



Short Breaks for Disabled Children

Service Statement

October 2021-2023





For information about Short Break services in Bradford contact:

Local Offer telephone helpline and order line for LO pocket booklets requests: Tel: **0127439261**

Mon to Thurs 8.30am - 5pm, Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

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1. Introduction

- 1.1** This is the eighth (revised) Short Breaks Service Statement produced by Bradford Council.
- 1.2** We consult with parents, carers children and young people on a regular basis in order to ensure we are meeting the needs of families within our District. The Local Offer has a feedback form where families can leave their comments or feedback about Short Breaks.
- 1.3** We continue to support person-centred approaches. The focus for Short Breaks remains on supporting local services to widen activities for children with additional needs, this will continue, increasing the choices available for children and their families. We will also continue to offer the choice of Individual Budgets for those children and families who have been assessed as needing more comprehensive support for those children and families at Tier 3. We will also continue to offer the choice of a range of services for those children and families at Tier 2 (this is explained later) additional needs, who have had an Early Help assessment specifically for Short Breaks

2. Background

- 2.1** Short Breaks have been provided for a number of years. We continue to work towards ensuring that all children and young people who need a Short Break have access to a service.
- 2.2** Short Breaks give disabled children and young people the opportunity for an enjoyable experience with or without their primary carers. Short Breaks also allow parents and families a break from their caring responsibilities. Short Break activities at Tier 2 can take place during the day, evening or weekend, and can be for a few hours e.g. Stay Play Club. A Tier 3 Short Break can take place in a parent or carers home, the home of an approved carer, or a residential or community setting or via Personal Budget.



3. Access to Short Breaks

- 3.1 Many of the services offered to families form part of the Bradford Children and Young People's Partnership, which include services provided by Bradford Council, Health, and the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- 3.2 The levels of support required by disabled children and young people and their families can vary depending on the changing needs of the child or family circumstances. The Early Help Tiered model which was introduced in early 2017 gives flexibility to step up or step down, between and across these levels as and where appropriate, dependent upon needs meeting the respective eligibility criteria.



Bradford Early Help

Early Help - Everybody's business delivering improved family outcomes.

Tier 1 – Universal and Early Help
Services for all

Tier 2 – Target Early Help
Additional services within/alongside universal services

Tier 3 – Targeted Early Help Children in Need
Complex needs

Tier 4 – Child Protection and Looked After Children
Specialist services

Services for every child – Universal

TIER 1

- 3.3 Bradford has improved its universal services so that disabled children and young people can access the provision. The improvements have been made by investing in staff training, information sharing and multi-agency approaches to support disabled children and young people in mainstream settings. Universal settings are a good route for disabled children and young people, as these services offer a wide range of activities, and a chance for disabled young people to mix with non-disabled peers.

Eligibility criteria

Universal Short Break services are available to all children and young people. These services promote the inclusion of disabled children and young people enabling them to participate in activities with their peers. If families feel they need support in accessing Universal services they should talk to their nursery, school, G.P. about support from Early Help. Bradford Youth Service run inclusive activities and sessions for young people aged 11 to 19 and up to 25 for young people with a disability. Activities and programmes run district wide throughout the year. Each of the constituencies operate an inclusion project in partnership, where staff and volunteers encourage and support young people to participate. This is complimented by also offering open access sessions in local neighbourhoods. To find out more about what is available for individual projects in local areas contact a local area youth office/youth worker, please consult the Local Offer website for details.

Referral routes:

- Self referral through the Local Offer
- Referral made by a practitioner with your consent and in partnership – through the Local Offer

Examples of universal Short Break services

Service	Assessment Tools	Age Criteria	How to Access
Out of school clubs	None or services own	School dependent	Local Offer
Extended schools services	None or services own	School dependent	Local Offer
Holiday play schemes	None or services own	School dependent	Local Offer
Childminders	None or services own		Local Offer
Youth clubs	None or services own	11-25 years	Local Offer
Sports clubs	None or services own	Club dependent	Local Offer

Billy's story (example) universal services

Billy is eight years old and lives with his mum and two older sisters. He has been diagnosed with Autistic spectrum disorder and goes to a specialist unit attached to a local primary school. Billy likes to be outdoors and is very active. His mum finds it difficult to find things that both he and his sisters enjoy. Billy has recently learnt to ride a bike and his local school is running a cycling playground skills activity day during the school holidays. Billy's mum has spoken to the instructor about his needs, and feeling confident that he has previously worked with young people with additional needs, she signs Billy up for half a day.

The half day goes well and Billy asks if he can go again. Billy's skills develop and he settles well with the instructor. He now regularly joins the cycling group once a week as well as going on the school holiday activity cycling days.

Targeted Early Help – Additional Needs (Tier 2)

TIER 2

- 3.4 Some of the services within Tier 2 do not need an assessment for children and young people to access them, however services will need to gather additional information so they can support a child or young person appropriately and safely. Some disabled children, young people and their families will require access to additional or specialist support Short Break services, dependent upon their child's, young person's, carer's or families needs for commissioned support
- 3.5 If you require a Short Break Early Help assessment a link worker will be provided to do this.

Eligibility criteria

To access commissioned services children and young people will have needs that cannot be met by Universal Services. The Short Break Early Help assessment will focus on social needs only and the additional support that children, young people, carers and families may require.

To access this service a family must not be receiving any other Short Breaks services.

Referral routes:

- Self referral via the Local Offer
- Referral made by a person working with a child with parents consent and in partnership via the Local Offer.



Zainab's story (example) Tier 2

Zainab is 13 years old with a diagnosis of Autism. Zainab's parents wish to support her to access an activity. Zainab's parents make a referral to Specialist Inclusion Project Short Breaks. A link worker goes to visit the family to complete a Short Break Early Help Assessment and meet Zainab. The Link Worker arranges for Zainab to go to a local sports group. Afterwards the Link Worker calls to check if the group was what Zainab wanted, however Zainab doesn't want to go again. The Link Worker goes back to see Zainab to ask her what she didn't like. Zainab states it's too crowded and she wants to try something different such as dance.

The Link Worker set up a space at a local dance and drama group. Zainab started to attend, the Link Work called to review. Zainab reported that she was really enjoying the session. Zainab has since performed in a number of shows and productions. Zainab's parents report that they enjoy the break whilst Zainab enjoys the opportunity to spend more time with new friends.



Children in Need (Tier 3)

TIER 3

3.6 Tier 3 and 4 is designed for the small group of children, young people and their families/ carers who need short breaks with extra, specialist care. Specialist short breaks are designed to enable children with complex needs to enjoy fun activities in a safe environment and/ or give families a break from caring.

Eligibility criteria

- the developmental needs of the child
- the capacities of parents or caregivers to respond appropriately to those needs
- the impact of wider family and environmental factors on parenting capacity and children.

This assessment of need will inform planning and action to secure the best outcomes for the child which may include referral to targeted support services to achieve a Tier 3 Short Break via a personalised budget.

Referral routes:

- Self referral via Children's Social Care
- Referral made by a person working with a child with parent or carers consent for the completion of an 'assessment of need' as outlined above.
- Step up from Short Breaks Early Help Assessment.



Examples of types of targeted child and family support services available for those with a personalised budget

Service	Service provided	Assessment Tools	Age Criteria	Access
Social care Specialist Short Break services	Day care home-based support	Social care practitioner assessment	0-18 years	Via social work
Social care Specialist Short Break respite service	Overnight care in a specialist unit	Social care practitioner assessment	0-18 years	Via social work
Social care family placement services	Overnight care with a foster carer and their family	Social care practitioner core assessment	0-18 years	Via social work
Health continuing care services	Overnight and day care services in the family home	Health practitioner completed continuing care assessment	0-18 years	Via social work

Vic's story (example) Tier 3

Vic is five years old he has a rare syndrome. He has multiple disabilities and requires all of his care needs to be performed by a carer. Vic also has uncontrollable epilepsy and requires constant monitoring of his health, his carers are trained in administering medication in an emergency. Vic lives with his mum and dad and three siblings. His eldest sibling, Deita, also has the same rare syndrome. Vic's mum acts as his and Deita's full time carer. She is experiencing deterioration in her own health which her GP believes is due to exhaustion brought about by the high level of care needed by her two children.

