

The London Borough of Hackney's

Short Breaks Statement 2018/19



This 'statement' provides an overview of:

- The range of Short Breaks services available to disabled children and their families
- Eligibility Criteria
- Short Breaks provision
- Consultation with children, young people and their families
- Where to get a copy of this statement

The London Borough of Hackney's Short Breaks Statement

"I am delighted to endorse the Short Breaks provision in Hackney. The provision provides disabled children and young people with experiences that are both enjoyable and educational and includes a range of leisure and therapeutic activities. In designing our provision we also aim to give carers a break from their responsibilities. Our partnership arrangements ensure families are offered choice and flexibility and as part of our commitment to ongoing improvements we will continue to look at ways in which we can develop our offer to meet the needs of the disabled children and their families here in Hackney."

Anne Canning, Group Director Children, Adults and Community Health

"As head of SEND I am incredibly pleased with the success of the Short Breaks service available to children and young people in Hackney especially the take up of Individualised Budgets that is enabling families to take control. What has been exciting is that more children and young people are signing up for short breaks to make a difference in their lives."

Toni Dawodu, Head of SEND

This information is for families living in the London Borough of Hackney who have a disabled child aged 2-17 years. Short Breaks forms one element of the support offered in Hackney to disabled children, young people and their families. Hackney council works in partnership with Homerton to deliver Short Breaks services and support to disabled children, young people and their families in the Borough.

- **London Borough of Hackney** – Short Breaks Team - consists of a Project Coordinator and service support officer and part-time administrator, based at Hackney Learning Trust.
- **The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)** provide Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust with funds to support health integration - The 'Health Integration Team 'formerly known as the HIT Squad'

based at Hackney Ark (this is a multi-disciplinary team, including a Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist, a Speech & Language Therapist and a Clinical Psychologist who aim to support disabled children access the widest possible range of short breaks in their area)

What's a Short Break?

A short break is defined as any daytime social or leisure activity or service that both allows a disabled child or young person to have an enjoyable break away from their main carer, and gives their carer a break from their caring responsibilities. They enable disabled children and young people to have the chance to develop new friendships, take part in new experiences and to have fun doing positive activities like sports, music, youth clubs and much more.



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Introduction

Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. Regulations relating to this duty came into force on 1st April, 2011 and require each local authority to produce a short breaks services statement so that families know what services are available, the eligibility criteria for these services and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of the families with disabled children in this area. This updated statement will enable children, young people and their families to know about the range of services available, the eligibility criteria for these services, and how to access the range of short breaks provision available. It will link to the local offer website www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk so that families and young people have more opportunities to know what is available.

Universal Services and Inclusion

It's Hackney's philosophy that disabled children and young people should be able to access universal services, experience fun and enjoy themselves with friends just the same as other children and young people. We continue to explore new ideas for developing our range of short breaks including specialist and non-specialist services in universal settings. To facilitate this we use the Health Integration Team to support individuals and families into settings, and ensure services are designed and equipped to enable all children and young people can enjoy the same activities and opportunities together.

Children with a disability that are aged 2-4 years old, are supported into an age appropriate setting such as a children's centre, nursery provision or other inclusive settings available in Hackney.

Eligibility Criteria

Short Breaks *Lite* is an unassessed service, therefore a child or young person needs to meet our simple eligibility criteria:

- Age between 5 – 17 years old
- Live in Hackney on a permanent basis
- Be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance* at Middle or High Rate care component or if you receive PIP at Intermediate or Advanced
- Provide an original copy of your child's Disability Living Allowance (DLA) award letter or PIP award letter which covers the current year.

**If your disabled child is aged 0-17 and you require more support than the Short Breaks Lite offer, you can request a social care assessment. Call FAST on 020 8356 5500.*

We continue to review our offer and from 1st July 2017, we implemented a different way to work with the younger age group to ensure that they receive a short break for their current needs (please see flowchart).

Capital funding

We have in the past used our capital funding to improve the quality of universal and specialist settings for disabled children and young people, so there are many more settings that can be accessed. It is in our aim to improve the quality and quantity of activities available. The Health Integration Team continues to directly train settings and staff across the borough to enable children and young people to access a wider range of sports, leisure and play activities and enrich the quality of their experiences. For example, we provided equipment and training to Kench Hill Centre which has enabled all children the opportunity to attend with their peers and as individual families for holiday breaks.

Young people said.....

“Things I have enjoyed are dressing up for Halloween, going to Kids adventure playground and to the cinema”
How it helped me...”Giving me a chance to go on buses and getting used to the dark and being patient.”

