

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Short Breaks Statement for children with a disability and/or additional needs 2011-2012

Created September 2011

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Introduction

This document is the first Short Breaks services statement for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. It sets out what Short Breaks are available locally for children and young people with disabilities and their families and carers.

A definition of Short Breaks

Short Breaks are opportunities for disabled children and young people to have enjoyable, life enhancing experiences with or without their primary carers, which contribute to their social inclusion, personal and social development. Such breaks include for example; after school clubs, holiday schemes, taking part in music, arts or sports classes, individual befriending, overnights in a residential setting or family holidays where there is additional support or facilities to ensure that it is fun and supportive for everyone.

Short Breaks also provide parents and carers, including siblings of disabled children, space and time to have a break from their caring responsibilities. This can be time to unwind, take part in activities and hobbies they enjoy or just time to get on with other tasks.

Short Breaks can take place in a wide range of settings: the child's own home, in the home of an approved carer, a residential or community setting and be at anytime to suit the needs of the family.

Short Breaks regulations and duty 2011

The Children Act 1989 (Paragraph 6 (1) (c) of Schedule 2) (1989) requires Local Authorities to provide services designed to give breaks for carers of disabled children. Regulations relating to this duty came into force on 1 April 2011, requiring each Local Authority to produce a statement to inform families of the services that are available, the eligibility criteria for these services, and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in their area. Local authorities must take into account the needs of carers who would:

- Be unable to continue caring for their disabled child unless breaks from caring were given;

or

- Be able to give more effective care, if breaks were given to allow them to, for example, attend educational classes or work, meet the needs of other children in the family, or carry out necessary day to day tasks in the household.

Local authorities must, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide a range of services designed to meet the needs of carers to care or care more effectively, including:

- Day care in the child's own home and elsewhere
- Overnight care in the child's own home and elsewhere
- Educational or leisure activities for children in a range at times and in settings that suit families needs
- Emergency care

Local authorities must prepare a statement for carers in their area setting out:

- The range of services available
- Any eligibility criteria for these services
- How the range of services is designed to meet the needs of carers

This statement must be:

- published by 1 October 2011;
- kept under review and where appropriate revised; and
- prepared and reviewed with regard to the views of carers in the area.

A copy of the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 is available for detailed reference at the following link:
www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/707/pdfs/uksi_20110707_en.pdf

Consultation and involvement

Short Breaks have been commissioned based on large scale Short Breaks consultations of parents, carers, children, young people and providers held in 2007, in 2009 and a strategic needs review of Short Breaks held in 2011.

Continuous consideration of the needs of these groups and reviews of Short Breaks provision have been ongoing through contract monitoring, social work assessments of the needs of children and families, partnerships across the children workforce and through consultation and feedback from parents forums and groups.

Throughout the life of the aiming high programme and continuing after March 2011, parent carer consultation has been led by the Richmond Parents Carers Action Group (RPCAG). This is a parent led group funded initially through the parental involvement strand of Aiming High. Regular discussion between this and other groups and the local authority on Short Breaks has enabled continuous review of parental needs and wishes in relation to Short Breaks.

Feedback and consultation results have informed the breaks commissioned and will continue to do so.

Producing the statement

This statement has been produced in partnership with the Short Breaks reference group which includes representatives from Service User Groups, Richmond Council (Universal and Specialist Services), Hounslow and Richmond Healthcare NHS Trust, Local Voluntary Sector Partners, and Commissioners.

The Lead Officer responsible for preparing this Statement in 2011 is Becky Powell, Aiming High Resource Manager, Disabled Children's Team who reports to Michelle Williams Head of the Disabled Children's Service.

If there are any queries relating to the process for producing and agreeing the statement, these should be addressed to becky.powell@richmond.gov.uk

Reviewing the statement

The statement will be monitored and reviewed at least annually through the Short Breaks reference group and presented to the Children with Disabilities and Learning Difficulties Partnership Group (CWDLD). If available services or options change the statement will undergo additional revisions. The most up to date statement will always be available on the Richmond Council website.

Short Breaks currently available

This is a list of the specific services currently available for children with disabilities and additional needs. In addition to these services there are many valuable mainstream non-specialist providers and activities which provide inclusive services or occasional specialist activities. Information about such services as well as all those below are available from the Family Information Service: 020 8831 6298 Email: fis@richmond.gov.uk.