The GP refers Vic and his brother to the social care team for an assessment of their needs. A social worker completes an 'assessment of needs' and identifies that Vic's mum would benefit from a break in caring to enable her to spend time with her husband and two other children. The social worker also shares the assessment with a colleague in health services to see whether any continuing care support can be provided by the community nursing team. After exploring the options Vic's mum and dad agree to a referral to the shared care scheme where Vic is matched to a family with two boys aged four and six years old and where the carers have the relevant training to meet his health care needs.

Vic begins introductions and after a few months settles in to visiting the shared care family once a fortnight on a Saturday to play and have fun. The continuing care team also assess the needs of the family to provide support and the community nursing team begin offering a night sitting service once a week.

3.7 Specialist and Complex Needs (Tier 4)

- The child/young person will most likely attend a specialist school and require specialist support to access short breaks. They will most likely have an Education, Health and Care Plan. And it is likely that the young person will be known to the Children's Complex Health or Disability Team (0-14) or the Preparation for Adulthood Team (14-25).
- 3.8** Short breaks for this group of children and young people are available following an Assessment of Need which will look at your child's needs and development, the parent/carer's needs and the family and environment around the child. Where an assessment of need has been completed recommendations will be made about the level and type of service required to meet the child or young person's needs and promote their welfare.
- 3.9** A decision will be made about the best way of providing and funding short breaks for children and young people with the highest levels of need and may include specialist play sessions, overnight short breaks, Direct Payments and a specialist worker who will offer care in either the home or the community. The children/ young people and the parents and/or carers' opinions about the kind of short break that they would find beneficial and the where appropriate the views and wishes of the child or young person are central to this decision making.
- 3.10** The Preparation for Adulthood (Transitions) Team support young people who are in transition into adult services. They work with young people from age 14-25. The team can help with finding the right kind of daytime activities, access to education, training, employment and finding a place to live. They can also arrange support with everyday living skills such as budgeting, cooking, personal care needs, developing relationships and access the local community. The Preparation for Adulthood Team work closely with colleagues in health services so can put you in contact with health professionals to make sure health needs are being met. As well as working with a young person the team also supports carers to make sure they have access to the support they need.

4. Training and Development for Staff

- 4.1** Courses are available for all short break providers, health funding has been made available for health awareness and targeted training in relation to any health issues. The courses are part of a framework which creates a clear training pathway for practitioners working with disabled children across the district.
- 4.2** The programme includes e-learning opportunities for all practitioners. Details of these and all other training opportunities can be found on the Council's workforce development webpages (www.bradford.gov.uk/workforcedevelopment)

5. Date Protection and Consent

- 5.1** All parents and carers of children accessing Short Breaks will be asked to give consent to have information kept about them and the services they receive. This information is held on a secure database, and is used only to ensure parents receive up to date information about the services on offer in Bradford, and helps the Council to plan the activities based on the needs of families.
- 5.2** We will only share your data with others with your consent unless we have Child Protection concerns which we would talk to you before we share this data.

6. Participation and Consultation

6.1 Disabled children and young people have all the same aspirations as other children and young people. Young disabled people told us they want to be with their friends, socialise, have fun, learn new skills, have their independence, enjoy their favourite activities, have a break from their parents and carers, and visit new and interesting places.

6.2 Children and young people's consultation

Services work best when we work together. Co-production is a family centred way of working that involves people in the design, planning and delivery of services. Bradford as a local area are committed to ensuring children and young people and families are able to have their say. Young disabled people from across the Bradford District have joined to form 'The Crew'. This group of young people actively contribute and co-produce all short breaks developments and reviews at Tier 2. This includes all grants and commissioned funds at Tier 2.