Over 1,100 children and young people have signed up for the Short Breaks Offer. This number includes 270 children known to the Disabled Children's Service (DCS) who are also benefiting from Short Breaks alongside their care package.

This means that we have successfully reached over 75% of the children in Hackney who are eligible for Short Breaks (1,900 in total according to Nomis data reference).

We have increased our efforts to ensure that more children are able to access these services. The funding for the Councils Short Breaks schemes comes from the Early Intervention Grant given to the Council by the Government. In Hackney this funding has continued to be made available to deliver this statutory provision.

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Children's Centre and Early Years Offer for children under 5 years

- Portage (education home visiting service) & Portage stay & play at Hackney Ark.
- SEND Stay, Play, advice and support with DLA application drop-in at (Comberton, WW and C Children's Centre TBC).
- Toy Library at children's centres.
- Physio drop-in at Lubavitch Children's Centre.
- Sensory play at Comet, Morningside, Lubavitch, Linden, Tyssen and Clapton Park Children's Centres
- Easter & Summer targeted respite.
- Group for children with Down Syndrome at Linden Children's Centre.
- Dietetic weaning and eating advice and support at children's centres.
- Speech and language therapy Talking-walk in sessions at children's centres.

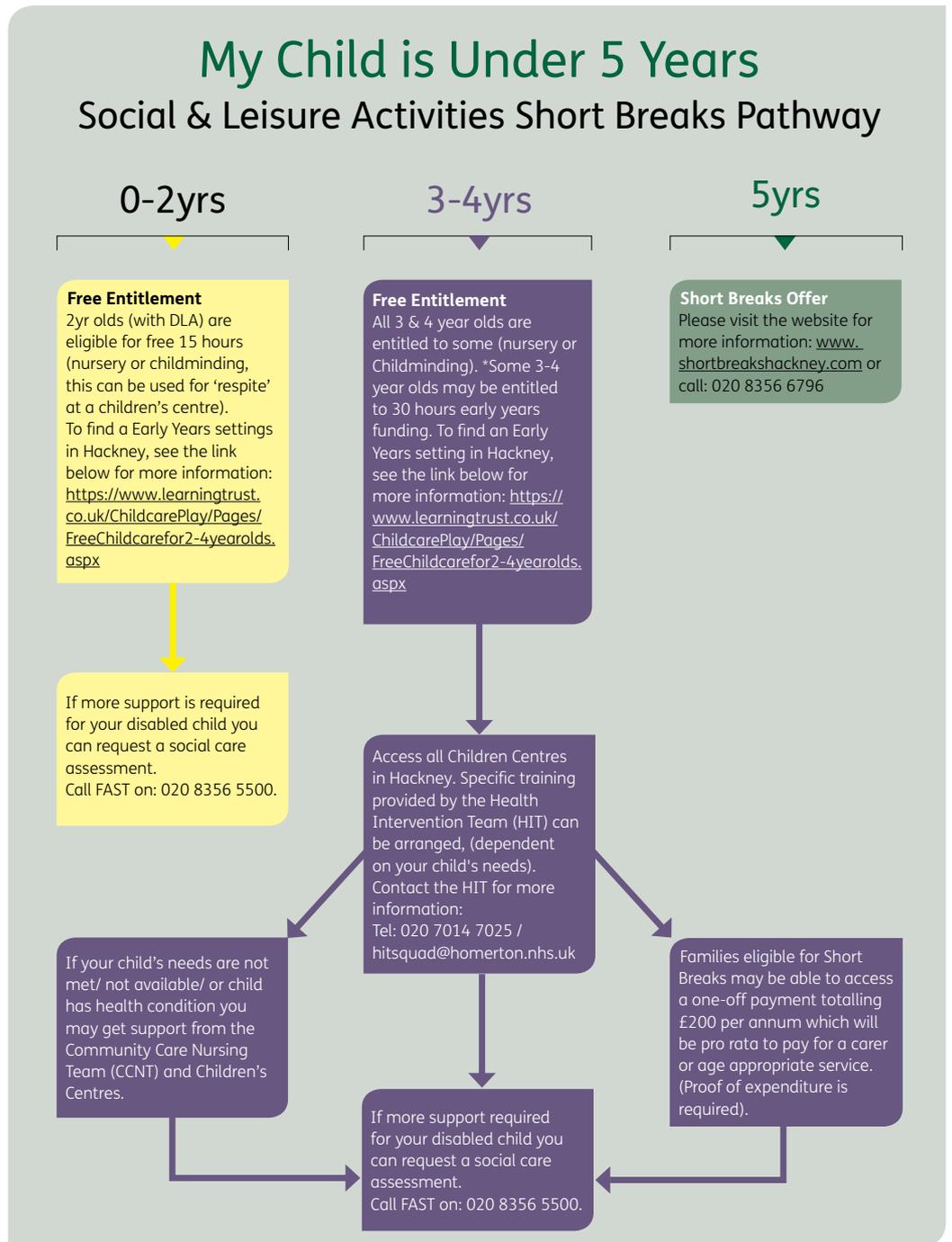
For more support, speak to your local children's centre.

