Short breaks
for disabled children and young people in Bournemouth

Bournemouth’s short break statement
This **short break statement** is for families living in Bournemouth with a child who has a disability aged 0 to 18 years.

The Children’s Act 1989 states that Local Authorities have a duty to support individuals who provide care for disabled children to get help from short break services. This duty and the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 came into force on 1st April 2011.

The regulations say that each Local Authority must produce a short break statement so that families know what services are available and how they fit the requirements.

**What is a short break?**

Short breaks are activities that allow families with a disabled child or young people a chance to have time apart. This gives the child a chance to enjoy themselves doing something different and the carer to take a break.

Short breaks can take place in an evening, on a weekend, overnight or out of school hours.

A short break can provide families with the chance to do ordinary things together. This can help children and young with a disability to test out new experiences, have fun and make new friends.
Bournemouth’s short breaks – what we want to happen

Outcomes

• Children and young people with disabilities should be able to do new things, have fun, make new friends and increase their independence without parents or carers present

• Families with a disabled child or young person should be able to do ordinary things together

• We want to develop our short break services based on information provided by families, children and young people who have previously accessed a short break

• We want to continue to develop the existing workforce within mainstream services to increase accessibility for children and young people with disabilities

• Short break activities should be inclusive, offer a range of activities and promote themselves in a way that is accessible to families and their disabled child or young person

• We want to base our short break services on the needs of children, young people and their families

• Bournemouth will continue to develop short break services to meet identified unmet needs
Asking children, young people and their families/carers **what they think**

Bournemouth short breaks were developed using consultations and feedback from children, young people and their families. The Local Authority set up a ‘council for disabled children’ and asked young people to tell them what they think about short breaks and what services should be available.

Bournemouth Borough Council have a web page designed to help parents/carers as well as children and young people find out about short breaks easily and to share their views about the services with each other. [https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/childreneducation/LocalOffer/Short-Breaks/short-break.aspx](https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/childreneducation/LocalOffer/Short-Breaks/short-break.aspx)

The original ‘short breaks’ statement was developed in conjunction with the Bournemouth Parent carers forum and young people.

This statement will form the basis of plans which demonstrate that we as a Local Authority will provide a range of services that families value and need.

**Things we have found out so far**

**Children and young people told us they want to:**

- Access a range of different activities that are challenging and adventurous
- Be part of choosing what services are available for them
- Make new friends and meet them on a regular basis and become more independent
- Have easier access to information about what activities are available to them

**Parents and carers told us that, where we are able to provide a service they:**

- Appreciate the commitment and the dedication of those who provide the activity
- See significant positive changes in the development of their children
- Want to do more things together as a family
- Want services to be more accessible
- Want the services to respond better to families in crisis
How to find out more about short breaks services

All short break services can be found on the local offer.

https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/childreneducation/LocalOffer/Short-Breaks/short-break.aspx

Short break services in Bournemouth

Short break services are available with different levels of support for children and young people and in different ways.

Parents/carers of disabled children can self-refer into services available at the universal and targeted level for available short break services.

What are 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.
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 and sports centres, youth groups, parks, playgrounds, community centres and many more. Wherever possible these are the opportunities which should be used as a first point of call.

These services have a duty under The Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments and not to treat a disabled person less favourably.

**What is Universal Plus?**

Universal Plus is aimed at children and young people with needs that require more support than available through universal services. They may need groups or services that are specifically designed to meet their needs. These services are provided by various providers including schools, youth services and Early Help services.

**What are Specialist Services?**

Specialist Services are for disabled children, young people and their parents and carers who require more support than is available through Universal or Universal Plus. This group of children and young people are likely to have severe and complex needs that will need specially trained staff and settings to be able to support them.

**Specialist Short Breaks**

The CHaD (Child Health & Disability Team) offer support to families where there is a child or young person with a severe or profound disability.

**What we do**

The CHaD Team offer specialist support to children and young people when there is a combination of factors related to a disability or health condition, the family’s ability to cope and the resources available to the family. A Multi-Agency Assessment helps explore the areas of need for the child, young person and their family and develop bespoke support, working closely with other professionals within the child or young person local community and support network.

Our priority aim is to ensure the family is fully supported, the child develops to their full potential and is free from harm, neglect and abuse. Most of the children we work with have multiple disabilities and health conditions that result in them having exceptional and complex care needs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of support</th>
<th>Assessment-Access to services</th>
<th>Examples of Services</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Universal</td>
<td>No needs or some various needs – when conclusion</td>
<td>• council website&lt;br&gt;• newsletter&lt;br&gt;• seafront&lt;br&gt;• beach huts&lt;br&gt;• beach wheelchairs&lt;br&gt;• council for disabled children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Universal Plus/Early Help services</td>
<td>Accessible to all families not being supported by the Local Authorities Children and Young Peoples services&lt;br&gt;Bournemouth Early Help Assessment (BEHA) completed&lt;br&gt;Child experiences multiple barriers to inclusion or one or more lower need areas identified requiring multi agency early targeted intervention for signposting and family and community support options</td>
<td>• short term&lt;br&gt;• pay activities&lt;br&gt;• after-school club&lt;br&gt;• youth club&lt;br&gt;• adventure days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Care</td>
<td>High levels of need identified requiring active social care involvement where Bournemouth Early Help assessment (BEHA) process is not effectively meeting those needs</td>
<td>Medium/longer term support, one-to-one support for the child, specialist activity provision, family support and overnight provision (either in foster care, residential units, or hospice) packages of direct payments can be made to families as an alternative means to direct service provision.</td>
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**How do families access our services?**

Families in Bournemouth can request an assessment of their situation through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Tel 01202 458101

**MASH@bournemouth.gov.uk**

Following an assessment, if the child’s disability meets the threshold for a service from the CHaD Team, the team can help in a range of ways depending upon the individual family circumstances.
These may include:

• Co-ordination of a multi-agency plan to support the child and family
• Support with behaviour management
• Referrals to other specialist services for support
• Access to Sessional workers
• Provision of Direct Payments to purchase additional care and support
• Overnight breaks for disabled children
• Parenting advice and guidance

If a child or young person does not meet the threshold for CHaD services, we can provide advice and referral to other sources of support including:

• Bournemouth short breaks
• Play schemes that are experienced and skilled in meeting complex needs
• Clubs that can meet the needs of young people with SEN and Disabilities
• CAMHS Learning Disability Service
• Referrals to appropriate targeted services

What are our priorities for the future?

We plan to:

• increase access to short breaks and positive activities for families by developing a framework that Providers of services must register with to deliver short breaks
• use the framework to increase our provision of short breaks at weekends
• continue to improve information available so that families have access to clear information and link this to the Local Offer website
• ensure that our short break services focus on improving the life chances of children and young people with disabilities and their families through continuing and developing direct dialogue
• review and explore increasing opportunities for those children and young people with the most complex needs
• continue to improve the training of the staff who deliver short breaks and ensure that Providers of services have a similar strategy in place
• Continue to develop parenting support programmes for children and young people with SEND
Contacts

Child Health and Disability Team
All referrals to the team should be made through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) T. 01202 458101
MASH@bournemouth.gov.uk

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service
Bournemouth SENDIASS
Bournemouth Learning Centre, Ensbury Avenue, Bournemouth BH10 4HG
T. 01202 451970

Website: Local Offer
https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/childreneducation/localoffer/localoffer.aspx
We will look at this statement regularly and change it if we need to. Please send comments and feedback about this booklet by email: local.offer@bournemouth.gov.uk