Children, Young People and Families a BRIGHTER future

Barnsley Short Breaks Statement 2019 - 2020
A summarised version of this statement can be accessed from the Family Information Service.

This document reflects the vision of the Barnsley Children and Young People’s Trust (CYPT) which is to ensure children and young people in Barnsley, who are disabled or who have complex health (including palliative) care needs, receive co-ordinated, high quality child and family-centred services. These services are based on assessed need, provide choice, promote social inclusion and prevent social isolation. Short breaks form part of a continuum of services that support disabled children and their families.

**Short breaks are provided to:**

- Give disabled children and young people enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, thereby contributing to their personal and social development, and ensuring they do not become socially isolated.

and

- Give parents and families a necessary and valuable break from caring responsibilities. These include day, evening, overnight and weekend activities, and can take place in the child’s own home, the home of an approved carer, or a residential or community setting.

Short breaks come in a variety of formats and each one can last from just a few hours to a few days, and occasionally longer. Short breaks should promote health, independence and inclusion, whilst recognising and valuing the child and their family’s choice and preference.

Local authorities are required to provide breaks supporting families to care for their disabled children at home and allowing them to do this as well as possible. It is important to make sure that short breaks meet the needs of all parent and carers. Some parents/carers would be unable to provide care at all without a short break. Other parents/carers would be able to care for their disabled child more effectively if they were given a short break that enabled them to take part in leisure activities, spend more time with other children in the family or carry out day to day household tasks.

A range of breaks should be provided by the local authority and the local authority must provide information including:

- the range of short break services provided in the local area
- how eligibility for short break services will be assessed and
- how the range of services are designed to meet the needs of parent and carers in the area
• Barnsley’s current population is approximately 243,000; of which, around 22.6% (55,000) are children and young people aged 0-19. 
  *(based on 2017 mid-year population estimates).*

• Around 34,000 (14%) of the population of Barnsley are school age children, of which:-
  
  21,507 attend primary school (including nursery)  
  11,549 attend secondary school (including 6th form)  
  414 attend special educational provision (including years 12 and 13).  
  *(source January 2017 school census)*

• Of the children who attend school, the number with Special Educational Needs is reported as:-
  
  3,036 in Primary schools (14.1%)  
  *(2,645 SEN Support, 391 statemented/Education Health Care Plans)*  
  1,346 in Secondary schools (11.7%)  
  *(1,027 SEN Support and 319 statemented/Education Health Care Plans)*  
  414 in Special schools (100%)  
  *(3 SEN Support and 411 statemented/Education Health Care Plans)*  
  *(source January 2017 school census)*

• The 2017 school census shows that 4,796 children have a “long term disability” or illness which significantly limits their daily lives. The information below shows the disabilities of the 4,796 children broken down into primary type:

  1,541 - moderate learning difficulties  
  986 - emotional and mental health difficulties  
  901 - language and communication needs  
  433 - autistic spectrum disorders  
  123 - severe learning difficulties  
  299 - specific learning difficulties  
  43 - profound and multiple learning difficulties  
  80 - hearing impaired  
  54 - visually impaired  
  7 - multisensory impairments  
  78 - SEN Support but no specialist assessment  
  132 - physical disability  
  119 - other difficulty/disorder  
  *(source January 2017 school census)*

• Nationally the incidence of autism spectrum disorders is rising and is now reported to be around 1 in every hundred children *(ChiMat).*

Lots of work is currently taking place to develop our local needs assessment in relation to SEND and on completion will be included within this statement and the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Barnsley).
In addition to the short breaks programme of provision the Disabled Children’s Team within BMBC provide support to parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities and complex needs. This sits alongside a wider support offer which includes CAMHS, Early Help, Targeted Youth Support, Learning Disability Support, and Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services which includes Mindspace and TADS. Support is also available for parent carers via the adult carers’ service.

Consultation and the Development of Short Breaks

Barnsley’s short breaks service was developed in consultation with professionals and disabled children, young people and their families. The consultation with children, young people and families highlighted that they wanted to do what other children do and feel part of their community, not apart from it. It emphasised the need for improved access to universal and specialist play and leisure activities, such as holiday schemes, weekend and after school clubs and youth clubs, more personalised packages of support, and more information about what was available.

The service undertakes regular tendering exercises to refresh the programme of group based short breaks activities. The delivery of group activities takes place alongside work to further personalise services and build a short breaks programme which supports increased choice and control for Barnsley families.

The refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan and SEND Strategy will provide opportunities to engage key stakeholders in engagement activity throughout the year and this will be incorporated into the next statement refresh.

Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

All the short break services are required to have regard to the local child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures. All staff and carers receive relevant child protection and safeguarding training. Any concerns reported about a child’s welfare when accessing services is addressed in line with the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board procedures. All short breaks providers are subject to contract monitoring arrangements to ensure service quality.

Access to Short Breaks Provision and Barnsley’s Short Breaks Offer

Universal services are those services that are available to all children and their families. Under the Equality Act 2010, universal providers are required to make reasonable adjustments to enable children with disabilities to attend. Access to universal services, such as youth clubs, extended school activities, early years setting and play schemes is key to ensuring disabled children have fun and enjoy the same things as other children and young people.

The Family Information Service provides a starting point for finding a range of activities available for children and young people, and will provide advice about reasonable adjustments. Information can also be found on Barnsley’s Local Offer website. Parents can also access a monthly short breaks
drop in facilitated by a representative from the Disabled Children’s Team, Families Information Service and representatives from service providers.

Family Information Service Website:  http://fsd.barnsley.gov.uk

From this website you will be able to access the SEND Local Offer

The Barnsley Children and Young People’s Trust support universal play and leisure providers to provide inclusive provision. However, for some disabled children, there can be barriers to them being able to do the same activities as non-disabled children. Disabled children and their families commonly face social and environmental barriers to enjoying opportunities their non-disabled counterparts take for granted. Additional support is needed to ensure disabled children and young people don’t miss out on these everyday experiences. Where this applies, a disabled child and family can access and activity-based short break without having to have an assessment.

A short breaks access and allocation process (Short Breaks Panel) is in place. This is a transparent and equitable process which promotes a social model of disability. The Family Information Service provides information and support to enable access to the Short Breaks Panel which is held every month. Any professional involved with the child can refer on the family’s behalf, families can also self-refer.

The Panel is chaired by the Team Manager for the Disabled Children’s Team. It is attended by:

- Lead Commissioning Offer (Children)
- Service Manager Provider Services
- Family Support Worker (DCT)
- Family Information Officer
- Representatives from Commissioned Provisions
- Children’s Home Manager
- SEN / Health Representative
- Business Support Officer and Business Development Officer

The short breaks core offer is:

- Up to two hours per week in term time and five hours a week in school holidays if a child cannot attend universal provision and does not receive any other short break services.

Support to access this can be through self-referral or professionals can also refer on the family’s behalf. The completed application form will be presented to short breaks panel.

The next level is Tier 2 for families who need more support than the core offer:

- This is up to five hours per week term time and 10 hours per week in school holidays.
The child must have an Early Help Assessment or Education, Health and Care Plan in place. The application to panel will need to identify why the child needs this additional support and the type of activity the child would like to access. It is important that the short breaks panel have good information about what the child/young person enjoys and the type of activity they would like to access. Visit to explore the range of provision available are encouraged.

**Contact the Families Information Service on 0800 0345 340 or email shortbreaksECS@barnsley.gov.uk to request an application form and access support to make a referral.**

For families needing more than the second level of support a full social work assessment is needed. Tier 3 Support could include:

- Overnight stays
- Direct payment/Personal Budget
- Additional community provision
- Homecare

**Contact details for the Disabled Children’s Team: 01226 774050**

All services provided under the short breaks provision will be subject to review by the service provider, lead practitioner or social worker within an agreed period, to identify if support is still needed and appropriate.

**Barnsley’s Current Short Break Provision**

**Barnsley’s current provision includes:**

- Child-minding and early years settings (family centres/nursery/play groups/holiday clubs)
- Positive Activities – specialist youth club provision across Barnsley
- Barnsley Football Club - a weekly session and holiday programmes
- Adventure Play - outdoor provision
- Snap Tin - cooking provision
- Sibling Support - specialist sibling support to children growing up with a disabled brother or sister
• R Club - holiday club for children with profound and complex physical disabilities and health needs.
• Fostering - overnight provision provided by the Local Authority Fostering Service
• Newsome Avenue - overnight residential provision
• Direct payments scheme and the option of a personal budget

More about individual short breaks services...

