



The London Borough of Hackney's Short Breaks Statement

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"As Director of Children services, I am pleased to endorse the Short Break development in Hackney and welcome the range of provision currently available for disabled children and young people in having an enjoyable break and for their parents to have a break from their caring responsibility. We are pleased with the increased uptake and continue to look at ways to improve services to families and children with a disability in Hackney."



Alan Wood, Corporate Director, Children & Young People's Services

"As Head of Integrated Services for Disabled Children and their families at Hackney Ark, I am very pleased with the success so far of the Short Breaks service available for disabled children and young people in Hackney. I look forward to the range of our Short Breaks developing in collaboration with providers and welcome the support from our parents and carers. What is exciting is having more children and young people signing up for the offer."

Toni Dawodu
Head of Integrated services
at Hackney Ark

This information is for families living in the London Borough of Hackney who have a disabled child aged 2 to 17 years

Short Breaks forms one element of the support offered in Hackney to disabled children, young people and their families.

The three agencies, namely the London Borough of Hackney, Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust and The Learning Trust work in partnership in delivering Short Breaks services and support to disabled children, young people and their families in the Borough.

- **London Borough of Hackney** - Short Breaks Team - consists of a Project Coordinator and administrator, based at Hackney Ark
- **Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust** - The 'Hit Squad' based at Hackney Ark (this is a multi-disciplinary team, including a Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist, a Speech & Language Therapist and a Clinical Psychologist who aim to help disabled children access the widest possible range of short breaks)
- **The Learning Trust** - Children's Inclusion Officer based at 1 Reading Lane, Hackney

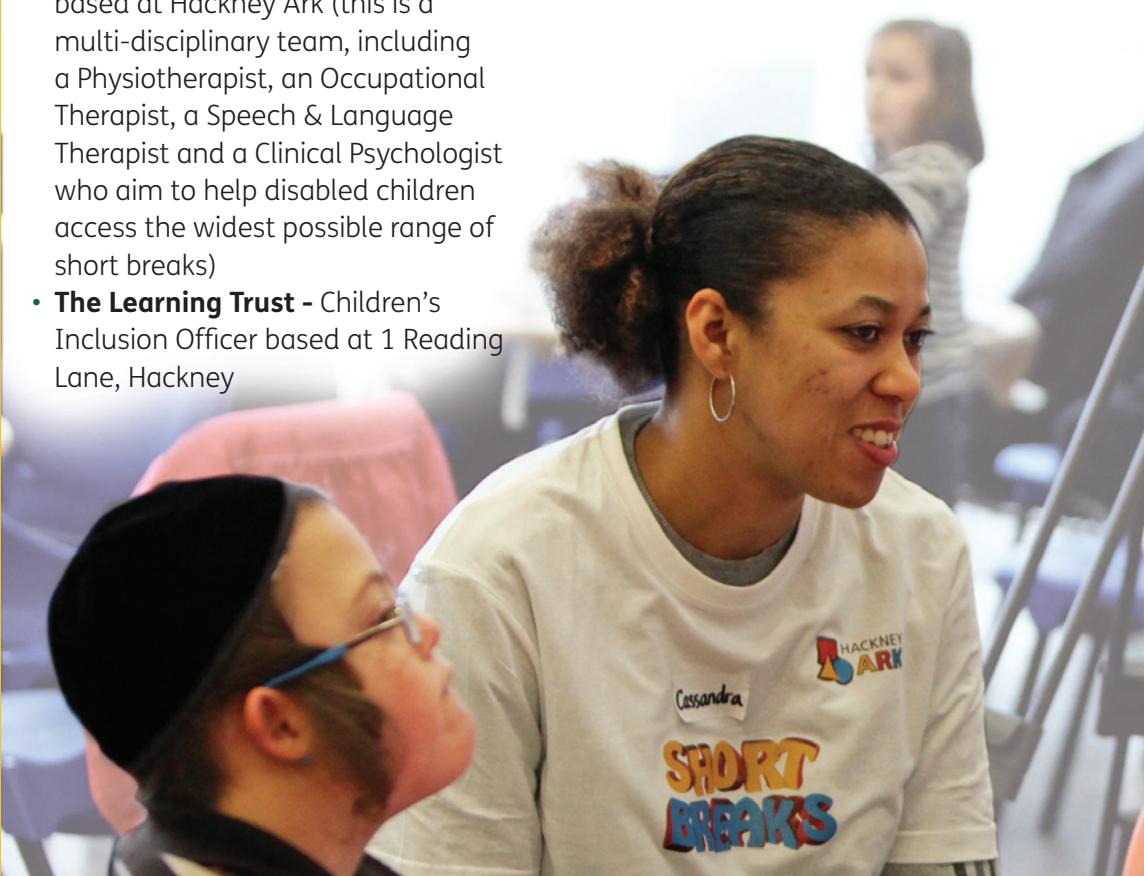
What's a Short Break?