Short Breaks Health Integrated Team can also offer support

The Short Breaks Health Integrated Team (HIT) is a team of health professionals who work with activity providers to help children access and enjoy their chosen short break.

They can:

- Provide information about local leisure activities. They have a directory of activities that families using the Ark have accessed.



- Accompany children and young people on the first visit to their chosen activity. This can include evenings & weekends.
- Offer advice & support to organisations/ leisure facilities to help them meet the child's particular needs.
- Offer free training to play workers and staff working in local leisure facilities around disability awareness and strategies to

- support children with additional needs.
- Provide information around possible funding sources for play equipment at home.

They work with mainstream activities and with activities particularly geared to those with special needs. Referrals are accepted from parents, professionals and activity providers.

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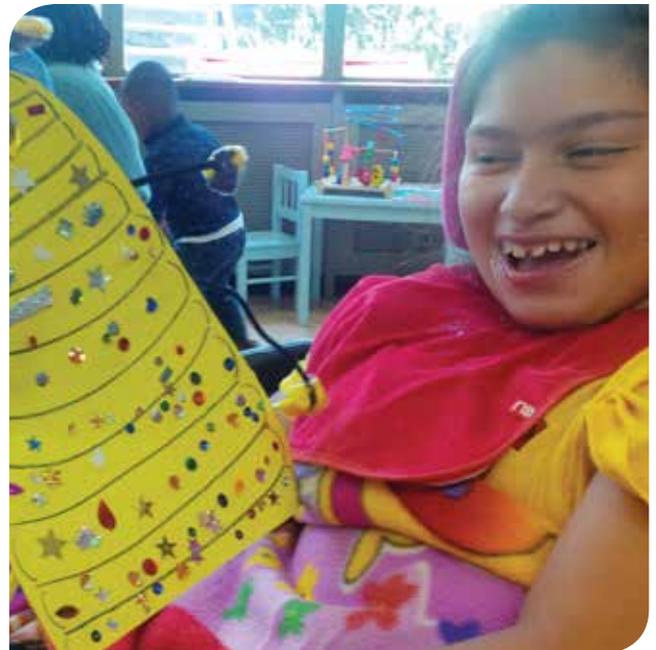
Short Breaks Lite Provision

We have based 2018/19's short breaks Offer on feedback we received from young people, parents, carers and providers. The offer is determined yearly based on demand and funding. The current short break offers:

- **110 hours** to be used flexibly until 31st March 2019

- If you receive a social care package you will receive **55 hours** to use flexibly until 31st March 2019

Children and young people that sign up for the short breaks provision offer later on in the year will receive provision on a pro-rata basis; more details of this are available from the Short Breaks team.



The range of Short Breaks available

Short Breaks Lite:

- Holiday play schemes (including school)
- Specialist after school clubs
- Specialist weekend clubs
- After school and weekend clubs based at universal setting
- 1 to 1 outreach support in the home and out in the community
- An Individual Budget (IB) on a prepaid card

Short Breaks Disabled Children's Service (DCS)

The following require a social care assessment.

Please contact FAST on: 020 8356 5500

- An agency carer in the home and out in the community, evenings, weekends and school holidays
- Direct payments
- Overnight care



Individualised Budget

Families can receive their allocation of hours in the form of a personal budget which can be used to purchase a service of their choice.

In summer 2017 we introduced prepaid cards to enable families an easier way to record expenditure and keep track of their spending.

For children and young people with additional complex health support needs the CCG offers a specialist service to meet their needs and enable them to access a short breaks service: **'Funday' club at Kids Adventure Playground** supported with nursing staff for those with additional health needs that find it difficult to access other provisions. (This service can be accessed through the Health Integration Team).

For more info on what is available in Hackney please visit our website: <http://www.shortbreakshackney.com/> or www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk

Parents/carers said....

"The club has exceeded all our expectations. I wanted my child to be included, accepted and develop social skills and I feel that this has been achieved."

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Consultation

How the range of short breaks has been decided to date and how the current arrangements will be reviewed in the future

The Council's Short Breaks services are commissioned based on child/parental choice. Our commissioning model enables families to make individual choices as to which play provision they wish to use.

