

# North Somerset Short Breaks Statement

This short break statement is for families living in North Somerset who have a disabled child aged 0-18 years.

There is a duty for Local Authorities to provide a range of short breaks for disabled children under the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children's regulation 2011 which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. The regulations require each Local Authority to produce a short break statement so that families know what services are available and the eligibility criteria for these services.

Short breaks are part of a continuum of services which support children in need and their families. They include the provision of day, evening, overnight and weekend activities for the child or young person, and can take place in the child's own home, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential or community setting.

The breaks usually have two aims: to enable the child to participate in fun, interesting and safe activities; and to provide a break from caring for the parents.

The statement is based on the key messages received from parents during the consultation as part of the Aiming High programme. These include

- More breaks in school holidays
- More breaks provided through activities open to all children
- More breaks supported by buddies
- More overnights breaks in residential settings
- More breaks at evenings and weekends.

The range of short breaks available covers both universal and specialist services access to universal services and some specialist services such as play schemes and Saturday Clubs do not require an assessment .

Local Authorities must undertake an assessment and identify what needs for support or services disabled children and /or their family have when requested to do so. The assessment process is explained in the following pages.

This document will be reviewed in July 2012

## ASSESSMENTS

### **Who is entitled to an assessment?**

Under s.17. Children Act 1989 all disabled children are children in need and therefore are entitled to an assessment.

Under the Carers (Recognition & Services) Act 1995 and the Carers & Disabled Children Act 2000 parents and carers have a right to a carers assessment however Local Authorities do not have a duty to meet any of the assessed needs.

### **What is an assessment?**

The purpose of an assessment is to identify the child's needs within their family context and to use this understanding to decide how best to address these needs. The assessment does not lead to a provision of a service unless North Somerset Council have determined the child is in need and that he or she meets the Council's eligibility criteria for a service. Where the child does meet the eligibility criteria it is for the Local Authority to determine how these needs will be met.

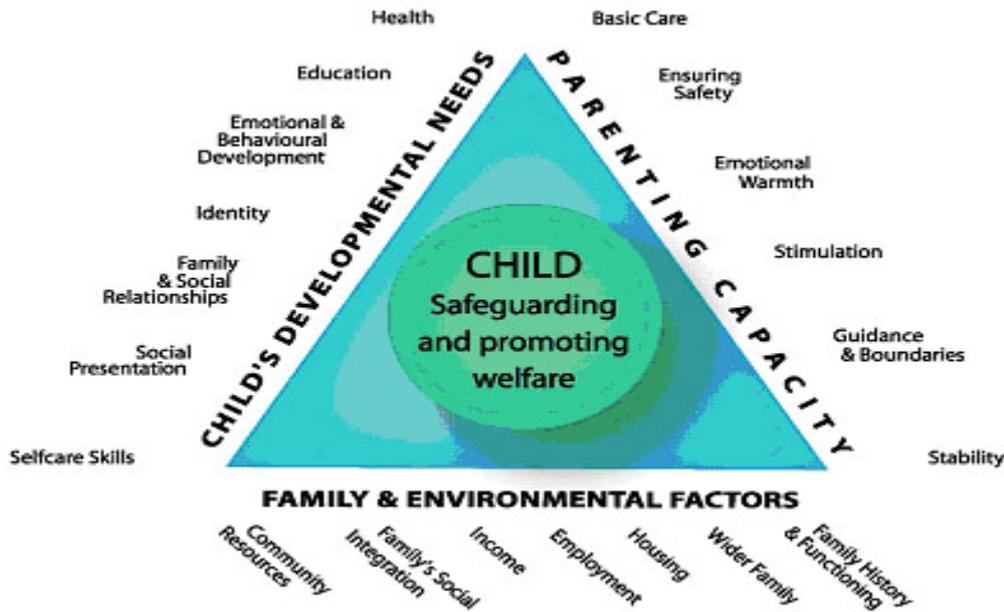
### **There are three types of assessment**

- **Common Assessment Framework (CAF):-** The CAF is a shared assessment and planning framework for use across all children's services and all local areas in England. It aims to help the early identification of children and young people's additional needs and promote co-ordinated service provision to meet them.
- **Initial assessment:** - is a brief assessment of each child referred to social care or health services with a request for services to be provided. and should address the dimensions of the Assessment Framework, determining whether the child is in need, the nature of any services required, from where and within what timescales, and whether a further, more detailed core assessment should be undertaken.
- **Core assessment:-** in complex and serious situations a more in-depth assessment may be required. A core assessment addresses the complexity or severity of the child's needs and the capacity of his or her parents or caregivers to respond appropriately to these needs within the wider family and community context. While this assessment is led by social care services, it will invariably involve other agencies or independent professionals, who will either provide information they hold about the child or parents, contribute specialist knowledge or advice to social care services.

### **How will this happen?**

The person carrying out the assessment will meet with you, your child and members of your family. An assessment cannot be made without seeing your child, however young and whatever the circumstances. We can help you best if you tell us about what you do well in your family and your difficulties. The assessment will be carried out using the DOH framework of assessment. **See diagram below.** This will ensure we take into

consideration your child’s developmental needs, parenting capacity, and family and environmental factors.



If other people are already helping you and your family e.g. the health visitor, general practitioner, nursery staff or teachers we will ask your permission to talk to them as well. Any information you give to us will be held in confidence and would not normally be disclosed without your consent. However, the law permits the disclosure of confidential information if it is necessary to safeguard a child or children in the public interest. If this is the case, you will be told what your rights are in this new situation.