Provider	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Youth Services
Service	Youth clubs and activities
Who is eligible	Young people aged 13-19 years living, working, studying or just hanging out in Richmond upon Thames
Where	A range of settings across the borough
www.richmond.gov.uk/youth	

Provider	Childminding network
Service	Support to families to find childminders to support children with additional needs
Who is eligible	Families resident in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Where	Usually in the childminders home
When	At a time appropriate for the family
www.richmond.gov.uk/childminding_network_coordinators	

Provider	Three Wings Trust
Service	Sitting Service
Who is eligible	Children with disabilities and additional needs and their siblings residents in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Where	In the child's home
When	At a time appropriate for the family
threewingstrust.org/sitting-service.html	

Provider	Richmond Arts Service
Service	A range of arts clubs and activities for children, including the specialist Octagon arts club
Who is eligible	For children 5-12 years for most activities, and between 11-18 years for the specialist Octagon club for disabled children
Where	Orleans House Gallery
When	Various times
www.richmond.gov.uk/after_school_clubs_at_orleans_house_gallery	

Provider	RISE (Richmond Inclusive sports and exercise)
Service	Inclusive sports activities events and holiday camps
Who is eligible	16-25 years olds of all abilities
Where	Various sports and leisure centres around the borough
When	Regular Saturdays and school holidays
www.richmond.gov.uk/rise	

Provider	Me Too and Co
Service	A range of drop in play sessions for children with disabilities with their parents or carers, including a specialist session for those with sensory impairments.
Who is eligible	Children with disabilities and additional needs.
Where	The Cross Way Centre, Twickenham
When	Most Tuesdays afternoons and Friday mornings (term-time)
www.metooandco.org.uk/activities/current	

Provider	PHAB
Service	Inclusive Youth club
Who is eligible	Youth and adults with disabilities and additional needs
Where	Whitton Community Centre
When	Monday nights
www.richmond.gov.uk/home/whitton_phab	

Provider	Girls Connect
Service	Support group and social club
Who is eligible	Girls with Autistic Spectrum Conditions including Aspergers.
Where	Range of settings
When	Range of dates
www.metooandco.org.uk/activities/current	

Provider	OFSTED registered non-specialist day care or sessional settings (0-5 years) or out of school/holiday clubs (5-19 years) in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Service	Additional needs grants to cover the cost of employing additional staff or providing training so that children with disabilities or additional needs can be included in activities. (if agreed through panel)
Who is eligible	Children resident in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames needing additional staff or staff training to support them
Where	The grants are administered in the Early Years and Childcare Service and paid to childcare settings across the borough
When	Panel meetings are twice termly
www.richmond.gov.uk/additional_needs_grant	

Provider	Actionnaires Sports Club and Cricket for Change Club
Service	Sports activities
Who is eligible	For blind and partially sighted children
Where	Various venues for Actionnaires, Clarendon school Hampton for Cricket
When	Various times for Actionnaires, Friday evening for Cricket
www.richmond.gov.uk/disability_and_inclusive_activities	

Provider	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Youth Services
Service	Specialist youth clubs
Who is eligible	Young people aged 13-19 years living, working, studying or just hanging out in Richmond upon Thames
Where	Heatham House in Twickenham and Powerstation in Mortlake
When	Wednesday (Powerstation) and Thursday (Heatham House) evenings in term time.
www.richmond.gov.uk/crofters	

Provider	Richmond Carers
Service	Young Carers Project
Who is eligible	Children and young people who are siblings of children with disabilities or additional needs resident in the borough
Where	Various venues
When	Various times
www.carers.org/local-centre/34882/services	

Provider	Twickenham Brunswick Club
Service	Activities club
Who is eligible	Children and young people with disabilities and additional needs
Where	Clarendon Crescent, Twining Avenue, Twickenham, TW2 5LN
When	Saturdays, 12 noon – 2.30pm
www.freewebs.com/1twickenhambrunswick/	

Provider	Richmond carers
Service	Carer support and therapeutic therapy sessions
Who is eligible	Parents and unpaid carers of children with disabilities or additional needs resident in the borough
Where	Various venues
When	Various times
www.carers.org/local-centre/34882/services	

Provider	Three Wings Trust
Service	Short Breaks Grants Programme (up to £500 towards Short Breaks per disabled child)
Who is eligible	Children under age 18 who are resident in the borough and are eligible to be on the disability register
When	Applications deadline 6 January 2012 for activities to take place before the end of February 2012.
www.richmond.gov.uk/shortbreaks_grants.htm	

Provider	Various specialist sports clubs
Service	Specialist swimming, wheelchair basketball, trampolining, companion cycling
Who is eligible	Open to children with disabilities and additional needs
Where	Various venues
When	Various times
www.richmond.gov.uk/disability_and_inclusive_activities	

Provider	Clarendon Club
Service	Holiday schemes, weekend and evening clubs
Who is eligible	Children and young people aged 8-18 with disabilities and additional needs resident in the London Borough of Richmond or attending Clarendon School
Where	Clarendon School, Hampton
When	Some school holidays, weekends and evenings
Email: thillman@clarendon.richmond.sch.uk	

Provider	Mencap
Service	Summer Fun Holiday Scheme and The Culture clubs
Who is eligible	Children and young people with disabilities aged 8-25 years (culture clubs age 8-17 years)
Where	Varied venues across the borough
When	Summer holidays and Saturdays
www.richmondmencap.org.uk/summer.shtml	

