

Neath Port Talbot Child Care Disability Team

Short Break Statement

Contents:

Page 3	What Is A Short Break Statement?
Page 3	What Is A Short Break?
Page 4	What Short Breaks Are Available To Me And My Child?
Page 5-	How To Access Short Breaks
Page 6	Criteria For Child Care Disability Team
Page 7	Parents & Young People's Views
Page 7	Contact Details

WHAT IS A SHORT BREAK STATEMENT?

This short break statement is provided for families living in the Neath Port Talbot area who have a disabled child aged between 0-18 years old.

New regulations came into force on the 28th June 2012 called “**Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (Wales) Regulations 2012**”. These regulations provide details on how each Local Authority must perform their duty in the Children Act, 1989 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.

The regulations require each Local Authority to produce a short break service statement so that families in the area they reside know what short breaks are available, any criteria by which eligibility may apply and how the range of services in the area is designed to meet the needs of families in the area.

WHAT IS A SHORT BREAK?

Many parents and carers might have heard of the term short break or respite. These two terms are often used, but can mean the same thing. Short breaks allow parents and carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities. As well as short breaks providing a break from caring for parents, it also gives disabled children opportunities to enjoy social and leisure activities and can help them develop friendships with other children and young people. Also, it may help the child and young person to develop independence skills out of the home.

WHAT SHORT BREAKS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME AND MY CHILD?

There are a number of different types of short breaks available locally which you and your child can access. Below is a table of the range of services which you could access and advice on how you access the service.

Type Of Service	Example Of Service	Access To Service
School Holiday Play Schemes	Specialist play schemes which run through the school holidays, which are specifically designed for disabled children. Mainstream play schemes which are available to all children.	Families can make their own referral to these play schemes.
Direct Payments	A direct payment can be used to employ a personal assistant by a parent and the parent becomes the employer.	You need a social worker to access direct payments. An assessment will need to be undertaken to identify if you or your child needs any support. If a need is identified, you have the option of choosing to receive direct payments to meet that need and become an employer.
Overnight Short Breaks	Park House is a new local overnight short break facility which offers overnight support to children aged 8 and above. We also have a family link service which offers family placements for children with disabilities.	You need a social worker to access overnight respite. An assessment will need to be undertaken to identify if you or your child needs any support.
Individual And Group Support	We can commission services from local and national providers where children can be taken out on a one to one basis or attend a group activity dependent on their needs.	You need a social worker to access this support. An assessment will need to be undertaken to identify if you or your child needs any support.
Specialist Clubs	Local activity club where they have a variety of activities provided everyday and evening for you and your child.	Families can contact this club directly. Information about local activities is also available on the Family Information website.
Specialist Sports Clubs	Neath Port Talbot have a disability sports co-coordinator who runs a variety of sports clubs for disabled children in the local area. They also can advise on support for disabled children to access mainstream clubs.	Families can contact these clubs directly

HOW TO ACCESS SHORT BREAKS

The variety of short breaks available can be accessed as below:

<i>Level Of Support</i>	<i>Access To Service</i>	<i>Examples Of Services</i>
<p>Tier 1 – Universal: Services available to all children and young people.</p>	<p>No assessment required. Referrals can be made directly by a parent to the service – self referral.</p>	<p>After school clubs, sports clubs, cadets, play schemes etc</p>
<p>Tier 2 – Targeted: Services for vulnerable groups or communities who require support to access universal services, preventative services, or referral and assessment to access more intensive levels of intervention. People to have an identified and assessed need.</p>	<p>You may need a social worker to access some of these services.</p> <p>An assessment may need to be undertaken to identify if you or your child needs any support.</p>	<p>Holiday and play schemes – operate from Community, Leisure and specialist centres. Staff will have received specific training</p> <p>Disability Sports Scheme</p>
<p>Tier 3 – Specialist: Specialised community based services for children and young people</p>	<p>You need a social worker to access this support.</p> <p>An assessment will need to be undertaken to identify if you or your child needs any support.</p>	<p>Holiday play schemes – operate from Community, Leisure and specialist centres</p> <p>Services offering group or individual activities.</p> <p>Family Link scheme</p> <p>Direct Payments</p>
<p>Tier 4 – Intensive Specialist: Services for children and young people living away from home, either in hospital, children’s homes, foster care or custody.</p>	<p>You need a social worker or Consultant Medical Practitioner (i.e. Psychiatrist) to access this support.</p> <p>An assessment will need to be undertaken to identify if you or your child needs any support.</p>	<p>Specialist Psychiatric unit. Residential Childrens Home. Local Authority or Independent Foster Agency.</p>

CRITERIA FOR CHILD CARE DISABILITY TEAM

For support to be accessed and an assessment completed by the Child Care Disability Team the below criteria applies:

Children and young people from birth to eighteen years if they are physically or sensory impaired, or have learning disabilities and:

- If their disability means they have significantly greater difficulty with physical, intellectual, social, emotional or educational development than the majority of children of the same age.
- If these difficulties are such that the child requires Social Work assessment/care planning by the Child Care (Disability) Team to:-
 - a) Make effective use of the facilities of a kind generally available for children of the same age.
 - b) Promote every day functioning at home and in the community.
 - c) Access specialist inter-agency help to maximise physical, social, emotional and educational progress.

Physical Disability

- Difficulties with all basic functions of such severity that one-to-one assistance is called for all care needs.
- Physical difficulty or chronic illness resulting in long-term impairment of health or development, even with the provision of drugs, diet or aids.

Learning Disability

- Requiring constant supervision and dependent on others even for basic day-to-day care needs. Broadly based on measured levels of social functioning and social history.
- A permanent learning impairment sufficient to prevent the child/young person from fulfilling roles/activities which are generally understood to be within the capacity of children of that age, social and cultural background.

Visual Impairment

- Blind, no useful vision, partially sighted, visual difficulties sufficient to impair every day activities and/or development despite the use of aids.

Hearing Impairment

- Little or no hearing. Hearing difficulties even with hearing aids. Has, or is likely to have, persistent difficulty with language and communication sufficient to impair development.

PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS

How will short breaks be reviewed in Neath Port Talbot?

It is important that short breaks meet the needs of parents and children and young people in our local area. We constantly review our services by holding reviews when children and young people access short breaks following an assessment. It is important that we gain your views so that everybody is involved in shaping short breaks in the area.

Parents have found short breaks very supportive as it gives them a rest from their caring role. Feedback we have had from children and young people tells us that they enjoy spending time with friends and taking part in events and activities.

CONTACT DETAILS

Child Care Disability Team
Neath Civic Centre
Neath
SA11 3QZ
Telephone : 01639 685862
Email : disabilityadmin@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk