

Short Breaks Statement

EASY
READ

“In Wakefield, the child and their family are at the centre of everything we do and we take an individual approach to make a difference for every child and young person with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.”

November 2018



Who is this Easy Read booklet for?



This guide may be useful if you:

- ✓ have a **learning disability**
- ✓ have a **child who has special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)**



If you don't have a learning disability, this guide can still help you to **understand the support.**



'Children and young people' means anyone from the age of **0 to 25.**

This booklet will tell you about the following things



What are Short Breaks?



Who are Short Breaks for?



How can I find out more about Short Breaks?



Different Types of Short Breaks



Personal Budgets



Managed Accounts and Direct Payments



How to help shape services



What to do if you're worried about Short Breaks

What are Short Breaks?



Short Breaks are services for **children and young people with SEND**



It lets them **experience things that other young people do** at home or in the community



It helps families and carers to carry on supporting children



A Short Break can be **fun activities** in the community, **daytime or overnight care** or services to **help parent/carers**

Short Breaks Statement

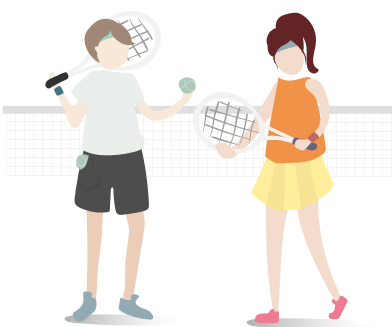


A Short Breaks Statement gives information about **what** a Short Break is, **who** can use them, the different **types available** and **how** can they be used



By law Local Authorities have to offer Short Breaks

How can Short Breaks help?



Short Breaks help children and young people:

- enjoy **fun activities**
- develop **independence**
- spend time with **friends** and make new ones



Short Breaks help families to:

- spend time **together**
- meet and get to know **other families**
- **have a break** from caring responsibilities

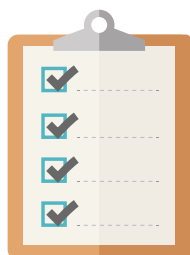
How can I find out more about Short Breaks?



There is **more information** on the [Local Offer Website](#)



Wakefield Early Support Advice Information Liaison (WESAIL) can **give you guidance**



The Council has to keep an up to date **register of disabled children**. In Wakefield the register is known as the **Information Network (IN)**



You will receive **updates and information** when you join the IN. You can join through the Local Offer Website or by calling the SEND Development Team on 01924 302410

Short Breaks – Universal Services



These are available to **all children and young people** in the community



Universal Short Breaks include things like **sports clubs, local parks, Brownies and Scouts**



People who run these have to make **reasonable adjustments** so everyone can attend



You can **find out more** by calling your local community centre, looking at the [Experience Wakefield Website](#), or looking at the [WF Youth Website](#)

Short Breaks – Targeted Services



Targeted services are **especially for children and young people with SEND**



Things like autism-friendly cinema screenings and disability sport groups are **Targeted Services**



Activities and services can be booked **directly with the provider**. More information on the **activities, clubs and play schemes** can be found on the Local Offer Website

Short Breaks – Specialist Services



These are for children and young people with SEND who need **extra help**



The extra help could be things like **medical equipment, personal care** or support from **specialist workers**

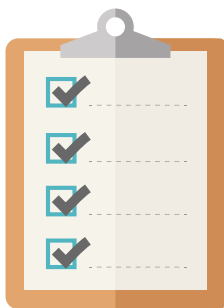


Before you can use these you will need to have **your family's needs assessed**

What is a Care and Support Plan?



After an assessment the parent carer and the worker will create a Care and Support Plan **for the child and family**

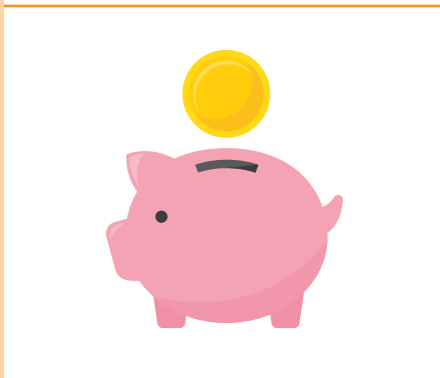


The plan includes:

- what the short break **needs to make better** for you and/or your child
- **what will happen** during the short break
- your **personal budget** for your short break



The assessment goes to the **Education, Health and Care Panel** to agree the budget needed



This is called a **personal budget**

What is a Personal Budget?



A personal budget gives families **control to choose and pay** for the services they need

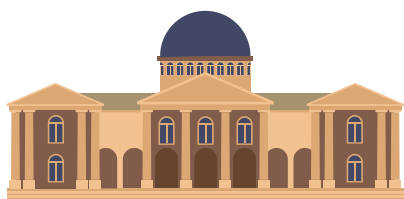


The budget will **cover the cost** of all the **services needed** agreed in the Care and Support Plan

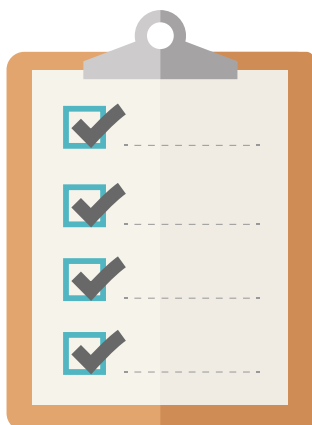


You can choose to get the budget as a **direct payment or a managed account**. You can also have a **mixture of the two**

What is a Managed Account?



This is when **the Council manages** your personal budget for you



The Council can only pay those who are on the **Approved Provider List**. Providers must apply to go on the list to make sure they meet **quality standards**

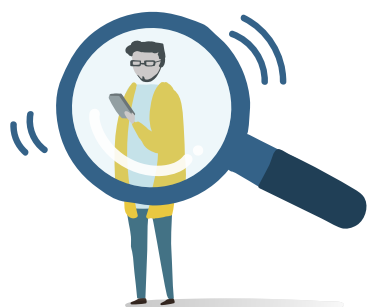


If you need a service from someone who **is not on the list** you would need to take a **direct payment**

What is a Direct Payment?



This is where you **manage** all or part of **your budget yourself**



This includes **finding your own provider** who is not on the Approved Provider List or employing a **personal assistant**



We can provide help with **managing or setting up** direct payments

How can I help to shape services?



We ask **parents, carers, children and young people** to **feedback** through the Local Offer Website or through regular engagement events

What to do if you're worried about a Short Break's Service

If you're not happy with the support you can contact the **Complaints and Representations Team** on:

01924 302840

socialcarecomplaints@wakefield.gov.uk

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