

**Support and Short Breaks Statement for Disabled
Children and Young People in Derbyshire
For Consultation**

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Section One – Introduction and Background

Disabled children have the same rights as other children. We want to be sure that they grow up with the right support that will give them the same opportunities as other children, including accessing universal services and being able to lead fulfilling lives.

A key aim in Derbyshire County Council's Plan 2010-2014 is

“To provide support to disabled children, young people and adults to help them achieve”

This information is for Derbyshire families who have a disabled child aged 0 to 18 and volunteers, staff and others working with and for them.

Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. This duty which came into force on 1 April 2011 requires 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 short breaks is designed to meet the local needs of families with disabled children. More detail about these regulations is in Appendix One .

The Statement

This is the first Short Breaks Services Statement produced by Derbyshire County Council. It is produced in draft form for consultation. It is informed by learning from the Aiming High Programme 2008-11 including feedback from disabled children, their families and professionals from the social care, health, education and voluntary sector.

Details of the consultation already undertaken and planned are covered in Section 2. The draft statement will also be presented to the Disabled Children's Planning Group (which is a partnership between the local authority (including social care, Special Educational needs, Early Years and Inclusion team), health, voluntary sector and parent participation forum on 21st July or 15th September before being presented to Cabinet and Children's Trust Board to agree and publish by 1st October 2011.

It forms the basis of our commissioning plans for the next 3 years, not only what we buy but also what we provide for short breaks for disabled children, young people and their families. Disabled young people and parents were involved in the commissioning we did in 2008/9 and will continue to play a key role in what we ask providers to do and choosing who and how they do it. Family feedback helps us to monitor and review services and influences what we decide to keep or change.

It also refers to how budgets are allocated as families are increasingly telling us that instead of us buying or providing services, they would rather have the funds themselves to decide on what works best for their family.

Once it is agreed, the statement will be posted in full on the Derbyshire Council website and the Parent Partnership website. A summary version of the final statement will also be made available in printed form for distribution through the parent forums, the Family Information Service, schools and early years settings, health and social care professionals.

The statement will be reviewed annually with parent forums and Disabled Children Planning Group to ensure it is up to date and reflects the needs, views and experiences of families. The first review is planned for January 2012. This annual review will enable Derbyshire Council to co-ordinate future consultation, service planning and commissioning. This is important as services change and develop; such as getting better at inclusion, and as national guidance evolves, such as the Green Paper, Support and Aspiration and the growing emphasis on personal budgets.

The lead officer responsible for preparing this statement is MW, District Manager – Strategy, Disabled Children who reports to FJ, Assistant Director Family Support. Any queries or feedback on the statement should be addressed to mary.wilton@derbyshire.gov.uk or Mary Wilton District Manager, Strategy at Room 398, County Hall, Smedley Street, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG

Section Two - Consultation

Consultation So Far

Consultation, participation and feedback to date has been fundamental in shaping the development of services and best use of budgets in Derbyshire and thus also this draft statement. Fuller details of participation and its impact can be found listed in the Appendices but the key elements are described below.

Disabled children and their families told us that they wanted to be able to use local universal services, sometimes as a family or for the disabled child alongside their friends or siblings and to be confident that staff can meet their individual needs. Examples of what has been done to support this include:

- Providing specialist equipment and training in leisure centres for disabled children (and adults too) can make more use of swimming pools
- Supporting the Changing Places campaign so that families can get out and about across Derbyshire more easily with access to appropriate changing and toilet facilities.
- An Inclusion Toolkit has been developed by the specialist voluntary organisations and funded by the Council so that many clubs and services can have help and advice to be more inclusive
- All youth workers have had some specialist training, such as working with young people with autism and some have also had placements in special schools
- Colleagues In Early Years and the Inclusion team have worked, with others, to ensure that disabled children and their families have access to good quality child care and to early support, for example through children's centres. Families particularly fed back that 11 and over was a difficult age range to find provision for so that has been a key focus with 2 staff identified to prioritise this
- Specific consultation has also been carried out within the BME community focussing on child care and services for disabled children with 218 responses. See Appendix
- Specialist training for universal settings is being reviewed and developed on an on-going basis, over the last year there has been a new team set up to provide specialist clinical training and in the next few months training for managing challenging behaviour and moving and handling will be rolled out further

