



Reading
Borough Council

Working better with you

Short Breaks Services
Statement for Families
and Children/Young
People with SEND 0-19

Reading Borough Council 2017/2018



*A voice for families of children
and young people with special
educational needs and/or disabilities*



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The Short Breaks Statement

This short break statement is for families living in Reading Borough who have a child with a disability or additional need aged between 0-19. Through this statement families should know what breaks are available and what criteria needs to be met to access them.

The Local Authority's responsibilities in relation to Short Breaks are outlined in The Short Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 and by the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Children Act 1989. These place a duty on the local authority to provide a range of short breaks for children and young people with disabilities and their families.

The regulations outline the need for the local authority to produce and regularly update, in consultation with carers, a "short breaks services statement" setting out details of:

- The current range of short break services available in Reading
- The criteria by which eligibility for services is assessed
- Information on how parents/carers, children and young people have been consulted with to help develop a wide range of short break activities

This statement is reviewed annually and is co-produced with Reading parents/carers and young people. This short breaks statement is published on the Reading Services Guide www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide

Purpose of Short Breaks

Short breaks provide children and young people with disabilities or additional needs an opportunity to spend time away from their parents, engage in fun and constructive activities and enjoy time with their friends. These breaks can provide positive experiences for children and young people, by encouraging friendships, participation in social activities, new experiences and can nurture relationships with parents and carers.

Short Breaks assist parent-carers who provide care for disabled children to continue to do so, or to do so more effectively, by giving them breaks from caring.

Access to Short Breaks

Access to short breaks is based on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board Threshold Criteria. Levels of need determining provision are outlined below:

No Additional Needs Level 1 (Universal Services) Children with no identified additional needs	Additional Needs Level 2 Some children will have additional needs, they may be showing early signs of abuse/neglect and their needs may be unclear/	Complex & Multiple Needs Level 3 (Specialist Services) The children are unlikely to achieve or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development	Acute Needs Level 4 (Specialist Services) Children are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm, abuse and neglect
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<p>- will have their health and development needs met by universal services</p>	<p>unmet. This is the threshold for a multi-agency Early Help Assessment to begin; this is often known as a CAF. The child's needs will be addressed by accessing support from targeted services delivered within, alongside or outside of universal services.</p>	<p>will be significantly impaired without the provision of services or children who are disabled. They may require longer term intervention from statutory, specialist or integrated targeted services. The CAF can be used as supporting evidence to gain specialist or targeted support. This is the threshold for a statutory assessment led by children's social care under section 17, Children Act 1989.</p>	<p>and this is the threshold for child protection enquiries. Children and young people will be referred to children's social care and dealt with under section 47, 20 or 31 of the Children Act 1989. This will also include children who have been remanded into custody and statutory youth offending services</p>
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More information about the Reading LSCB Eligibility Criteria can be found at: www.readingscb.org.uk/information-professionals/threshold-criteria/

Level 1 - No Additional Needs (Universal Services)

Universal services are services that are provided to, or are routinely available to, all children, young people and their families in their local community. These are accessed directly by the young person and their families.

All children and young people should be able to access opportunities which are happening within their local communities. These opportunities can be found at children's centres, libraries, swimming pools, sports centres youth groups, parks, playgrounds, community centres and many more. These services have a duty under Equalities Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments and not to treat a disabled person less favourably.

You can find out information about these opportunities on the Reading Services Guide www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide or by calling the Family Information Service (FIS) on 0118 937 3777 Option 2

Level 2 - Additional Needs

This is the normal threshold for a multi-agency Early Help Assessment to begin; this is often known as a Common Assessment Framework (CAF). The child's needs are assessed and a support plan developed which may include accessing services such as parenting classes, direct work by a youth worker, family worker or workers within a children centre.