This means our services are now delivered in a smarter, more flexible way. Hackney's provisions reflect the feedback obtained during consultation held with children, young people and their parents/carers about their needs and wishes.

We have carried out a series of regular consultation events including at the beginning of the project in January 2009, the Short Breaks family fun day in February 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Families completed a questionnaire that went out with the September 2012 newsletter and joint provider and parent consultation day so that we develop the market to meet a varied delivery of short breaks provision.

We most recently held parent feedback events and sent out an online survey. Our providers also collect feedback from service users throughout the year which they report to us so we have an on-going overview of what children enjoy. We understand that people's views can change and



Young people said....

"It has not been easy to get someone to look after Harvey while I'm at college but KIDS Outreach has made it possible. The flexibility of the service has enabled me to concentrate on my studies without having to worry about picking Harvey up from school...I would like to thank Harvey's worker for her reliability and the level of care she provides."

develop over time and so we are keeping the range of short breaks under review to make sure they continue to reflect what children, young people and parents tell us they would like. With the short breaks website fully established views and feedback can be left on the site which we will act upon. Feedback is always welcome at the following contact: short.breaks@hackney.gov.uk or 020 8356 6796.

We continue working with parent/carers through our parents forum to understand what they would like to see being offered and we have consulted with our parent groups about this statement. Parents' have always been involved in planning of Hackney's services and there are four parent representatives on the Short Breaks Project Board who are involved in decision-making at every stage as we manage the short breaks offer. There are three parent groups within Hackney and they can be contacted at:

Hackney Independent forum for parents (HIP)

- 07985 739851 or info@hiphackney.org.uk or visit their website at www.hiphackney.org.uk

In Touch (for Orthodox Jewish parents) – Ester Emmanuel on 020 8806 8033 or intouchgroup@googlemail.com

Minik Kardes Carers Action Group (CAG)

For Turkish speaking carers
020 7923 7226 or Duygu.Borazanci@learningtrust.co.uk

How we developed the Short Breaks Offer

Over the last six years we have done a lot of work to increase the range of activities offered.

Through the Health Integration Team, we have provided extra training to a number of different groups of staff across the borough to equip specialist and universal settings to develop their skills to enable accessibility for children and young people with a disability. This means there are even more universal services in Hackney who have the skills to enable disabled children and young people to access them. This includes children's centres, youth clubs, leisure centres, adventure playgrounds, after school and weekend clubs.

An Individual Budget (IB) via a prepaid card is also available to all of our families. This is where families can utilise a personal budget which is given to them in the form of a lump sum payment into their bank account, to purchase the

“For a lot of families it is the difference between coping and not coping.”

Chippy, Step by Step

service of their choice. Since the introduction of Individual Budgets in 2012, we have seen a large increase and in 2017 we have over 600 families that have chosen to access their short breaks via this option, this is nearly 70% of our client base.

A constant theme in the feedback we received from families has shown us that the biggest demand is for flexible provision. In response we have placed this at the centre of this year's provision offer and allow families to use their 110 hours flexibly throughout the year to suit them and their child's needs. We know that many families require help with transport in order for their child to easily access their short break, which is why all of our commissioned services following assessment provide transport to and from the session or support families with travel planning or training.



Where to get this Statement

This Statement demonstrates how Hackney's families would receive support from Short Breaks services, London Borough of Hackney, CCG and Hackney Learning Trust. Hackney will continue to ensure that the voices of children and young people, parents, carers, are heard and their views captured with on-going consultation throughout the year.

Publication of this Statement

More detailed information on all of the above is available on www.hackney.gov.uk/children-with-disabilities or www.shortbreakshackney.com

Our Short Breaks Statement is published on the Local Authority website and a printed copy is available upon request.

Copies will be available in all of our special schools, autistic resource bases and provided to SENCOs in all Hackney schools and the Local offer website.

Review of this Statement

We will continue to use on-going consultation with our children and young people and our parent forums to update and improve our services so we can ensure our Short Breaks provision continues to reflect the needs of children and young people and their families living in Hackney. This Statement will be reviewed annually and we welcome feedback from parent/carers of disabled children. Our contact details are:

Short Breaks Disabled Children's Service
Hackney Learning Trust
Technology & Learning Centre
1 Reading Lane
London E8 1GQ
Tel: 020 8356 6789

The Short Breaks team hold drop in surgeries at Hackney Learning Trust (address above) on Thursdays.

Contact 020 8356 6786.

