

## **Wakefield Council Short Breaks Statement (Updated December 2013)**

***There is an on-going consultation about Short Breaks in the Wakefield District, which may lead to a change of the Short Breaks Statement. Until then, this document remains active.***

***Wakefield's Short Break Statement was last reviewed in December 2013. In order to help families access services whilst the consultation is ongoing, we have updated the December 2013 guidance with correct telephone numbers and service details. We have also removed the names of services that have closed since December 2013. In updating the information, we have not made any changes to the access criteria.***

### **Introduction**

Welcome to Wakefield Council's Short Breaks Statement. The aim of this document is to provide parents and carers with information on:

- Short breaks;
- The range of short break opportunities available in Wakefield;
- Who can access short breaks;
- How to access short breaks; and
- How short breaks meet the needs of disabled children and families.

### **What are Short Breaks?**

Short breaks provide leisure activities and support services for disabled children and young people, outside of the school day. Short breaks are part of a range of services which support children in need and their families. They include the provision of day, evening, overnight and weekend activities for the child or young person, and can take place in the child's own home, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential or community setting. Short breaks enable parents and carers to have a break from their caring role, giving them time to have a rest, catch up on day-to-day activities, spend time with other family members or take up other interests.

### **The range of short breaks in Wakefield**

The range of short breaks in Wakefield includes:

#### *The Home Based Break Service*

The Home Based Break Service provides a variety of short breaks in the community for eligible families (an assessment is undertaken to determine eligibility).

The service includes:

#### *Leisure Link*

Leisure Link provides disabled children (aged 8 - 18 years) short breaks 'out and about' in the community. These breaks help them pursue leisure interests, have fun, gain confidence, learn new skills and develop independence. The children and young people along with their families decide what kinds of activities they take part in; for example, swimming, bowling, cinema trips, visiting places of local interest, joining a young people's club or sports group, or just meeting up with friends.

#### *Connect Placement*

Connect Placement is a short break service for children with a significant disability (aged 0-18). The placement takes place within carers' own homes, with both day and overnight care available.

Wakefield Council and Wakefield District NHS also offer overnight short breaks to eligible children/young people and their families living in the Wakefield District (an assessment is undertaken to determine eligibility). These breaks are available at:

Wasdale Children's Resource Centre

Offers overnight short breaks for children and young people aged 5-17 with learning disability and/or a physical disability or sensory impairment.

Star House

Star House provides planned residential short breaks for up to seven children and young people aged 5-17 with learning disability, with a dual diagnosis of complex physical and / or sensory needs and / or challenging behaviour.

**Who can access Short Breaks?**

Detailed information about eligibility criteria for short breaks is published in the Wakefield Council Short Breaks Access Guidance. The document describes the services and support that are available to families caring for a disabled child.

Services that do not require an assessment

Some services / support are available without an assessment, for instance, where:

- The child / young person has a learning/physical disability or autism which means they sometimes or always need some support with personal care, behaviour, keeping safe, making friends and/or taking part in activities, and the parent /carer needs some support so that they can manage their caring role, have time with other children and have an 'ordinary' family life; **or**
- The child / young person has a substantial disability or complex needs which means they frequently need help with personal care, without help would be unable to make friends or could be a risk to themselves or others, and the parent / carer needs support to be able to manage their caring role and enjoy an 'ordinary' family life, to have a break from caring or to spend time with other family members.

Services that require an assessment

If a child needs more specialist support, a banding system provides a guide to the level of support that may be on offer:

Band 1

The child has a substantial disability or complex needs which means they frequently need help with:

- Personal cares: e.g. eating, dressing, going to the toilet, bathing, moving.
- Without help, they would be unable to make friends or could be a risk to themselves or others.
- Or the parent / carer needs support to manage their caring role and enjoy an 'ordinary' family life, to have a break from caring or to spend time with other family members.

Band 2

The child / young person meet Band 1 criteria, plus have one of more of the following:

- Requires active assistance to undertake the majority of personal care tasks, needs assistance with mobility or 'transfers';
- Requires close supervision in order to manage everyday risks;
- Displays unpredictable behaviour which requires close monitoring to ensure their safety or that of others;
- Has a medical condition which requires careful monitoring;
- Has complex health needs, for example enteral feeding;
- Or the parent/carer needs support to manage their caring role due to difficult family circumstances, they have their own physical or mental health needs, or have no family or friends to provide support.

### Band 3

The child / young person meet Band 2 criteria, plus have one of more of the following:

- Needs frequent active assistance as a result of complex or challenging behaviour;
- Needs frequent active assistance as a result of complex health needs; or
- Or the parent / carer needs considerable support due to their own health needs, is experiencing a lack of sleep as they are frequently required to attend to the child during the night or that without support, they may no longer be able to continue their caring role.

### **How to access short breaks**

Some short breaks and services for disabled children can be accessed without the need for an assessment, whilst others require assessment by a Social Worker.

For more information about how to access short breaks and eligibility, please contact:

- Wakefield Early Support, Advice, Information & Liaison (WESAIL) service (01924 379015)
- Social Care Direct (03458 503 503)

### **How short breaks meet the needs of disabled children and families**

Parents and carers, as well as children and young people are involved in the shaping of services in Wakefield; for instance, the Access Guidance for short breaks was developed in partnership with parents/carers of disabled children. Local service providers also undertake consultation activities with families and feed these back to the Local Authority. Local Authority commissioners undertake evaluation of services to ensure they are providing services which meet the needs of service users.

### **Review**

This Short Breaks Statement will be reviewed and revised as required.