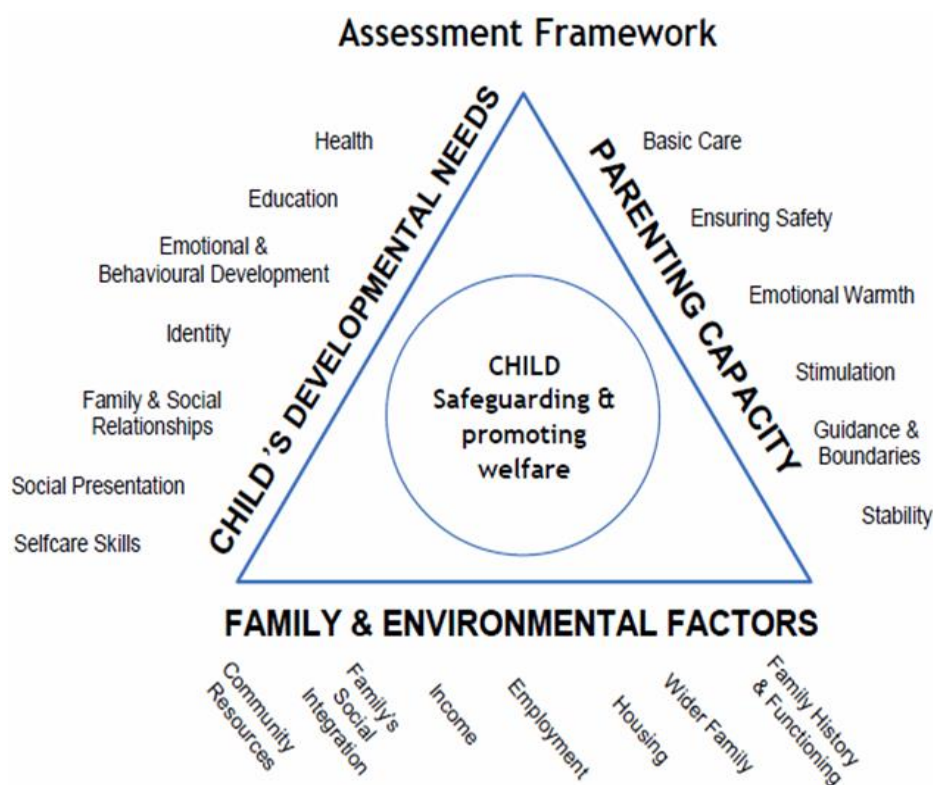
Children and young people who are disabled can access targeted after school clubs and holiday clubs directly without the need for a CAF. Example of clubs that are available include Thumbs up and Disability Challengers. Information about these activities can be found on the Reading Services Guide www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide

If you would like more information regarding targeted individual support or would like

to speak to someone regarding a CAF please contact the Reading Borough Council Single Point of Access who will be able to advise. They can be contacted on 0118 937 3641 or visit www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide

Level 3 - Complex and Multiple Needs (Specialist Services)

For children with more complex needs an assessment is required by a social worker for short breaks, although holiday clubs may well still be accessed directly. The Assessment Framework forms the basis of this and can be represented in the form of a triangle or pyramid, with the child's welfare at the centre. This emphasises that all assessment activity and subsequent planning and provision of services must focus on ensuring that the child's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.



It requires a thorough understanding of:

- the developmental needs of children;
- the capacities of parents or caregivers to respond appropriately to those needs. In this instance, the assessment will specifically look at what parent carers need in order to continue to care for their disabled child.
- the impact of wider family and environmental factors on parenting capacity and children.

This type of service is for disabled children and young people and their parents and carers who require more support than is available through (Level 1 & 2).

These are children who are unlikely to achieve or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health or development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services; or children who are disabled. They may require longer term intervention from statutory, specialist or integrated targeted services. The CAF can be used as supporting evidence to gain specialist or targeted support. This is the threshold for a statutory assessment led by children's social care under

section 17, Children Act 1989.

The specialist support available includes:

- Individual support in the home or community (e.g. outreach)
- Family based overnight and day care (e.g. short break fostering)
- Residential overnight short breaks - these include Cressingham and Pineroft
- Direct Payments - are one way of arranging social care services to meet the needs of children and young people with Disabilities.

Specialist services are normally accessed following a statutory social care assessment of need through the Children and Young People's Disability Team (CYPDT) and provided as an overall support plan, referred to as a child in need plan.

A child under the age of 18 will be eligible for a service from the CYPDT if they have any of the following:

- *A diagnosis of severe or profound learning disability*
- *A diagnosis of severe or profound physical disability*
- *A diagnosis of Significant or profound sensory disability*
- *A diagnosis of complex medical needs or a long term condition expected to disable the child for more than one year*
- *A diagnosis of life threatening illness*
- *A diagnosis of severe communication disabilities or behavioural difficulties related to the child's disability (e.g. autism)*
- *A diagnosis of severe developmental delay*
- *A diagnosis of a combination of disabilities, which individually are not severe but together cause as much stress as a very severe disability*

Access to Level 3 short breaks is via Reading Borough Council Single Point of Access. They can be contacted on 0118 937 3641 or visit www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide

Under the Children and Families Act 2014, all parent carers of a disabled child who appear in need of support are entitled to a carers assessment regardless of the child's level of need. Parent carers can request a carers' assessment online at; www.reading.gov.uk/carersa

If you are unhappy about the level of support offered, speak to your Social Worker or his/her team manager in the first instance.

Level 4 - Acute Needs (Specialist Services)

Children are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm, abuse and neglect and this is the threshold for child protection enquiries. Children and young people will be referred to children's social care and dealt with under section 47, 20 or 31 of the Children Act 1989. This will also include children who have been remanded into custody and statutory youth offending services. This could also include those young people coming into care in an emergency or admission to a psychiatric unit.

Access to Level 4 is via Reading Borough Council Single Point of Access. They can be

contacted on 0118 937 3641 or visit www.reading.gov.uk/concernsaboutachild
Outside of normal office hours, The Emergency Duty Team should be contacted on 01344 786543.

Information about activities available in my local area

Subject to availability, children and young people can access a number of short break activities. These activities can be chosen to suit the needs of your child, young person and or family.