A short break is defined as any service that both allows a disabled child or young person to have an enjoyable break away from their main carer, and gives their carer a break from their caring responsibilities.

The Short Break Statement

This 'statement' provides an overview of:

- The range of Short Breaks services available to disabled children and their families
- Eligibility Criteria
- Core Offer
- Consultation with children, young people and their families
- Where to get a copy of this statement



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Introduction

Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. Regulations relating to this duty came into force on 1st April, 2011 and require each local authority to produce a short breaks services statement so that families know what services are available, the eligibility criteria for these services and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of the families with disabled children in this area.

This statement enables children, young people and their families to know about the range of services available, the eligibility criteria for these services, and how the range of short breaks is designed to meet local needs.

Hackney's Children's Services vision is for disabled children and young people to be able to access a range of comprehensive co-ordinated services.

425 new children and young people have signed up for the Short Breaks Core Offer. In addition, 200 children known to the Disabled Children's Service (DCS) are also benefiting from Short Breaks.

This means that we have successfully reached around 50% of the children in Hackney who are eligible for Short Breaks. We are increasing our efforts to ensure that more children are able to access these services.

The funding for the Councils Short Breaks schemes comes from the Early Intervention Grant given to the Council by Government.

Universal Services and Inclusion

It's our philosophy that disabled children and young people should be able to access universal services settings such as extended school activities and youth clubs. We believe it's important we try to ensure disabled children and young people experience fun and enjoy themselves with friends just the same as other children and young people.

We continue to explore new ideas for developing our range of short breaks including specialist and non-specialist services in universal settings. We use the 'Hit Squad' to facilitate this.

For the future, we aim to invest in universal/inclusive services so they are designed and equipped to enable disabled children and young people to enjoy the same activities and opportunities as non-disabled children and whenever possible allow disabled and non disabled children and young people to enjoy services together. We intend to use our capital funding to improve the quality of these universal settings for disabled children and young people.



The London Borough of Hackney's Short Breaks Statement

Eligibility Criteria

To be able to access the Short Breaks Core Offer a child or young person needs to meet our simple eligibility criteria:

- Age between 2 – 17 years old
- Live in Hackney on a permanent basis
- Be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance at Middle Rate or above
- Not already in receipt of a care support package from DCS

To apply for the Short Breaks Core Offer, all a child or their parent needs to do is contact the Short Breaks Team based at the Hackney Ark and:

- Provide written evidence that your child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) at the middle rate or above; or
- Provide written confirmation from a health or education professional who works with the child/young person which demonstrates that (s)he meets the criteria



Parents/carers said....

"The club has exceeded all our expectations. I wanted my child to be included, accepted and develop social skills and I feel that this has been achieved. It has made a difference to Jemima's life and gives us time for our other children."

Core Offer

We have based 2011/12's Core Offer on feedback we received from young people, parents, carers, providers and usage trends based on last year's monitoring data.

In 2011/12 the Core Offer is:

- 20 days of holiday provision e.g. 10 days during the summer and
- 1 after school club session a week or
- 1 weekend session a month

Children and young people that sign up for the core offer later on in the year will receive provision on a pro-rotta basis; more details of this are available from the Short Breaks team.

The range of Short breaks available

The following short breaks services are available in Hackney:

- Holiday play schemes (including school)
- Specialist after school clubs
- Specialist weekend clubs
- After school and weekend clubs based at universal setting
- 1 to 1 outreach support in the home and in the community

For children and young people with additional complex health support needs the Health Trust offers a specialist service to meet their needs and enable them to access a short breaks service:

- Sunday club at Kids Adventure Playground supported with nursing staff for those with additional health needs that find it difficult to access other provisions (this service can be accessed through the 'Hit Squad')

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Consultation

How the range of short breaks has been decided to date and how the current arrangements will be reviewed in the future



The Council's Short Breaks services are commissioned based on child/parental choice. Our commissioning model enables families to make individual choices as to which play provision they wish to use. This means our services are now delivered in a smarter, more flexible way.