6.3 Parents and carers consultation

The Local Offer is an important mechanism by which parents and carers can participate in service design and delivery. The Local Offer website, localoffer.bradford.gov.uk provides a way of families being able to give feedback at any time. The Specialist Inclusion Project also run two surveys a year to gather the views of parents and carers and young people should they wish to contribute through this medium.

This is what children and young people who have used Short Breaks in Bradford said:



6.4 Improvements in provision

In Bradford we are committed to following our Coproduction Values. Feedback has been gathered from parents and carers through consultation events and focus groups completed by the Specialist Inclusion Project about the barriers to accessing Short Breaks and the improvements parents and carers would like in Bradford. The SEND Transformation and Compliance Team also led on a Short Breaks consultation which included an online survey followed by a number of listening events using video conferencing and WhatsApp.

Over 150 families were involved in this consultation and as a result Bradford Council are completing a full review of Short Breaks Services looking at addressing any issues raised through the consultation. Full details of the feedback we received from families can be found on the local offer here: <https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/public/images/images/1612861660.pdf>

This is what parents and carers who have used Short Breaks told us:

It's really important for my son to interact with other young people like him. He's in mainstream school and without the Nell Bank days etc he really wouldn't come across others like him

Gives us a bit of a break to spend time doing something my daughter likes

My daughter gets a break from her routine and I get to spend some quality time with my older daughter

It gives us all a lot of joy and brings us closer as a family. It really has a significant impact

6.5

Parents, carers and young people in Bradford will continue to be consulted on Short Breaks services available in the district. All comments will be reviewed and any changes or improvements to provision will be discussed with both the Send Strategic Partnership Board for Children and Young People with SEN and Disabilities. All services and agencies involved in Short Breaks will continue to work together in contributing to achieving better outcomes for disabled children and young people in the Bradford district.

This is the feedback parents and carers gave on Short Breaks:

It has enabled my child to access a safe, friendly, well established scheme where my child can meet new and old friends

It keeps us going

Amazing my son would not cope well in the holidays without the sessions

My son doesn't naturally have friends, so for him to attend weekly activities gives him the opportunity to interact with his peers whilst having fun.

- 6.6** Parents, carers and young people in Bradford will continue to be consulted on Short Breaks services available in the district. All comments will be reviewed and any changes or improvements to provision will be discussed with both the Send Strategic Partnership Board for Children and Young People with SEN and Disabilities. All services and agencies involved in Short Breaks will continue to work together in contributing to achieving better outcomes for disabled children and young people in the Bradford district.



7. Transport

- 7.1** It is clear to say that getting to and from Short Breaks can be an issue for some children, young people and their families. However, we will work in partnership with service providers and families to explore a range of approaches and options.

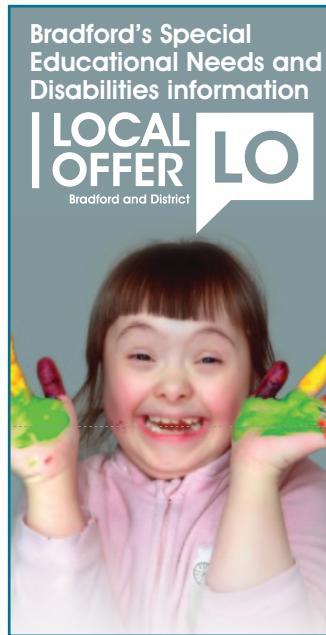
Currently on offer to help young people access Short Breaks:

- Bradford Council can work with families to explore options for travel expenses via the DLA mobility component.
- If appropriate Bradford Council will look at alternative Short Breaks provision closer to a family's home.
- While we recognise this may not be appropriate for some young people, there is access to Bradford Travel Training Unit at Bradford College which can teach young people with additional needs about how to plan a journey.

Bradford Council will continue to support families to find the most appropriate option, which enables them to benefit from Short Breaks.