Supporting documents which provide detailed information on the development and delivery of the Short Breaks service in Hackney can be found on the Hackney Council website and at the links (below):

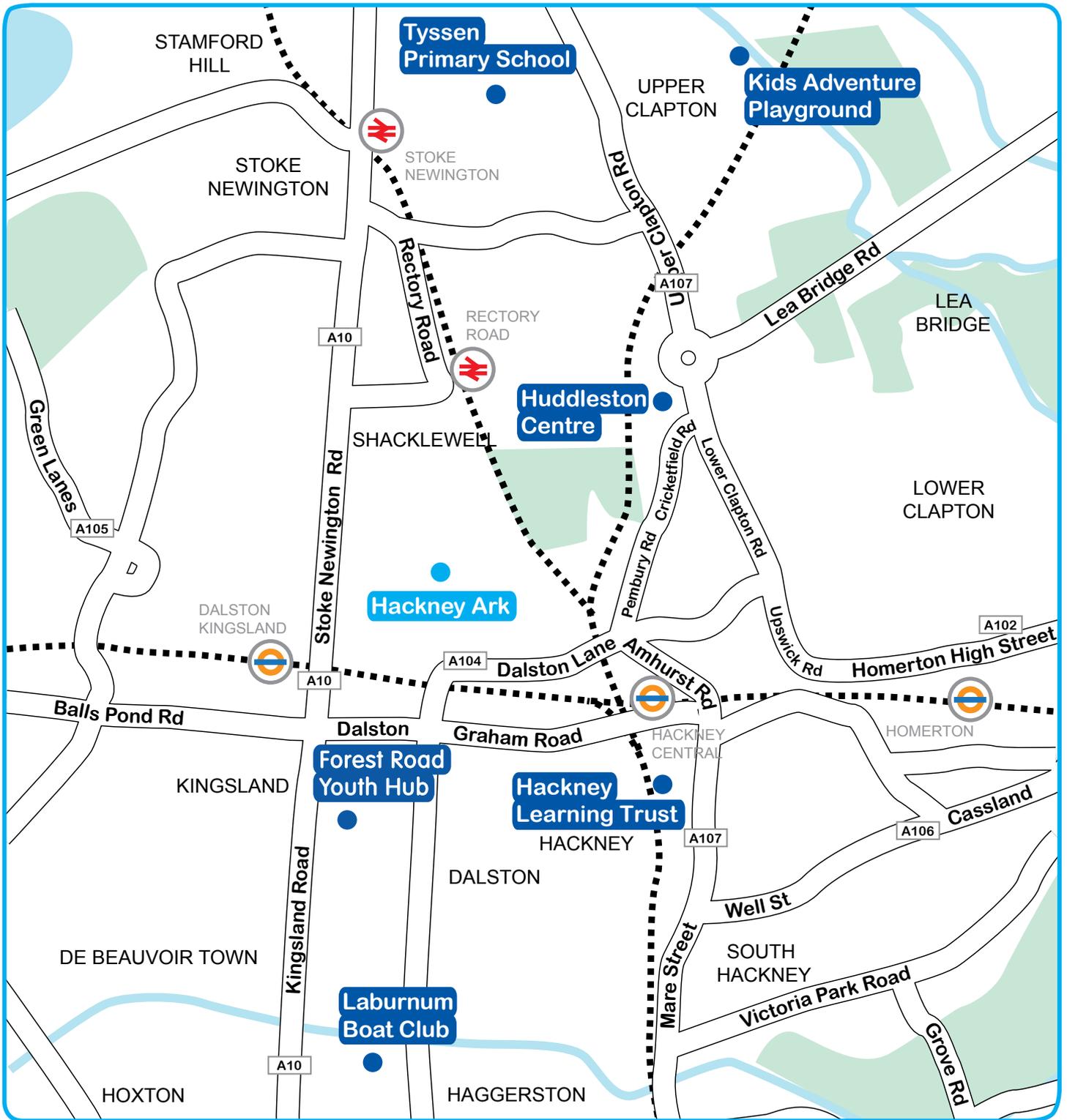
<http://www.shortbreakshackney.com/>
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/707/contents/made>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/short-breaks-for-disabled-children>
<http://www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/kb5/hackney/localoffer/home.page>

Parents/carers said....

“I feel my daughter has matured, I'm glad the staff have noticed too. I think she feels a sense of responsibility for the new kids and proud that she can help them settle in.”

Laburnum





The providers of our short breaks are located all over Hackney. Please see the above map, or contact the short breaks team (details right) for further details.

Short Breaks

Disabled Children's Service
 Hackney Learning Trust
 Technology & Learning Centre
 1 Reading Lane, London E8 1GQ
 Tel: 020 8356 6789