

FULL SERVICE OFFER

Aiming High Disabled Children Short breaks implementation guidance. DCSF (2008)

A short breaks service should:

- Be based on a needs assessment of the local disabled child population, taking into account the voice of disabled children, young people and their families (Participation and feedback);
- Offer a significantly greater volume of short break provision set against a 2007-08 baseline, reflecting the additional funding levels available from Government;
- Use fair, understandable and transparent eligibility criteria that enable short breaks to be used as a preventative service and which do not restrict provision to those threatened by family breakdown or other points of crisis (Assessment);
- Offer a wide range of reliable local short break provision, tailored to families needs and including:
 - a) Support for disabled children and young people in accessing activities in universal settings, delivered through the following:
 - support of a befriending, sitting or sessional service;
 - measures that build the skills of universal service providers;
 - measures specific to severely disabled children that are undertaken to meet their physical access requirements in universal settings. These would build on and exceed DDA compliance and ensure that the most disabled are not disadvantaged.
 - b) Overnight breaks, with care available in both the child's own home *and* elsewhere.
 - c) Significant breaks during the day, with care available in the child's own home *and* elsewhere:
- Provide positive experiences for children by promoting friendships and by encouraging social activities, new experiences and supportive relationships with carers;
- Provide culturally appropriate provision that meets the racial, cultural, linguistic and religious needs of disabled children and their families;
- Ensure that provision is available on a planned and regular basis and at the times when families and young people, need breaks – this should include evenings, weekends and holiday provision, and have the capacity to respond to urgent care requirements
- Provide fit for purpose and age appropriate provision which ensures the following groups are not disadvantaged in accessing short breaks:
 - a) Children and young people with ASD. These are likely to have other impairments, such as severe learning disabilities or have behaviour, which

- is challenging. Not all children on the Autistic Spectrum will require specialist additional short break services
- b) Children and young people with complex health needs which includes those with disability and life limiting conditions who have reached the palliative care stage of their life cycle as well as other children and young people with complex health needs as well as other impairments – physical, cognitive or sensory impairments.
 - c) Children and young people aged 11+ with moving and handling needs that will require equipment and adaptations. These children are likely to have physical impairments, and many of them will also have cognitive impairments and / or sensory impairments;
 - d) Children and young people where challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments (e.g. severe learning disability). Children in this group will display behaviour which challenges services or behaviour which causes injury to themselves or others;
 - e) Young people 14+. The young people who fall into this group are you people who are severely disabled and require services that are appropriate to their age.
- Utilise the service provider that offers the best possible combination of skills and experience to deliver services of the highest possible quality to meet individual needs at the most efficient cost; promote information about available provision to the public, including details of eligibility – including threshold criteria – and routes to accessing the service (Information and transparency).