

Cheshire West and Chester Short Break Services Statement

Background

Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2005 requires local authorities to provide short breaks for disabled children. The regulations relating to this duty, which came into force on 1 April 2011 require each local authority to produce a Short Break 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 families with disabled children in the area.

How this Statement was formed

Since the start of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme in 2008 parents have been consulted on a number of occasions, either through face to face discussions or through questionnaires.

This consultation formed the basis for the development and commissioning of additional short break care services for children using the Aiming High Grant and the subsequent Short Breaks Budget.

Parents initially told us that they wanted more activities and groups for their children and more support in the family home.

Since then we have been back to parents and to disabled children and young people to find out their views on the services we are providing, and see what we could be doing better.

Disabled children and young people have told us that they want to spend their free time doing:

- Sports
- Indoor games, including computers

- Music, singing, and dance
- Groups for teenagers
- Trips out

What are short breaks?

- These are services that can help families with a disabled child
- They give disabled children the chance to have time away from their families, make new friends and have fun
- They give parents a break from caring for their child
- They give parents the chance to spend time with their other children

The list gives some examples

- Holiday play schemes
- Play groups
- After school clubs
- Sports clubs
- Youth Clubs

And for children with more complex disabilities

- Help in the family home
- Short break Foster care (known as “short break foster care”)
- Short break overnight care for children at (Pinewood)

Cheshire West and Chester Short Break Care Core Offer

Community based short breaks

Disabled children in Cheshire West and Chester should be able to access community based short break services, such as preschool play groups, out of school clubs, holiday activities, and sports.

Cheshire west and Chester promotes awareness raising and training for providers of community based services.

We are training people who work in, nurseries, play groups and youth clubs, so that they are able to work with disabled children.



For more information about activities for all children please look on the local offer www.westcheshirelocaloffer.co.uk or contact The Family Information Service on 0300 123 7001.

There will be a charge for some of these activities.

Specialist Groups

We know that not all disabled children will be able to attend universal group based activities, so we have commissioned a range of specialist groups.

Details of these groups and the activities they provide can be found on the Local Offer.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria will apply where disabled children require additional services over and above those provided under the Core Offer.

Priority for these services will be as follows

- Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder who have other impairments such as severe learning disabilities or have behaviour which is challenging
- Children and young people with complex health needs which includes those with disability and life limiting conditions who require palliative care services and children with complex health needs and physical, sensory or cognitive impairments
- Children and young people aged with moving and handling needs that will require equipment and adaptations
- Children and young people where challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments (e.g. severe learning disability or mental ill health)

Services will be allocated on the basis of need which has been identified through an assessment. It will not be the degree or level of disability alone that determines eligibility for services, but the interplay of this with parenting capacity, family and environmental factors.

Assessment will be undertaken via a TAF (Team Around the Family), or a Social Worker Assessment.

The table below summarises the criteria.

Short break eligibility criteria

Level of need	Services	Referred by
All disabled children in Cheshire West and Chester should be able to access these services without an assessment. For more information, an early support worker or social worker.	<p>Before and after school clubs Community groups Early years services Holiday activities Play groups Sport Youth service</p>	No referral needed
Children who need a higher level of care and support in day to day activities, such as going to school and after school groups. This will include children who need a higher level of personal care than children of a similar age	<p>Targeted training - training for workers to enable them to care for a child with complex needs, for example tube feeding.</p> <p>Bridging support - a trained worker supports a disabled child at for example a play group. This continues until the workers at the play group are confident and skilled enough to care for the child themselves.</p>	You will need an assessment which can be undertaken by any professional who knows the family and child, e.g. teacher or health visitor.
<p>Children who need a high level of support and care during the day and possibly overnight.</p> <p>Family under stress and there is a risk of family breakdown, and / or safeguarding concerns.</p>	<p>Daytime nursing care. Direct payments.</p> <p>Overnight nursing care. Specialist out of school provision. Sponsored day care.</p>	The assessment will need to be undertaken by a Social Worker. Call I-ART (Integrated Access and Referral Team) to make a referral. 0300 123 7047
Where the child's disability is having a big impact on the carers and family, for example if the parents aren't having enough sleep.	Residential short break care - overnight care for children at Pinewood.	The assessment will need to be undertaken by a social worker. Contact I-ART to make a referral.