That time of the year...
Cornwall Short Break Statement 2012/2013

This short break statement is for families living in Cornwall who have a disabled child aged 0 -18 years.

It sets out our vision of short break services for families living in Cornwall and simply states who can access a short break and how. We may need to assess your child and family to ensure that we provide the right level of support and short break services.

There is now a duty for Local Authorities to provide a range of short breaks for disabled children under the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011, which came into force on 1 April 2011. These regulations require each local authority to produce a short breaks service statement. It is also important to note that whilst we know that short breaks are a priority for families with disabled children, they should be delivered as part of a broader package of family support services.

Vicki Allan
Disabled Children Commissioning Manager
After Easter 2013 two New Youth Groups for young people 13 - 25 years will start at the following venues:

Camelford Children’s Centre
Camelford PL32 9UE
☎ 01840 770050 - from 19:00 to 21:00

Redruth Youth Centre
Redruth TR15 1TA
☎ 01209 313 322 - from 19:00 to 21:00

and

Friday Night Group - Fourways Youth Centre
Par PL24 2ND
☎ 01726 817132 - Friday 19:00 to 21:00
Cycles for children and adults who have disabilities

Camel Trail Padstow and Wadebridge

From 2013 adapted bikes for hire will be available in Wadebridge and Padstow to support access to the Camel Trail. Please contact directly the Cycle Hire companies on the contact numbers below. Prices from £3.00 to £6.00 per day.

Camel Trail Cycle Hire
Eddystone Road
Wadebridge
Cornwall. PL27 7AL
01208 814104

Padstow Cycle Hire Ltd
South Quay
Padstow PL28 8BL
info@padstowcyclehire.com
01841 533533

These cycles have been funded through Disabled Children’s Aiming Higher Capital funds and are the result of partnership work between Transport Waste and Environment departments of Cornwall Council.
GOT Group - SENSE

Get Out There is a short break provider for young people aged 11-18 years with significant sight impairments and additional complex needs. The group meets at weekends and during school holidays providing a wide range of exciting, fun filled activities. Each activity is specifically adapted to take into account the visual needs of each young person. Due to the complexity of these needs support is always a minimum of 1 to 1.

This ensures that activities are fully inclusive to those attending. All members of the staff team receive monthly training in line with the on going needs of the young people. Two of the staff team have recently won awards through Volunteer Cornwall and the charity which manages Get Out There, Sense.

Samara, Ryan and Ella
GOT Group visit to Trevaskis Farm

The Get Out There (GOT) group visited Trevaskis Farm, near Hayle, for a late Autumn activity. There was still plenty of delicious fruit to pick (and sample) including strawberries, raspberries, blackcurrants and gooseberries.

The young people were given a full guided tour and encouraged to ask questions on all aspects of farm life. For those who had some room left for lunch the group enjoyed sitting outside in the very welcome sunshine. The GOT group is an activity based group for young people with significant sight loss and additional complex needs.

For more information please contact simon.allison@sense.org.uk
Christmas is approaching so I just thought it may be an opportunity to update you all on what has been happening over the last few months. Many of you will have attended our 5th Aiming Higher Conference which continues to be an annual event that gives the LA the opportunity to meet and link with parents and other key stakeholders to share key messages and listen to you about any issues or ideas you may have.

1,553 disabled children have accessed at least one short break service or a service that is funded through the disabled children’s short break programme so far this year!

We have been working closely with Cornwall Parent Carer Council on a number of areas; one being the investment of capital funds which will see Bude offering a range of accessible opportunities for families to access as of spring next year and also the inclusion of four adapted bikes for hire in Wadebridge and Padstow to support access to the camel bike trail, we also have funded some pond dipping platforms for Tehidy Woods which also will be in place by spring 2013.

In the New Year we will be going out to tender for three new services:
- A service for mainstream children and young people who have a diagnosis of ASD to work on developing social skills
- An Approved provider list for domiciliary care services and services to support children with complex health care needs in their homes.

Provided we are successful in awarding these contracts these services will begin from April to August 2013 and will run for 3 years. Cornwall Parent Carer Council for Cornwall members have actively been involved with these service developments and have assisted us in shaping these service specifications. Co-production is key to us working together to continue to best meet the needs of disabled children and their families.

We also are seeking feedback from siblings regarding their views on sibling services going forward so please encourage your young people to respond to the questionnaire that Nettie has sent out return date for responses is Friday the 21st December 2012.

Also I would like to encourage any parent to complete the DCR form, this will support access to information and if you have any queries advice can be given from FIS workers.