Disabled children and young people told us that they enjoy doing a range of activities, much like any other children, and they want to do these with their friends and family. To support this:

- We have continued to commission and provide a range of group activities including music and crafts
- Our Adventurous Activities team had specialist training from the Calvert Trust to get even better as helping disabled young people to do canoeing, abseiling etc etc

- We built a fully accessible centre in the grounds of Lea Green that families or groups can book to have holidays together
- We have established an annual Super Sunday event where families can come and do a range of activities together
- We have provided grants for a range of inclusive sports groups including trampolining in the High Peak and football in Derbyshire Dales

Families told us that they find it hard to find out what is available and that they need a 'one-stop shop' for information. Whilst this is a work in progress:

- The Aiming High team and The Families Information Service (FIS) and others are working together in Derbyshire to improve the quality and availability of such information in paper and electronic format
- The Parent Advisory group were established and undertake a crucial role in checking leaflets and other documents to ensure they meet certain 'family focussed' standards. For instance they recently commented on an audit being undertaken with leisure centres to make sure it asked what was important for families
- As a response to requests for accessible, up to date information the new magazine for families of children with disabilities and additional needs 'REACH' was launched in July 2010

Families with disabled children with more complex needs, both locally and nationally, for some time had been saying about the particular challenges they and their children experienced in accessing short breaks. Their feedback informed the development of the 'Derbyshire menu' 2008-11 and particularly the **Derbyshire Offer** of flexible support or a grant/direct payment. Examples of feedback include:

- This morning he is going swimming with a support worker from one of the providers, an activity we would find hard to promote..... Many thanks for all that you do
- She loves working in the shop as her short break – she really likes going to 'work' with X, X has become a really good friend and role model for her'
- Her badminton has really improved since she started playing with Y. Her confidence has come on leaps and bounds
- Thank you for the grant enabling us to attend the RETT Syndrome conference, E and her family enjoyed it very much (residential weekend holiday for families of children with RETT syndrome)
- '...a huge thank you for the grants for my sons we can now purchase the play equipment for N and C will enjoy his time kickboxing...'

Consultation Underway

Consultation on the draft Short Breaks Statement and thus how we buy and provide services is planned for June and July 2011. Across Derbyshire, the 5 parent forums in June will discuss this document and the specific consultation questions, as well as the key elements of the Service Specification for flexible support.

Disabled young people have already provided some clear feedback about what is important to them, with the underpinning message being 'stop consulting us – act on what we've said – and then tell us what you've done' so their views expressed so far have been checked against the draft statement.

Consultation will also be undertaken with various staff groups.

NB Parent views are also being sought on how future services and this approach should be described now that the 'Aiming High Programme 2008-11' has finished.

Consultation question one:

What should this way of working be known as in future?

Section Three – Derbyshire Services

Background

In order to put the development of this Short Breaks Statement in context, it is necessary to summarise how services have been developed in collaboration with families and key stakeholders and what services are currently and planned to be available.

This section covers:

- Definition of short breaks
- Vision and priorities for Short breaks
- Definition of disability and information about the number of disabled children and young people in Derbyshire
- Range of services and how to get them:
 - Universal
 - Targeted
 - **Derbyshire Offer**
 - Specialist services

Definition of Short Break Services

Short breaks differ from child care or universal provision. They form part of a range of services, which 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 reducing social isolation
- 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, 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, depending on the type of provision and the needs of the child and their family. Examples of short breaks include holiday play schemes and home sitting. Short break provision should be reliable, so that carers can plan around the breaks provided.

Vision and Priorities for Short Breaks in Derbyshire

Our aim is to ensure that families with disabled children have the support they need to live 'ordinary lives' as a matter of course. Disabled children and their families have the same human rights as others, including the right to the same quality of life as those who do not live with disability. However we recognise that all families are different, so they will need different levels of support and different types of short breaks depending on the age of their child; some families may need more support because of their family circumstances, this may be for a short period of time or it may be for longer.

It is also important to note that whilst we know that both local and national research demonstrates that short breaks are a priority for families with disabled children, they should be delivered as part of a much broader package of local and family support services.