**Barnsley Football Club** provide multi sports sessions for children and young people aged 8-18 with a disability in school holidays and weekends during term time. Children are encouraged to take part in small group activities and team sports and make new friends to develop social skills and interactions. All the staff have experience of working with children with a disability and they employ support staff to assist with meeting any additional needs. The project manager is always happy to look at new programmes of activity and plans to develop the service offer in line with the interests of the children and young people who already access or would like to access the service. This includes trying to increase the number of girls involved.

**The R Club** offers short breaks in school holidays at Priory Campus Family Centre for children and young people aged 5 – 18 with complex physical disabilities. The sessions are staffed by trained and experienced assistants to ensure needs are fully met. Nursing support is also available for children with complex health needs. Activities include use of a fully equipped sensory room, outdoor space, arts and crafts, group activities, social interaction and music.

**Outdoor Activities** provided by Naturewood aim to offer children with additional needs access to the outdoors and to enjoy the wonders of nature. Activities include: BBQ’s, games, fire building, den making, tree climbing, camping, crafts and treasure hunts.

**Positive Activities** provide a targeted short breaks programme for children and young people aged 8-25 with mild to moderate learning difficulties or disabilities. There is a weekly timetable of youth group activities for different age ranges which run at a number of venues across the Borough. Activities can include; computer games, physical activities, arts and crafts, cooking, or just relaxing with friends.

The group aims to:

• Promote positive social interaction.
• Build confidence, self-esteem, independence and resilience.
• Provide opportunities to learn new skills and develop friendships.
• Provide sibling support groups.

**Snap Tin** provides an enjoyable fully inclusive Shop, Cook and Eat experience for young people with disabilities. The children choose what they would like to prepare for their lunch and shop for their ingredients. They are then supported to prepare their chosen lunch following basic food hygiene methods; staff encourage all children to choose healthy meals using fresh produce.
All activities will take place in an enjoyable, informal setting, and are fully supported; needs are assessed and the young person will be stretched, challenged and encouraged to take an active role in the planning of activities. The activities will also provide opportunities for service users to meet new people and establish new friendships.

**Early Years Short Break Provision** enables children in the early years age group (0-5) are able to access their short breaks via a childminder or an early years setting such as a nursery. If they already access such a setting it is possible, for continuity, to arrange for them to access their short break there too. All settings providing short breaks will receive the relevant training or support to ensure all children feel fully included and all their needs are met.

Children over the age of 5 can access holiday clubs and schemes, out of school clubs and childminders where appropriate. The Information and Involvement Officer for Children and Young People with Disabilities can support finding a suitable setting.

Some short break opportunities are only available to children who have been allocated a social worker after a full social care assessment. These include:

**Newsome Avenue overnight respite home** is in Wombwell. It provides short break packages of care to children and young people, aged 5-17 years, who have disabilities and complex health needs. Newsome Avenue is a warm friendly environment where children and young people have the opportunity to engage in positive activities and spend time with friends.

The home is registered with Ofsted, its overall rating of good and it is managed by Barnsley Council -People Directorate

**Respite Foster Carers for overnight short breaks.** The Fostering Service have a small number of dedicated foster carers with experience with children with complex needs who are able to offer overnight short breaks in a family setting. This short break would need to be commissioned on an individual basis.

**Direct payments and personal budgets** are cash payments to parents. The payments are an alternative to having services provided or arranged by the local authority or the local Clinical Commissioning Group. Parents can use their budget to purchase the support their child needs. These needs are determined by a health, social care, or education assessment. The Disabled Children’s Team can provide more information.

What parents and children have said about short breaks in Barnsley:

- ‘I have fun and enjoy the activities, my favourite things to cook is macaroni cheese. Today I baked buns and cakes’

- ‘G has developed more confidence meeting the public and he has supported other young people who have accessed the provision and has become more tolerant and understanding of the needs and disabilities of others.’
• ‘I feel happy and included, my favourite thing today was cricket but my favourite sport is football. I have had a good day’

• I enjoy all of the activities but archery was my favourite thing today. I like coming here and I have made friends that I play with’

• ‘Short breaks are really valuable to me especially in the school holidays; I can’t think of anything that could improve them’

• ‘I like going to Outdoor Activities and I enjoy everything that we do; my favourite times are when we are playing and making the fire’

• I think Snap Tin is it a very good provision as an activity for special needs children. My son has no real friends and is therefore isolated in the school holidays from his peer group. When he attends in the holidays he ‘belongs’ somewhere and he calls it his ‘job’.