

Short Break Services Statement South Gloucestershire

For families with children and young people who
have learning difficulties and/or disabilities





Our Vision – ‘a break for you’

What are short breaks?

Short breaks are activities for children and young people, usually away from home, that enable them to have fun and time with their peers, while at the same time giving a break to parents from their caring role.

They can be for the whole family together as well as for children and young people away from their family carers and range from a few hours’ activities to longer times.

Our Short Break Offer:

Disabled children have opportunities to meet other children, to have fun and to take part in everyday activities outside their family home, or at home if appropriate .

Parents, carers and siblings have some time free from their caring responsibilities.

Short Break Services should:

Enable parents and carers to

Feel supported and to experience reduced levels of stress due to caring

Have clear information on their entitlement and know what is available to them

Be confident their child is having a positive experience

Have a range of services from which they are able to make choices

Have trust in the short break provider, and to know that carers are trained, skilled and understand their child’s needs.

Enable disabled children and young people to

Enjoy the experience and try new things

Share fun times

Have an opportunity to be with or make friends

Take part in activities which help their development

Have some choice and control over what they do

Know what to expect and to feel safe

Enable brothers and sisters to

Be able to have time with their parents that is not taken up with caring issues

Know that their brother or sister is enjoying their short break

Be able to have their friends to visit

Be able to do homework, or other activities or just have some time for themselves.

Be able to join their brother and sister for some short break activities



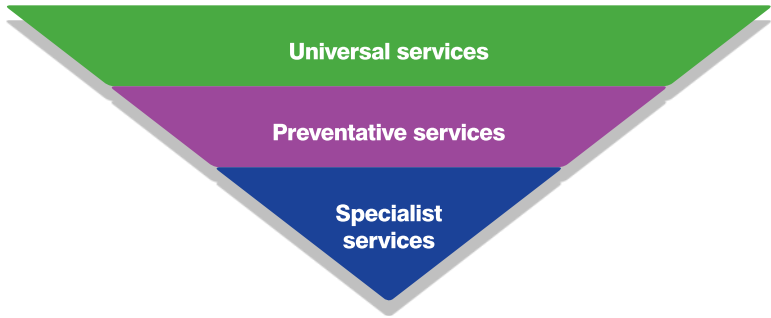
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SUMMARY



What types of services will be available? Universal, preventative or specialist?



Universal services are services available to all children and young people, such as education or general practitioner services. They include activities at youth clubs, after-school clubs, sports and leisure centres, and Sure Start Children's Centres.

Universal Services will be the first point of contact for many families; we will work to promote inclusion and support universal services to meet the needs of disabled children and young people.

Disabled children will not need an assessment to access universal services, apart from any criteria operated by each organisation.

Preventative services. We recognise that families may have additional needs if they are bringing up a disabled child and that the children and young people may need extra support, either short or long term, to be able to take part in activities. Preventative services aim to offer support to avoid difficulties building up and to encourage children and young people to try new things.

Short break preventative services are specifically for disabled children and their families, and may be provided for different age or impairment groups. They may be holiday activities or at weekends or evenings.

Children and their families do not necessarily need an assessment to be able to access all of the services. Some are offered to children and their families without a formal assessment but may have limits on the numbers they can cater for or be offered to children with specific impairments; others will be available as the result of an assessment from the integrated working teams in the Kingswood and Patchway Locality Hubs.

Specialist services are offered to children and families who are assessed as needing a specialist service from the council's Child Health and Disability Team or the NHS. They are provided to children and families with the most complex needs and include services in or away from the child's home and could be with family carers or with individual support workers to use community facilities.

They are offered following a specialist assessment of need from the Child Health and Disability Team or the NHS.

How will I know if my child can access the specialist social care service?

The eligibility criteria for the specialist Child Health and Disability Team are: the child has a substantial and long lasting/permanent impairment or a life limiting/life threatening condition; there is a significant impact on the child or family's life, including a risk to parental resilience, and the child's or family's needs cannot be met without support from a specialist social care disability service.

The assessment takes into account the child's diagnosis and difficulties and how these impact on the family, and whether specialist services are needed to support the child's safety and well being and the family's needs. Family and environmental factors, the child's development and parents' needs for support in their parenting role are also considered. The Team operates a duty phone line for people who wish to enquire about their services.





What sort of services are there?

This is not a comprehensive list but indicates the sorts of services that may be available:

Universal services – activities at youth centres, sports or leisure centres or after-school clubs, or Sure Start Children's Centres.

Preventative services – holiday playschemes, weekend activities, outdoor playscheme for pre-school children with autistic spectrum disorder or severe communication needs, dance sessions, targeted youth clubs, individual support to access mainstream activities, family trips and days out. These also include services which can be accessed through the Common Assessment Framework process and offered through the Kingswood and Patchway Locality Hubs.

Specialist services – these are determined by the assessment of need and outcomes that need to be met. They include social care services such as a sitting service or practical assistance with the child's care at home, or NHS palliative care short break services for children with life limiting and life threatening conditions.

What have parents told us about the breaks they have received?

'what you do is so valuable to us as a family. ...This gives us time to do things with our other 2 children that (disabled child) won't tolerate.'

'our other children have benefited from more quality time with us'

'(child) is always happy when he goes to ...(the activity) and it's good for us that he accepts someone else looking after him.'

How can I find out more?

You can look on the following websites

South Gloucestershire Council www.southglos.gov.uk search short breaks. This has the full Short Break Services Statement and a list of provider organisations and activities.

Our Voice Matters, the South Gloucestershire Forum for parents of children with additional needs, www.ourvoicematters.org.uk

Join The Network for families of disabled children in South Gloucestershire www.southglos.gov.uk/thenetwork

For general information about services for disabled children, The Yellow Book, a guide for parents and carers of children with additional needs who live in South Gloucestershire can be downloaded on www.southglos.gov.uk/yellowbook or a paper copy is sent when you register with The Network.

Or please contact the Children and Young People Information Service on tel: ☎ **01454 868008** email: ✉ cis@southglos.gov.uk



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If you would like this information in a different format, for example: Braille, audio tape, large print, computer disk, BSL or community languages, please contact: ☎ 01454 868009