In 2008 we held a number of stakeholder events involving parents and others to discuss and consult on what we wanted and needed in Derbyshire. We asked ibk to undertake some consultation with disabled children and their families about what was important for them. Derbyshire also signed up to the Local Authority Every Disabled Child Matters charter and is planning to commit to the new version, issued Spring 2011.

As part of this work we created the 'Principles for Developing Short Breaks in Derbyshire' which directed how we developed the Aiming High 2008-11 programme. The Principles were as follows

We will:

- work with disabled children and their families, and be accountable to them, for developing a programme of short break services that they need and want
- ensure there is good communication and up to date information in a variety of formats for disabled children/young people and their families
- work towards greater choice and fairer access to services across the county
- ensure disabled children/young people and their families & carers have access to high quality mainstream and specialist services in a choice of settings
- ensure that enjoyment, fun and disabled children's/young peoples' aspirations are at the heart of the developments
- aim to achieve continuity and reliable access to services that will allow disabled children/young people to build trust and develop relationships
- ensure these developments recognise the importance of young people's transition to adulthood
- make access to services as straightforward as possible and not depend upon a diagnosis

Our services will:

- be of the highest quality, innovative and represent value for money
- be responsive and flexible to the range of needs presented by individual disabled children/young people and their families', including their siblings
- be shaped and developed with the on-going, active participation of disabled children/young people, their parents and carers
- not focus narrowly on breaks but more broadly on enabling families to lead ordinary lives together
- be delivered with the least intrusive approach possible and support, not undermine, parents in the exercise of their responsibilities
- be culturally sensitive and sensitive to individuals' and families' needs associated with gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, age and disability

Last, but not least

- We will tackle negative attitudes and prejudices towards disabled children wherever we find them in wider society

Following these principles helps us the meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts (1995 and 2005) and Equality Act 2010.

Consultation Question Two

Do you agree with these principles?

Are we doing and planning the right things to achieve them?

Is there anything else you feel the Council should take account of regarding the Equality Duty i.e. our duty to promote equality of opportunity, good relations and positive attitudes and to eliminate harassment and unlawful discrimination?

Definition of Disability and Information about the Number of Disabled Children and Young People in Derbyshire

The general definition of disability used is that in the Equality Act 2010:

'a person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities'

This describes about 6% of the population, so there are approximately 10,128 disabled children and young people in Derbyshire.

The **Derbyshire Offer** is aimed at those disabled children and young people whose support needs and desired outcomes cannot be met by universal and local, or targeted, services even with the support of the Inclusion Team referred to above. Sometimes this group is described as 'severely disabled children' and nationally is judged to be approximately 1.2% of the children's population. Thus there are potentially 2026 disabled children in Derbyshire who are eligible for short breaks.

These children and young people will have impairments and high levels of support needs related to their disabilities, mainly but not exclusively being:

- children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Condition who are likely to also have other impairments, such as severe learning disabilities or have challenging behaviour
- children and young people with complex health needs.
- children and young people with moving and handling needs that will require equipment and adaptations.
- children and young people where challenging behaviour is linked to other impairments e.g. severe learning disability.

Or

Whilst eligibility decisions are based on individual need and professional judgement, including to what extent their impairment affects their lives, it is likely that the disabled child or young person will fit into one or more of the following definitions:

- a significant, permanent and enduring physical disability
- a significant global learning disability
- a severe and enduring communication disorder
- autism with a significant global development delay.
- a significant sensory impairment

Consultation Question Three

Which definition?

Any better ways of describing eligible children?

In Derbyshire we have a database of disabled children and young people we use for planning which has been taken from education, health and social care records, and some

information from providers. It is held securely. Anonymised data can be made available. See Appendix.

Universal Provision for all Derbyshire Families

Derbyshire Council and Derbyshire families both believe that using universal and local services (including libraries, leisure centres, youth clubs and playgrounds) is really important and that as many disabled children and young people as possible should be able to use these services.

Linked with the Aiming High programme 2008-11 a range of measures have, and are still, being taken to ensure that the service above can better meet the needs and aspirations of disabled children and young people. Examples include training for youth service and leisure centre staff and using feedback from families to improve the information provided.