The [Reading Services Guide](#) provides details of the activities and short breaks available within Reading and further afield. It is possible to search for an activity provider or a specific activity on the Local Offer and for every entry there is information about where they are, what they offer, their contact details and access information. It is also possible to search based on distance from a specific postcode. New activities are added as and when they become available.

Information about holiday activities are also sent out via email to those listed on the [Local Offer - DISC](#) mailing list ahead of each school holiday.

The Local Offer

Reading Borough Council's Local Offer is published on the [Reading Services Guide](#) and provides clear searchable information about all services / provision available in the Borough for children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities and their families from 0-25. It also includes provision the local authority expects to be available outside of the area.

The [Reading Services Guide](#) - Local Offer has been designed and created through consultation with parents and young people and is reviewed in partnership with the Reading Families Forum.

If you have any problems accessing any of the activities listed on the [Reading Services Guide](#) - Local Offer or in the Local Offer - DISC publications please contact the [Family Information Service](#) (FIS) on 0118 9373777 Option 2, email fis@reading.gov.uk

Costs involved for accessing the short breaks

Families are expected to pay the costs that would normally apply to a child or young person doing a particular activity. However, parents and carers should not expect to pay more than a non-disabled child accessing a similar type of service.

We are aware that financial difficulties can be an issue for many families, Reading Borough Council have asked all locally activity providers funded by the Short Break monies to consider this when setting their charging policy. If cost is a barrier to you attending an activity, please discuss directly with your activity provider about paying a reduced charge.

Issues with a short break activity

If you experience any problems in accessing a short breaks activity, or problems while your child is attending, please discuss this with the activity provider in the first instance and ask for a copy of their complaints policy if needed.

If you remain unhappy, or you need some support to address the problem, you can

contact your Social Worker, the Children & Young People’s Disability Team, or the Access to Resources Team. All of whom are based at Reading Borough Council and details can be found on www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide.

Activities funded by the Local Authority

Reading Borough Council is committed to supporting a wide range of sustainable Short break activities. We work with, and fund, a range of voluntary organisations to provide short breaks, including activity providers (arts, outdoor and leisure centres, sports clubs etc.), organisations and special schools who provide school, holiday and weekend playschemes and local family support groups

To decide which Short Break activities are funded by Reading Borough Council, we have worked closely with Reading Families’ Forum and the Voluntary Sector to identify which groups and clubs are required in the Reading area.

Consultations have given RBC a clear view on the numbers of children, age brackets, need requirements and preferred locations.

Below is a grid featuring Short Break groups in Reading. Providers of these groups have received funding from Reading Borough Council 2017/18

Provider Name	Type of SEN	Age Range	Description of Service
Brookfields School	Autism, Down Syndrome, Global Developmental Delay, Epilepsy, Behavioural difficulties, Additional sensory impairments	14---19	Weekly Youth Club that runs termly for the students who attend Brookfields School. (Young person must have an EHCP)
Brookfields School	Autism, Down Syndrome, Global Developmental Delay, Epilepsy, Behavioural difficulties, Additional sensory impairments	5---19	Blast Off holiday club at Easter and Summer running from 10am to 4pm. nine sessions for Brookfields pupils (Young person must have an EHCP)
Brookfields School	Autism, Down Syndrome, Global Developmental Delay, Epilepsy, Behavioural difficulties, Additional sensory impairments	5---19	Blast Off After school Club runs from 3.-6pm for students who attend Brookfields School. (Young person must have an EHCP)
Tilehurst Autistic Group	Autism, moderate to severe learning difficulties, challenging behaviour	8---18	Holiday Club. Open to mainstream & special school children who require a greater degree of support & supervision during play & 'out and about' activities. Achieved by providing smaller group sizes, higher staff ratios (compared to standard children's play clubs) & assessment of individual needs in the play setting.
Disability Challengers	Complex impairments and medical conditions	13 - 18	Saturday clubs & holiday clubs for young people
Thumbs Up Club	Any child with a statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	3 - -19	Holiday Club for children with additional needs.
Reading Mencap (8-11) Reading Mencap (12 -18)	Learning & Physical disabilities or autism	8---18	Youth Clubs on Saturday (age 8-11) and Saturday afternoon (age 12-18) clubs during term time (including half term).
Autism Berkshire Reading Games Club	For children, young people and adults with Autism	8-18	This club for children aged eight to 15 with autism or who are on the CAMHS waiting list for an autism assessment, and their siblings, meets twice a month.

Berkshire PHAB	All children	9---18	To support fun & friendship for disabled & non-disabled children & young people.
Dingley's Promise	Children with Additional Needs and disabilities	0---5	To support early years children (0-5 years) and their siblings (if under 8 years old)

Consultation and Review

This statement has been produced in collaboration with our parent carers. It will be reviewed again within 12 months with service providers, parent carers and young people

A formal Short Breaks consultation took place for 90 days in the summer of 2016. A report subsequently went to RBC's ACE Committee. This paper (including consultation findings) can be found here:

http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/6489/Item13/pdf/Item13_1.pdf.