Hackney's provisions reflect the feedback obtained during consultation held with children, young people and their parents/carers about their needs and wishes. We have carried out a series of regular consultation events including at the beginning of the project in January 2009, the Short Breaks family fun day in February 2011, an end of year consultation with parents/carers in March 2011 and most recently at the 'The Key-Activities for all' event held at West Reservoir in July 2011. Our providers also collect feedback from service users throughout the year which they report to us so we have an ongoing overview of what children enjoy.

We understand that people's views can change and develop over time and so

we are keeping the range of short breaks under review to make sure they continue to reflect what children, young people and parents tell us they would like.



Feedback is always welcome at the following contact:
shortbreaks@hackneyark.chpct.nhs.uk or 020 7014 7109

We continue working with parent/carers through our parents' forum to understand what they would like to see being offered and we have consulted with our parent groups about this statement.

Parents' have always been involved in planning of Hackney's services and there are four parent representatives on the Short Breaks Project Board who are involved in decision-making at every stage as we develop the short break core offer.

There are three parent groups within Hackney and they can be contacted at:

Hackney Families Together - 020 7923 8750 or info@hackneycarers.org.uk

Hackney Independent forum for parents (HIP) - 07985 739851 or info@hiphackney.org.uk or visit their website at www.hiphackney.org.uk

In Touch (for Orthodox Jewish parents) - Mrs Tzirele Gluck on 020 8806 8033 or intouchgroup@googlemail.com

Parents/carers said....

"It has not been easy to get someone to look after Harvey while I'm at college but KIDS Outreach has made it possible. The flexibility of the service has enabled me to concentrate on my studies without having to worry about picking Harvey up from school...I would like to thank Harvey's worker for her reliability and the level of care she provides."



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Young people said....

“Things I have enjoyed are dressing up for Halloween, going to Kids adventure playground and to the cinema” How it helped me...”Giving me a chance to go on buses and getting used to the dark and being patient.”

How we developed the Short Breaks Core Offer

Over the last two years we have done a lot of work to increase the range of activities offered. Through the Hit Squad, we have provided extra training to a number of different groups of staff across the borough to equip specialist and universal settings to develop their skills to enable accessibility for children and young people with a disability. This means there are even more universal services in Hackney who have the skills to enable disabled children and young people to access them. This includes children's centre, youth clubs, adventure playgrounds, after school and weekend clubs.

A constant theme in the feedback we received from families has shown us that the biggest demand is for school holiday provision. In response we have placed this at the centre of this year's core offer.

We know that many families require help with transport in order for their child to easily access their short break, which is why all of our commissioned services provide transport to and from the session.

Where to get this Statement

This Statement demonstrates how Hackney's families would receive support from Short Breaks services, London Borough of Hackney, Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust and The Learning Trust.

Hackney will continue to ensure that the voices of children and young people, parents, carers, are heard and their views captured with on-going consultation throughout the year.

Publication of this Statement

More detailed information on all of the above is available on www.hackney.gov.uk/children-with-disabilities

Our Short Breaks Statement is published on the Local Authority website and a printed copy is available upon request.

Copies will be available in all of our special schools, autistic resource bases and provided to SENCOs in all Hackney schools and the Family Information Service.

“For a lot of families it is the difference between coping and not coping.”

Chippy, Step by Step

Review of this Statement

We will use on-going consultation with our children and young people to update and with parent forums to update and improve so we can ensure our Short Breaks services continue to reflect the needs of children and young people and their families living in Hackney. This Statement will be reviewed annually.

We welcome contact from parent/carers of disabled children. Our contact details are:

Short Breaks Team

Hackney Ark
Downs Park Road
E8 2HY
Tel: 020 7014 7109
shortbreaks@hackneyark.chpct.nhs.uk

Supporting documents which provide detailed information the development and delivery of Short Breaks service in Hackney such as end of year reports, consultation, evaluation and legislation can be found on the Hackney Council website and at the links (right):

Care Planning, Placement and Care Review Regulations 2010
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukssi/2010/959/contents/made>

Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2010/9780111503850/contents>



Short Breaks – statutory guidance on how to safeguard and promote the welfare of disabled children using short breaks
- DCSF <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00183-2010>

Looking to the future – sustaining progress made during Aiming High for Disabled Children
http://www.togetherfdc.org/SupportDocuments/Memorandum_of_Grant_201011_Final.doc