**What happens next?**

Families referred to or seeking help from social care services will have differing levels of need, many will be helped by advice or practical services or short term intervention, through making an assessment of your situation, it should be possible to agree with you what help and support you and your family might need, and who could best can give that help in a timely and effective manner. We know that almost all parents want to do their best for their children, and completing the assessment will help the person completing the assessment recognise the strengths you and your family have, as well as your difficulties

North Somerset Partnership has developed four levels of vulnerability and need to assist practitioners to support practitioners making decisions about service thresholds. These levels of need can be used to prioritise and develop a range of support and intervention strategies matched to a child or young person’s needs and strengths. The descriptions used to differentiate between the levels are based on the domains and dimensions of The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families.

<b>Level 1</b> Universal	Children with no additional needs. Children who make good overall progress in all areas of development and receive appropriate universal services.
<b>Level 2</b> Additional Needs	Children with additional needs. Children whose health and development may be adversely affected and who would benefit from extra help in order to make the best of their life chances.
<b>Level 3</b> Complex Additional Needs	Children with complex needs. Children whose health and/or development is being impaired or there is a high risk of impairment.
<b>Level 4</b> Child in Need of Protection	Children who are experiencing significant harm or where there is a likelihood of significant harm.

Children's needs rarely fit into neat categories. Their needs often change over time and may cross different levels. The aim of the assessment is to determine :

- \* if a child is in need
- \* her/his level of needs
- \* if the child meets the eligibility criteria for a service
- \* which needs must be met as a priority; and
- \* for Children's Services to determine which is the most appropriate service to meet these needs

The assessment and decisions will form the basis of a plan of action (including services to be provided) The plan will be reviewed with you and your child on a six monthly basis and refined over time to ensure the agreed outcomes for the child are met and can be measured.

Copies of assessments and plans will be given to you and we will take care to ensure that the meaning and implications of assessments are understood by you and your family.

If you do not agree with what is written in the assessment, there will be an opportunity for you to record your point of view on the assessment record. You may also make a complaint this is made in the first instance to the Team Manager.

Short breaks for Disabled Children  
Eligibility Criteria  
BASED ON THE INTEGRATED WORKING THRESHOLD DOCUMENT

	Level 1- Universal Services	Level 2 – Additional Needs	Level 3 – For children with specialist/complex needs which cannot be met by mainstream or universal services
Assessment: Includes the child and their family's needs.	No assessment required	Assessments accepted include  Common Assessment framework (CAF)  Initial Assessment ( IA)  Education statement (buddy service only)  Assessment from specialist health team.	Assessments accepted include  Common Assessment framework (CAF)  Core assessment  Assessment from specialist health team.
Who completes the assessment?		Assessment can be completed by members of the locality teams /social care/ school / health	Health professional / Disabled Children's team / locality / social care team
Examples of Short Break Services		Services offered will be dependent on individual assessed need:  a direct payment (a cash payment made in lieu of services made to individuals who have been assessed as needing service)  <b>Or</b> Family link scheme  <b>Or</b>	Services offered will be dependent on individual assessed need.  Overnight short break residential <b>or</b> professional carer <b>or</b> Family link scheme  <b>and either</b> Sitting Service (4 hrs per month)  <b>Or</b> Direct Payment.

		<p>Buddy service</p> <p><b>and</b> Saturday Club and/ or play schemes (charges apply)</p> <p><b>and</b> Young carers (run by Crossroads)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If young person is in receipt of overnight short breaks D.P will be paid at level 2.</li> <li>• If young person is not receiving overnight short breaks D.P will be paid at level 3.</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b> Saturday Club and/ or play schemes (charges apply)</p> <p><b>and</b> Young carers (run by Crossroads)</p>
Resources which are available within the community & specialist resources	<p>Youth Clubs</p> <p>Sport &amp; leisure centres</p> <p>Children's Centres</p> <p>After School Clubs</p> <p>Mainstream 'uniformed organisations' e.g. Cubs, Beavers, Scouts, Guides, Girls Brigade.</p> <p>School nurses</p> <p>Health Visitors</p> <p>Parent support Advisors</p>	<p>Locality -Family support team.</p> <p>Occupational therapy (assessment and service e.g. equipment &amp; adaptations)</p> <p>Springboard for pre-school children.</p> <p>Children's centres</p> <p>School nurses</p> <p>Health Visitors</p> <p>Specialist cubs and beavers (held at the Firs Resource Centre)</p> <p>Personal School Advisors</p> <p>Specialist parent support groups (details from Firs</p>	<p>Disabled Children's Team (DCT)</p> <p>Occupational therapy service</p> <p>Health Visitors</p> <p>Personal School Advisors</p> <p>Family Support-Disabled Children's team for children with complex needs that require a service which is regulated by the Care Quality Commission e.g. personal and medical care, physiotherapy, challenging behaviour</p> <p>Specialist School Nurses</p> <p>Specialist Nurse Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service /Learning Disability</p> <p>Specialist cubs and beavers (held at the Firs</p>

		resource centre)	Resource Centre) Specialist parent support groups (details from Firs Resource Centre)
Further information is available from	Family Information Service  Citizens Advice Bureaux  Tourist Information Service	The Firs resource centre (Drove Rd)  The Firs North @ St. Barnabas  Family Information Service  The 'We Can' directory  Children's centres  Locality teams  North Somerset Mencap  National Autistic Society  Downs Syndrome Association	The Firs Resource Centre  Family information service  Disabled Children's team  North Somerset Mencap  National Autistic Society  Downs Syndrome Association
Decision maker: How are decisions made?	Child & Family	Initial request for Direct Payments-resource panel.  Direct Payments review- Deputy Team Manager (DCT)  Occupational therapy – resource panel  Buddy service – Team Manager Sitting service – Team Manager Family link – Team Manager	Direct Payments-resource panel  Occupational therapy – resource panel  Solutions panel

