

Summary Statement in Relation to Nottinghamshire County Council's Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People

Short Breaks

Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide Short Breaks. Short Breaks provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend time away from their primary carers. The prime purpose is to enable disabled children to have fun activities, to meet friends and have experiences outside of school that are similar to non disabled children. Parents and carers get time to rest or to do other activities they value.

Short Breaks include day, evening, overnight or weekend activities and take place in the child's own home, a community setting, the home of an approved carer, or a residential unit which could be provided by health, the local authority or an independent provider.

Access to Short Breaks

Nottinghamshire's Pathway to Provision has been agreed by all partner agencies as the system for families to access additional support for their children. Therefore, this document should be read in conjunction with the Pathway to Provision information available at <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathwaytoprovision>.

Different Types of Short Breaks

Universal

Universal services are those services provided to all children, young people and their families, such as play activities, leisure centres, youth clubs, extended school activities and child care.

All universal services have a duty to respond to the Disability Discrimination Act by ensuring that their services are accessible to disabled children and young people. Universal services may act in a preventative way by reducing the demand for specialist short breaks and other services. For example, the provision of play schemes during the school holidays is likely to reduce the demand for overnight short break services.

Early Intervention and Targeted

Short Break services are additional services required to support disabled children and their families; in other words, short breaks are services over and above the universal services expected and available to all families. All children should access youth clubs, extended schools activities, community

and leisure facilities – however, if additional support is required and the child is supported through a sessional worker service – this may then constitute a short break.

The **Flexible Short Break Scheme** provides a number of hours of support over a year and is for children in the early intervention and targeted groups on the Pathway to Provision. These are disabled children and young people who have significant but less complex needs. These services are intended to provide for children and young people who do not meet the social care threshold for social work intervention and the aim is to support access to ‘universal’ services wherever possible.

A Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment will need to be completed to access the Flexible short breaks Scheme. The **Families Information Service [FIS]** link eligible children to one of the approved providers in agreement with the family.

Families Information Service: 0800 781 2168 8.30am-5.30pm (4.30pm on Friday) or fis@nottscc.gov.uk

Services Include:

- Holiday and other play provision
- Youth services, uniformed groups and parent groups
- Play for Disabled Children Team
- Flexible Short Breaks provided through Clubs, Holiday Provision and Befriending from a range of approved providers

Specialist

For some children and young people, a substantial package or complex package of short breaks including overnight stays will be required to meet their needs. This provision is accessed through the Children’s Disability Social Care Services via a Child in Need Assessment by a Social Worker and provided under Section 17 (6) or Section 20 (4) of the Children Act 1989.

Services include:

- Residential and Family based overnight stays
- Disabled Children Saturday and Holiday Clubs
- Sitting & Befriending provided by Nottinghamshire County Council
- Direct Payment

Nottinghamshire County Council’s Short Breaks provision has been developed with a range of stakeholders including parents, young people, health commissioners and providers, the independent and voluntary sector,

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