8. Local Offer

- 8.1** Bradford's Local Offer website localoffer.bradford.gov.uk is a one-stop resource, bringing together information specifically for families with children who have additional needs. The Local Offer Z card booklet can be viewed on the website above. Families who do not have access to the internet can contact Bradford Families Information Service on **01274 437503** for a hardcopy.



9. Appendix

9.1 Personal Budgets – Tier 3

A personal budget is for anyone who has been assessed as being eligible to receive support from child/adult services to meet their needs. This may be taken in different forms including a direct payment which means a person receives the money directly to buy the care agreed in their support plan.

9.2 Personal Budgets Legislation

The Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to provide a Short Break's service designed to assist individuals who provide care for disabled children. The local duty for Short Breaks came into force on 1 April 2011. The new regulations require each local authority to produce a Short Breaks Services Statement so that families know what services are available, the eligibility criteria to access breaks, and how the range of Short Breaks is designed to meet the local needs of families with disabled children.

9.3 Equality Act

Under the Equality Act 2010 it remains unlawful for service providers to treat disabled people less favourably than other people for a reason related to their disability, introducing a new concept of 'discrimination arising from disability' and extends protection from indirect discrimination to disability. The Act further harmonizes the thresholds for the duty upon services to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people. Many universal service providers in Bradford actively promote the inclusion of disabled children and young people. The local authority must also show what steps are being taken to promote equality of opportunity for disabled children and young people in their access to universal provision.

10. References

- **Bradford's Threshold of Need (2010)**
Website: www.bradford-scb.org.uk
- **Directgov (2010) An Overview of Carer's Rights**
Website: www.gov.uk/browse/disabilities/carers
- **Community Care (Direct Payments) Act 1996**
Website: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/30/section/1
- **Children's Act 1989**
Website: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents
- **The Children Act and SEND code of practice**
Website: <https://www.gov.uk/>
- **Youth Provision**
Information for young people on activities and services in Bradford.
Website: www.bradford.gov.uk/youthservice
- **Equality Act 2010**
Website: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents
- **Working Together 2018**
Website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2
- **Local Offer**
localoffer.bradford.gov.uk
- **Connect 2 Support**

11. Information about Short Breaks in the Bradford district

Short Breaks guide – ‘a parent’s perspective’

A good practice guide written by parents for services who deliver Short Breaks for children and young people with disabilities in Bradford district.

Short Breaks guide – ‘young people’s perspective’

A good practice guide written by a group of young disabled people for services who deliver Short Breaks for children and young people with disabilities in Bradford district.

To access more information about Short Breaks visit the Local Offer website: localoffer.bradford.gov.uk



12. Useful contacts

Workforce development

For practitioners and staff training needs contact the workforce development department.

Tel: **01274 434503**

Email: workforce.developmentwrh@bradford.gov.uk

Web: www.bradford.gov.uk/workforcedevelopment

Parent Forum for Bradford and Airedale

A parent run charity who work to enable parents and carers of children with additional needs to have a voice, influence decision-making about services and improve communication between families and services.

For more information visit www.pfba.org.uk

Local Offer e-newsletter

An information newsletter for parents and carers of disabled children and young people in the Bradford district. It provides regular updates and information. Simply visit localoffer.bradford.gov.uk and insert your email address into the pop-up box.

Bradford Training Travel Unit

A service run by Bradford College which can teach young people with additional needs about how to travel independently.

Visit www.bradford.gov.uk/traveltraining or phone **01274 436199**.

SENDIASS

The Bradford SENDIASS (Barnardos) provides Information, Advice and Support around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Support is provided on a range of topics, including provision in schools, assessment processes, conversion of statements to Education, Health and Care Plans, reviews, transitions, exclusions, transport, specialist provision/support services, appeals, local policies, Special Educational Needs code of practice.

Tel: **01274 513300**,

Email: bradfordsendiass@barnardos.org.uk



If you have any complaints or questions about the information contained in this statement, contact Bradford's Local Offer, visit localoffer.bradford.gov.uk, email LocalOffer@bradford.gov.uk

This statement will be reviewed and updated in October 2020.

The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print and Braille.

Please call **01274 439261**