Fuller details of provision are in 'Meeting the needs of children in Derbyshire', Appendix and includes:

1. Access to information, advice and signposting via Family Information Service, Call Derbyshire, Derbyshire Sport and Welfare Rights team.
2. Inclusion support which helps a range of settings to include disabled children through the provision of advice, training and support.
3. Clear information about eligibility and referral pathways for specialist and targeted provision – how do you get help when you need it?
4. 15 hours Early Years Education for 3 and 4 year olds.
5. Leisure centres, children's centres, youth services, etc

Consultation Question Four

How easy is it for families with disabled children to use universal services?

Have you had any specific difficulties doing so?

What else would you like to see Derbyshire Council, and their partner organisations, doing to improve access?

Targeted Services

Although Universal Services are important, and we are continually supporting them to be more inclusive, we realise that we need to have a range of 'targeted services' especially designed to support children and young people with additional needs and disabilities. Many of these can be accessed directly without an assessment and include:

- Specialist sports clubs
- Play schemes
- After school clubs

More information is available from the Family Information Service on 01629 -

Access to those clubs which receive Derbyshire Short Break funding does come within the **Derbyshire Offer** i.e. provision which is additional to universal services. In accordance with the views of families, wherever possible this **Derbyshire Offer** is provided without assessment to those children who meet clearly defined eligibility criteria.

Specialist Support and Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People

This describes how a variety of additional specialist and other resources (including funding and grants) will be allocated to disabled children and young people whose support needs and desired outcomes cannot be met by universal and local, or targeted, services even with the support of the Inclusion Team referred to above. It is not designed to be rigid or prevent discretion and it is likely that families will move between levels over time as their needs change and also as services become more inclusive. It aims to reflect recent developments, but will be reviewed following any new guidance arising from the 'Support and Aspiration' Green Paper issued on the 9th March 2011.

Legal Framework

The principal legislation for care support services for children, young people and their families is the Children Act 1989. Under Section 17 of the Children Act disabled children are 'children in need'. The Act places on local authorities two general duties to children in need: to safeguard and promote their welfare and to promote their upbringing by their families wherever possible.

The new Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children, known as the Short Breaks Duty regulations relate to Section 25 of the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 referred to in Section One.

Other relevant legislation includes: Section 20 of the Children Act 1989; Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995, specifically Section 49a. Services are provided with reference to Derbyshire's Disability Equality Scheme. Pertinent practice guidance includes Assessing Children in Need and their Families (2000) and Meeting the Needs of Children in Derbyshire.

Vision

- focus on most vulnerable
- but also have regard to the needs of those carers who would be able to provide care for their disabled child more effectively if breaks from caring were given to them
- promote inclusion, participation and raising aspirations of disabled young people

- support families to live as ordinary lives as possible
- support transition to adult life
- that services for disabled children and young people is of high quality, enjoyable and informed by their wishes
- that support and services is aimed at helping disabled children and young people achieve positive outcomes

Scope

These criteria primarily govern access for Social Care additional services or funding under the above legislation, though for some disabled children and young people an increasingly multi-agency funding approach is relevant.

These services and funding are aimed at disabled children and young people who have impairments and high levels of support needs related to their disabilities. Examples of support needs are complex health needs which require carers to have specialist training. Nearly all of the children will already have specialist staff working with them such as nurses, occupational therapists, disability social workers or impairment advisory teachers.

Whilst a small number of very young disabled children and their families do require additional specialist services because of their disability, there is an assumption that generally children aged 5 or under will not require extra help because of their disability, as any child aged 5 or under requires a high level of care from their parents or carers and is able to access their local Children's Centre for family support. 3 and 4 year olds are able to receive 15 hours Early Years Education. For those children aged 5 or under who may be eligible for **Derbyshire Offer** a CAF will be required. To find out more about a CAF please speak to a professional who works with your family or go to www.derbyshire.gov.uk.

Short Breaks Services and Support Covered by these criteria, the **Derbyshire offer** and more

Resources and services broadly fit into several categories:

1. **Group based care**

Includes specialist and inclusive provision

- Holiday play schemes
- After school clubs
- Sports groups

2. Individual short breaks

Options include:

- individual day time support provided or funded by the council or health services
- complex health/palliative care support teams
- care in the child's home
- befriending, sessional worker or sitters assisting severely disabled children and young people's access to local provision
- day time link care or community child minder

For some young people, this support may only be needed for a short period whilst they get used to a new activity and make new friends.

