



## Introduction

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Short break services are one element of the support offered to disabled children and young people aged 0-19 and their families on the Isles of Scilly. They aim to:

- Support families by giving parents and carers a much-needed break from caring for a disabled child or young person;
- Ensure disabled children and young people can take part in play, youth and leisure opportunities

Section 25 of the Children and Young Person's Act requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. This statement details the range of services available, eligibility, and how families can access this support.

## Definition and Aim of Short Breaks

- Short breaks provide disabled children and young people with an opportunity to learn new skills, have fun with and make new friends, and have enjoyable experiences with or without their parents/carers. At the same time they provide families with a break from their caring responsibilities, giving parents/carers a chance to unwind, rest or spend time with other children.
- Short breaks come in all shapes and sizes, lasting from a few hours to a day or an evening, and provide a positive experience for all.
- They can be a fun short break activity just for your child
- They can support families to enjoy a short break activity together
- They can provide additional support so that an individual child or young person can join a club or recreational activity in their community.

## How this statement has been prepared

We have produced this short breaks statement in partnership with children with disabilities/additional needs and their parents and have made it widely available. This statement has been widely consulted and thereafter approved as part of the wider Children's Social Care Disabilities/Additional Needs Criteria. This statement will be reviewed on an annual basis.



### **Eligibility Criteria.**

Short breaks are available for children and young people who

- Are 0-17 years old
- Live permanently on the Isles of Scilly
- Are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- If not in receipt of DLA, have been assessed by Children's Social Care as having a need.
- Should DLA cease then CSC will be informed immediately by the family in order that the Short Breaks eligibility can be reviewed.

### **Range of short breaks available**

The local authority will provide, so far as is reasonable practicable, a range of services which is sufficient to assist carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively. In particular:

- day time care in the homes of children with disabilities/additional needs or elsewhere
- overnight care in the homes of children with disabilities/additional needs or elsewhere
- educational or leisure activities for children with disabilities/additional needs outside their home
- services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.

We have a range of short breaks provision including:

- Inclusion workers to support children attending the mainstream holiday play scheme and activities
- Inclusion workers to support children to attend play/youth hub sessions to suit all ages of children
- Support for young people to access leisure and social activities
- Bespoke additional opportunities to support long term inclusion in activities.
- Direct payments and personal budgets that can be used for short breaks



Families can choose how they access or use the short breaks budget they receive. This can be in the form of direct payments, a short breaks budget of a set amount held by Children's Social Care which you access and provide receipts for, a budget which is held by Children's social care with which they financially support activities or services or a combination of all three.

### **Allowances**

In order to reduce the number of complex assessments families have to undergo, Children's Social Care has amended their eligibility criteria.

Children who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance will automatically be entitled to a short breaks budget, the amount they receive determined by the level of DLA.

- Those in receipt of the lower level of DLA will receive between £50 and £500
- Those in receipt of the medium level of DLA will receive between £500 and £1500
- Those in receipt of the higher level of DLA will received between £1500 and £4000.

### **How will this be assessed?**

- Cases currently open to Children's Social care will be reviewed in line with DLA allowances. For families not currently in receipt of DLA, support will be offered by Children's Social Care to apply for this. In the meantime, direct approaches can be made to Children's Social Care for interim short breaks payments.
- Cases new to Children's Social Care will take in to account the DLA decision and they will conduct any further assessments if necessary.
- Any support offered to the family over and above for the use of short breaks will be determined through the early intervention pathway, an assessment under Common Assessment Framework, Education, Health and Care Plan or Child In Need. It will be targeted to meet the needs in that plan and funded by Children's Social Care.