportunities for inclusion in mainstream settings.

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 more Pick n Mix activities, eg Out and About**
- **Included more longer activities**
- **Offering the opportunity to join other young people to access a trip to Thorpe Park**

What Short Breaks Provision is currently available?

Open Access Services & Specialist Services

Open access 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 disabled children and young people 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 activity programme commissioned and run by the Borough of Poole, 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 and 3 for further details).

Specialist Short Breaks

CHAD (Child Health & Disability Team) Support to families where there is a child with a severe disability

What we do

CHaD 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 in Poole can request an assessment of their situation through the MASH, Telephone: 01202 735046.

Following assessment, if the child's disability meets the threshold for a service from CHaD, 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 CHAD 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 [Poole 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 MASH who may direct you to CYPSC Families First or CHaD 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 2017) 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;
- ***(measure children's satisfaction, parental satisfaction and staff confidence and skill in meeting the needs of disabled children in a variety of short break settings;) delete as difficult to measure***
- 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 Poole PCF 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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Children, Young People and Learning
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or

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Coordinator of Poole Parent Carer Forum
Tel or text: 07873352209
Email: poolepcf@roseroad.org.uk
Website: www.poolepcf.org.uk
Facebook: @pooleparentcarerforum
Twitter: @poolepcf

Victoria Hunt
SEND Information Advice and Support Co-ordinator
T: 01202 261933
Personal email: victoria.hunt@poole.gov.uk
Generic email: sendiass@poole.gov.uk

Poole SENDIASS

*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.poole.gov.uk/education-and-learning/parental-support/poole-send-information-advice-and-support-service/>

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.