Consultation Question Five

As part of the Local Area Implementation Plan we had to collate statistics on provision made, though this did not include all services as we did not want to spend too much time or money on doing so or to ask for disproportionate levels of information. For instance, out of what we counted:

- **Flexible day time support for children with autism and/or challenging behaviour related to disability increased from 6,106 hours in 2007/2008 to 14,034 hours in 2009/2010 and 21,754 hours for 2010/2011**
- **Group based day time specialist activities increased from 8,116 hours in 2007/2009 to 15,863 hours in 2009/2010 and 23,796 hours for 2010/2011**

Should we include some of that data in this document?

What information do parents want to have?

3. Funding and Grants

- As part of the **Derbyshire Offer** for eligible children, a 'Short break grant' is available to spend in a way that is most useful for your family to provide fun, enjoyable short breaks for your child/family. This is a maximum of £x per year. Many families have chosen to use this in a sustainable way, so instead of paying for a one-off holiday they have opted for a specialist activity buggy or outdoor play equipment which will last long-term.

The small print:

- Your child must meet the access criteria in terms of disability and not be receiving other short break provision
- You must have a bank account for the funds to be paid into
- The funds must be used to provide fun, enjoyable short break/s for your child

- You must return a simple monitoring form to let us know how the funds have been spent – this helps us to plan services

If you choose to use your grant to employ someone, there are certain responsibilities you need to be aware of. You may be required to:

- Keep records and account for tax and national insurance
- Pay employers liability insurance
- Offer a contract of employment

DCIL and others can advise and assist you with this, for a fee.

Consultation Question Six

Some other Local Authorities have said that this payment should be paid in two or more blocks – what do you think?

- Direct payments – where a child is assessed to be eligible for support services to meet assessed needs and agreed outcomes, instead of the council providing these services, families have the option (subject to certain conditions) of a Direct Payment. We have not included Direct Payments as part of the proposed future **Derbyshire Offer** for two reasons: the short break grant is effectively a direct payment to a family/young person and so enables choice and control for families and the assessments and administrative cost entailed in establishing formal ‘Direct Payments’ would be disproportionate for the amount involved
- Individual Budget and Personal Health Budget – Derbyshire is piloting a new way of working where a service user gains direct control over the application of funding allocated to them following an assessment process or processes, and where funding is sourced from a number of income streams held by local statutory bodies. The aim is to provide a more person-centred package of support designed to meet specified outcomes

4. **Overnight Breaks**

For a small number of children and young people, usually aged 10 and over, an overnight break can be an important part of a support package. For instance to meet these outcomes:

- Support families and carers at the greatest levels of need to have a significant break from their caring responsibilities
- Support families where their disabled child experiences very disturbed sleep pattern
- Support disabled children and young people to enjoy positive activities of their choice
- Support disabled young people to prepare for adult life

These can include:

- Stays with a foster family – contract Aiming High or link carer
- Direct payment or personal budget used to fund overnight care
- Regular overnight provision in specialist settings
- Occasional or one-off activity breaks – often via the Voluntary sector
- Supported holidays, with and without family

Level of Service or Resource Allocation

There are two levels of support though **families can move between levels over time** as their needs change and as services and communities become more inclusive, these are the **Derbyshire offer** and higher levels of support provided following a comprehensive assessment.

The **Derbyshire offer** is when disabled children and young people are offered flexible support if it is required to enable them to participate in enjoyable activities in their local community i.e. they do not and cannot access any short break activities. It is only in exceptional circumstances that children aged 5 or under would require services because of their disability, as any child aged 5 or under will require a high level of care from their parents or carers and be able to access their local Children's Centre for family support. In these circumstances a CAF would be required for a child aged 5 or under to receive the **Derbyshire offer**.

The aim is to have a 'level playing field' which takes account of services already received. The **Derbyshire offer** is aimed at those disabled children and young people, who, before Aiming High, were not able to enjoy any short break activities because of the complexity of their needs.