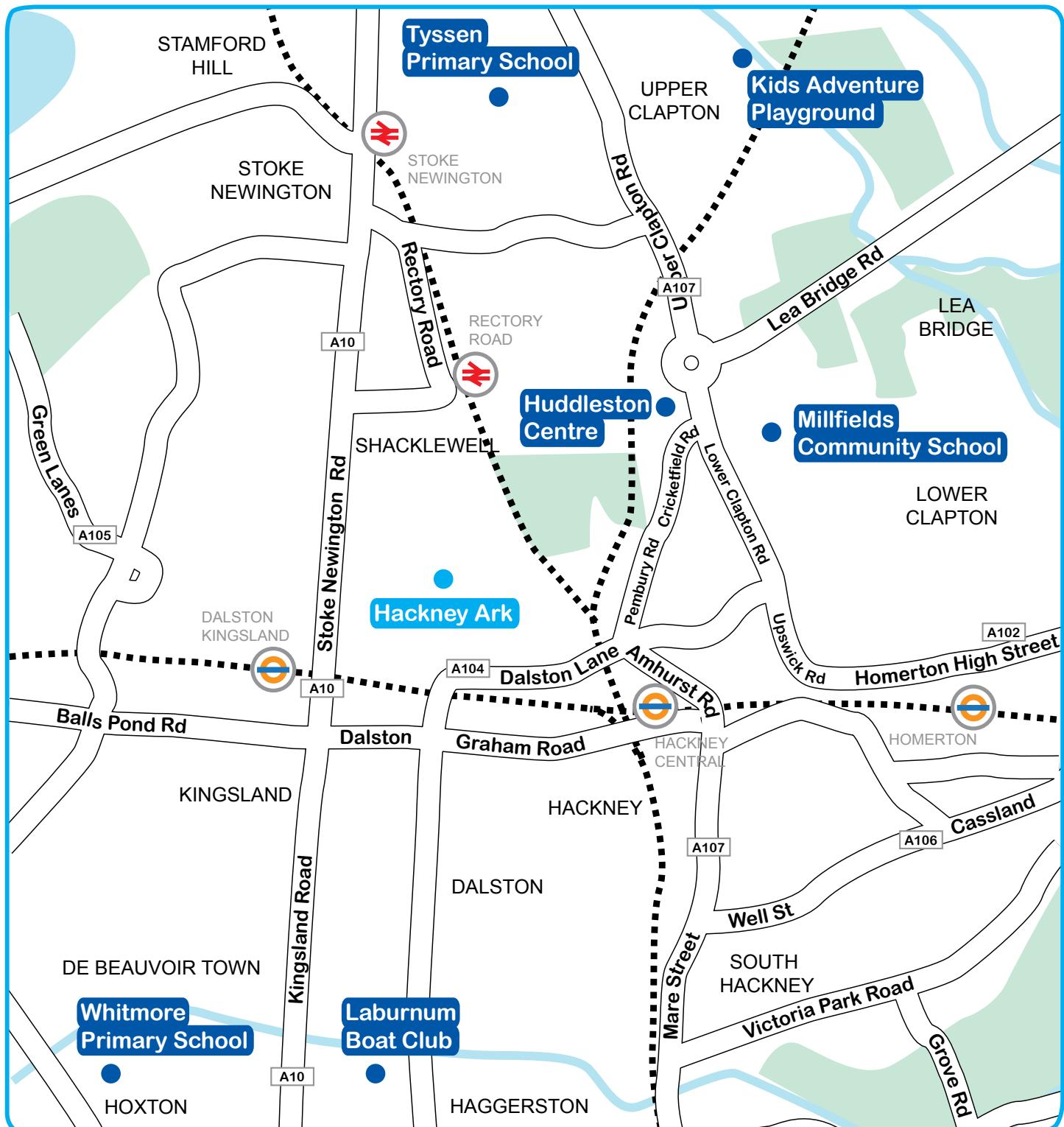
Special Educational Needs & Disability Green Paper <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/a0075339/sengreenpaper>



Parents/carers said....

“I feel my daughter has matured, I’m glad the staff have noticed too. I think she feels a sense of responsibility for the new kids and proud that she can help them settle in.”

Laburnum



The providers of our short breaks are located all over Hackney. Please see the above map, or contact the short breaks team (details right) for further details.

Short Breaks Team

Hackney Ark
Downs Park Road
E8 2HY
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shortbreaks@hackneyark.chpct.nhs.uk