I would just like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the year ahead.

Vicki Allan
Disabled Children Commissioning Manager
Disabled Children & Therapy Service

Vision

The most vulnerable children and young people in Cornwall, particularly children with special educational needs and disabilities, children in need of protection, children in care and care leavers, will be safeguarded and supported to achieve a better life for themselves and a brighter future.

All children and young people with disabilities are children first and have the same rights as others in their peer group to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, have access to economic well-being, and to be able to make a positive contribution to their communities.

Disabled Children & Therapy Service

The Disabled Children & Therapy Service is a specialist, multi-disciplinary and statutory social care service that undertakes assessments and provides services at the acute and complex level of need.

The Service supports disabled children, young people and their families whose main need for services arises from their disability or their intrinsic condition, and where these conditions have a substantial or critical impact on the quality of the child’s/young person’s life or/and the lives of their families. The Service intervenes where their needs cannot be fully met by universal and targeted services alone.

For more information please contact:
Yvette Yates
Senior Manager Disabled Children & Therapy Services
0300 1234 101
We have a range of Assistive Communication Equipment available for hire. This equipment may support staff and parents to communicate with disabled children more effectively.

This equipment can also support providers and parents to capture the voice and views of disabled children.

Access to equipment will support parents to try different materials which may assist their child to communicate more effectively.

For further information please contact aiminghigher@cornwall.gov.uk
Active 8 took a group of young people with physical disabilities for a trip of a lifetime to the Paralympics. World class sport, played by people with a range of physical abilities was inspirational and many of the group have come back wanting to be more active and try new sports. We were privileged to watch wheelchair basketball, racing, athletics, wheelchair tennis, 5-a-side football, sit ball and Boccia to name a few.

Whilst the sport was amazing, it was only part of the trip. For many it was the first time they had used London public transport, had their makeup done by professionals or been on the London Eye.

Was it worth all the organising, hours sat on mini buses and lack of sleep due to getting so caught up in the sport that we didn’t want to leave? Most definitely. Some of the young people as a consequence have changed their choice of study; volunteers are making changes in their work settings to be more inclusive from what they learnt from the group; role models have inspired and will continue to do so; and most importantly, everyone had an amazing time at a once in a lifetime event with many happy memories. Thank you to the Disabled Children & Therapy Services for helping to make this happen.

After all the excitement what is next?

- **Acceler8**, formally known as ‘project Active8’, will be starting a new group in April 2013. The group is for 14-17 year olds with physical but no learning disabilities that live in Cornwall.
- **After8**, for the 16 yrs+, have planned out 2013’s activities including a festival and lots of socialising.
- A Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition is in the pipeline.
- Young people participate in developing services within the council and other organisations, plus have a laugh and social, with Influence with Advocacy.
- Last but not least, one or two Boccia clubs are being set up to start in the New Year!

If you would like to know more information about Active 8 and its projects please contact josey@active8online.org 07800878042

www.active8online.org
If you would like to e-mail us pictures that show how much fun you and your family have had at any of our events you too could be on our Wall of Fame!

aiminghigher@cornwall.gov.uk
Within Cornwall, we are proud of our progress to ensure that the nationally recognised Early Support approach is embedded within professional practice. This means we are more focussed on ensuring the parent, child and young person’s voice is listened to. Professionals and services aim to support families of disabled children based on families’ priorities. For families who are registered with us, we hold regular multi-agency meetings where parents and young people can meet with those practitioners involved with supporting them, having a lead professional allocated to act as a single point of contact. In Cornwall we feel privileged to have a dedicated Early Support team who continue to provide support through the co-ordination of services, leading to better service planning and provision, access to condition specific information and more recently support to families who have transferred from the Disabled Children and Social Work team. If you would like to find out more about Early Support, please contact your local co-ordinator, all contact details can be found on the Family Information Service website. www.cornwallfisdirectory.org.uk

Rebecca Pollington
Early Support Development Co-ordinator
The Disabled Children’s Record is now located within the Family Information Service, to register please go to the FIS website on: www.cornwallfisdirectory.org.uk

You can register online and complete the Care Pathway if you require an includer for any activities.

Alternatively you can ring FIS on: 0800 587 8191 and one of the FIS workers will support you throughout the process.

If you need any information regarding Aiming Higher please contact:

aiminghigher@cornwall.gov.uk

For the Disable Children’s Record Form please contact the Family Information Service on:

FIS@cornwall.gov.uk or 0800 587 8191

If your query is regarding any activities please contact the providers directly.