The 2 options are:

- X hours support - any reasonable combination of hours negotiated between family and provider
- Individual short break grant

Consultation Question Seven

Whilst nearly all local authorities have focussed on those 5 and over (though allowing for exceptions), some have also varied their 'local offer' according to the age of the child or young person, such as directing a certain age range to specific clubs. What do you think we should do?

A Common Assessment Framework (CAF) may be needed though many children will already have current assessments. Their lead professional can get more information about services available in their area. Disabled children and their families can request an assessment of their needs.

Families will need to agree to share some information about their child's needs and what services they are already receiving. If they are already receiving short break or similar services provided or funded by Derbyshire County Council or health, they will not be eligible for the **Derbyshire offer**. Consultation with parents has supported the broad principle of trying to be fair so all eligible disabled children can have the **Derbyshire offer**, and for families already getting some help, tighter criteria and decision-making are applied to ensure equity across Derbyshire.

Decision-making Pathway

- lead professional completes **Derbyshire offer** form
- referral validated by the Short breaks administrator following check against database (this means checking they live in Derbyshire; that their disability is recorded and that they are receiving no other short break provision which is funded by Derbyshire Short break budgets)
- after 6 months, lead professional/main point of contact to check with child and family that the provision is meeting agreed objectives and outcomes

Examples of a child receiving help in this way: a young man who uses a wheelchair. He may be able to attend a local youth club, after school club or scouts group in his area without extra help, whereas in another area they may need to have 1 to 1 support to do so, at least until he feels confident that his care needs can be met there without the 1 to 1 support. This could be at the level of x hours a year: a 2/3 hour session every fortnight plus hours in summer holiday; x hours per week across 14 weeks holiday or a variation of this according to choice with objective of being preventative and supportive.

Appeals route regarding the **Derbyshire offer**

If you are told that your child is not eligible for the **Derbyshire offer** and you disagree with this, appeals can be made using a CAF. To find out more about a CAF please speak to a professional who works with your family or go to www.derbyshire.gov.uk .

Higher Levels of Support (above the **Derbyshire offer)**

Criteria for Provision

Some families are likely to need higher levels of support, sometimes longer-term and sometimes just during a difficult period for a few weeks or months. Derbyshire want to ensure that the most vulnerable families have access to the help that they need, and that this is available equally irrespective of where they live, their impairment or disability, or race or religion. These services or budgets are to help disabled children, young people and their families who are assessed to require a higher level of support to maintain an ordinary family life and enjoy positive activities.

In addition to disability and impairment definitions above, one of these conditions is likely to apply:

1. Parenting support
2. Long term family support and needs of siblings
3. Promoting independence and social development
4. Child protection
5. Prevention of looked after or other placement away from home

Where children and/or their carers meet one or more of these criteria, the amount of resource and type of service will be informed by an assessment which takes account of the following factors:

1. The needs of the child/young person and their overall support plan
2. Their wishes and feelings, and desired outcomes and those of their parents
3. The family circumstances, including their capacity to meet the child's needs
4. The local environment, such as the availability of inclusive activities and support
5. Making best use of public resources – Value for money
6. Also – for those aged 14 and over – planning for adult life

The Local Authority has a responsibility to apply discretion when considering how best to meet individual needs.

Types and Levels of Support

Options include:

- individual day time support provided and/or spot purchased by the council or health services, such as :
 - direct payments via social worker.

- complex health/palliative care support teams.
 - care in the child's home.
 - befriending, sessional worker or sitters assisting severely disabled children and young people's access to local provision
 - day time link care or community child minder
- grant towards holiday
 - higher individual short break grant
 - One-off activity week-end

More intensive support for a smaller number of children and young people include:

- Day time provision of over 10 hours a week
- Regular overnight provision – in specialist, such as Spire Lodge, or inclusive settings, such as activity centres
- Referral to contracted residential provision e.g. Light House or Yew Trees
- Foster care – both Aiming High/contract or link care
- High level of direct payment or Individual short break grant – over 10 hours a week or equivalent funding
- Supported holidays, with and without family

Process

Services or additional resources will only be considered with a current assessment or review of assessment which provides enough information to enable fair and equitable decision-making. This is usually an Initial or Core Assessment, but could be a Nursing Assessment, a Specialist Assessment or Person-Centred Assessment. Assessments will not be considered which do not include the wishes and feelings of the child or young person.