Provider	The Bridge
Service	Saturday drama clubs, Summer Arts Scheme, Activate, Talking groups and sports activities
Who is eligible	For children with communications difficulties such as Autistic Spectrum or attention Deficit Disorder
Where	Various venues
When	Various days and times
www.thebridgecharity.org.uk	

Provider	Crossroads
Service	Saturday young peoples clubs
Who is eligible	Children with disabilities and additional needs who are aged 8-18 and who are residents of the London borough of Richmond.
Where	Hampton and Barnes
When	Saturdays
www.crossroads.org.uk	

Provider	Resources for Autism
Service	Holiday schemes and Saturday clubs
Who is eligible	Children with an Autistic spectrum condition living in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Where	To be confirmed
When	School holidays and Saturday Clubs (from January 2012)
www.resourcesforautism.org.uk	

Provider	Crossroads
Service	Individual care service in the child's home
Who is eligible	Children and young people needing this additional support identified and referred by professionals
Where	In the child's home
When	At a time to suit the needs of the family
www.crossroads.org.uk	

Provider	RUILS
Service	Person centred planning project
Who is eligible	Young people aged 14-16 years referred by the borough Transition Coordinator
Where	At setting appropriate to the young person and family
When	When appropriate to the young person and family
www.ruils.co.uk/Person-Centred-Transition/28/146	

Provider	Shooting Star CHASE Hospice
Service	Overnights, day care, outreach, family support and therapies
Who is eligible	Children and teenagers with life-limiting conditions
Where	Shooting Star Hospice Hampton
When	When appropriate to the young person and family
www.shootingstarchase.org.uk/	

Provider	Disabled Children's Service
Service	Crofters after school clubs, holiday schemes and weekend activities
Who is eligible	Children and young people aged 5-18 years eligible for an assessment from the Disabled Children's service
Where	Range of settings, but mostly from The Windham Croft Centre in Kew or The Barn in Whitton
When	Most school holidays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays afterschool and at least one Saturday or Sunday each month.
www.richmond.gov.uk/social_work_team_disabled_children	

Provider	Disabled Children's Service
Service	Mini Crofters play sessions
Who is eligible	Children aged 4-5 years eligible for an assessment from the Disabled Children's service
Where	The Barn in Whitton
When	Sessions monthly
www.richmond.gov.uk/social_work_team_disabled_children	

Provider	Disabled Children's Service
What is on offer	Monday Transition club
Who is eligible	Young people aged 14-18 years eligible for an assessment from the Disabled Children's service
Where	Windham Croft Centre for Children, Kew
When	Monday evenings
www.richmond.gov.uk/crofters	

Provider	Disabled Children's Service
Service	Befriending service
Who is eligible	Children aged 7-18 years eligible for an assessment from the Disabled Children's service
Where	Community based
When	At a time appropriate for the family
www.richmond.gov.uk/the_befriender_scheme	

Provider	Disabled Children's Service
Service	Family Link service – overnight support for a disabled child in a carers home
Who is eligible	Children eligible for an assessment from the Disabled Children's service
Where	In the home of an approved Family Link Carer
When	At a time appropriate for the family – usually at least one night monthly
www.richmond.gov.uk/short_break_care_-_family_link	

Provider	Registered care settings
Service	Overnight support in residential care settings
Who is eligible	Children and young people assessed as having this need by the Disabled Children's service
Where	There are a range of settings: Warren Park in Kingston, Treetops at White Lodge in Surrey, Buckets and Spades in Finchley, Cherry trees in Surrey and some overnights at school.
When	At a time appropriate for the family
www.richmond.gov.uk/social_work_team_disabled_children	

Provider	Disabled Children's Service
Service	Crofters overnight breaks and residential holidays
Who is eligible	Children and young people aged 7-18 years eligible for an assessment from the Disabled Children's service
Where	Range of settings including the Log cabin Sunbury, Bendrigg Trust Lake District, Walton Firs Surrey.
When	Range of dates
www.richmond.gov.uk/social_work_team_disabled_children	

Provider	Disabled Children's Service
Service	Direct Payments to parents to organise their own Short Breaks
Who is eligible	Children and young people assessed as having this need by the Disabled Children's service
Where	In the community
When	At a time appropriate for the family
www.richmond.gov.uk/social_work_team_disabled_children	

Conclusion

Following the strategic needs assessment in 2011 the overwhelming message about the availability and choice of breaks is positive, however there is always room to improve.

Feedback told us that the areas that need further development are:

- Information and support for parents to find out what Short Breaks are available to meet their needs.
- Daytime support for young children with complex health needs who mainstream nurseries find difficult to support.
- Services to assist young people in transition to experience valued occupation.
- Maintenance of services that have been successful particularly those during school holidays.

We are seeking to address each of these areas in the next commissioning round in October 2011, following which, this statement will be reviewed.

Short Breaks Reference Group

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