Usually the lead professional will liaise with other providers/agencies and arrange a 'team around the child' or 'multi-agency' or 'child in need' meeting. These are teams of people who work together with a family to achieve positive outcomes. They share information about existing provision and consider if/how it could to be changed to meet needs and desired outcomes better.

In an emergency, services may be considered while an assessment is underway.

Resource Allocation

Once the family have discussed with the team working with them how best they can be supported, the Resource Allocation Meeting, chaired by a District Manager, will be involved in deciding how funding is allocated. Where budgets are related to health or education outcomes, further checks may be needed to make sure that the agreed plan will meet those specific outcomes.

Terms of reference for the meeting are available from your lead professional.

Reviews

Support plans which involve the provision of services and/or funding under these criteria will be reviewed regularly, at least once a year. The review will consider whether the needs have changed and if the services and/or funding are meeting the identified outcomes or if they need to be changed.

Appeals and Complaints

1. The first step is to talk to your lead professional if you feel that the assessment did not adequately cover your family's individual circumstances
2. The services and decision-making regarding short breaks covered by this document are covered by the Derbyshire Complaint's Procedure

Section Four – The Core Offer

The Core Offer describes the underpinning principles for short break provision. They were informed by national feedback from parents and the Voluntary Sector and detailed in the Aiming High Practice Guidance.

Participation

Derbyshire has been committed to extending the meaningful participation of disabled young people across Childrens Services. For instance, Disabled young people are now an integral part of the Derbyshire Youth Council which links into the Derbyshire Special Schools. The mother of a young man with a severe hearing impairment who sits on the North Derbyshire District Forum has commented: “He’s got no end of confidence and is totally changed and knows how to put his side across now”.

Disabled young people will continue to influence service development for instance some have recently been trained as trainers by the Children’s Rights Team. From January 2011 they have been delivering training to staff about the participation of disabled children and young people, in the design and delivery of services. More information is available from the Children’s Rights Team.

Participation of parents has also progressed significantly. Parents are now involved in the Disabled Children’s Planning group, and its sub-group, the Disabled Children’s Commissioning Group. 5 Parent Forums run across the county and are linked with the County Parent Forum. There is also the Parent Advisory Group referred to above. Recognising that parents can often be the best person to advise another, we have also established the Web Forum where parents can post questions and answer them.

Feedback

Linked to participation, we are endeavouring to improve not just how we seek feedback from families but also how we feedback to families about what we are doing based on their participation.

Information

Much progress has been made with the provision of information, but we still want to improve on its accessibility and availability.

Consultation Question Eight

**This draft statement has only got limited examples and quotes, and no photos to make it shorter and cheaper to produce. Is that acceptable?
A summary Short Break Statement will be produced in a leaflet format. What are the most important things to include in this?**

Assessment

Assessments should be proportionate to the apparent need and guided by the views of the child and family. In response to expressed views from disabled children and young people about being repeatedly 'assessed' and a commitment to make best use of public funds, the **Derbyshire offer** is designed to be usually available without additional assessments being required.

Transparency, especially about eligibility

Over the last few years we have tried a few approaches to determining eligibility such as scores for different types of need or very long, detailed descriptions of impairments. There is no clear national guidance; we want to follow the social model of disability and not to make people have extra assessments. We have tried to be clear that children can move between groups as necessary and recognised our legal responsibility to apply discretion. So we have included a limited definition in this draft statement and described some of the factors which are considered when deciding levels of service to be as transparent as possible. We have also given examples as parental feedback indicated that was helpful to understand whether or not their child may be eligible.

Consultation Question Nine

Should there be more detail about eligibility to make it more transparent, and if so, what?

Section Five - Appendices

Appendix One – Legal

Appendix Two – Record of Consultation and Feedback

- Interim Feedback, Communication and Consultation Report, February 2011.
- Short Breaks Derbyshire – Dr K Runswick-Cole and Dr D Goodley.
- BME Consultation
- Consultation with Disabled Children and Young People including ibk, extended services, various activities and services
- Staff – Janet Gadsby Report

Appendix Three – Population Data

Appendix Four – Consultation Questions

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