

Nottingham City Council Draft Short Breaks Services Information Statement

Background

This information is for families living in the City of Nottingham who have a disabled child aged 0 to 18 years. It describes the way Nottingham city Council has prepared the statement of Short Breaks Services with its partners and citizens.

Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. Regulations relating to 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.

Short Breaks provide disabled children and young people with an opportunity to spend time away from their parents whilst enjoying a positive activity. They assist families to have an ordinary family life and they give parents a break from caring to enable them to rest, enjoy their own interests or spend time with their other children. A break should help the main carer to continue to provide care or to do this more effectively.

How the statement has been prepared.

This is Nottingham City Council's first statement of Short Breaks Services and has been prepared as part of our Aiming High program. The statement has been based on the information and data collected during the 3 year aiming high program which included extensive involvement and consultation with/of partners, parents and disabled children. The statement has been agreed with the Aiming High Steering group which is a partnership between Nottingham City Council and NHS, Connexions, The Oakfield School, Parent Partnership, voluntary sector partners, The Rainbows Parents Group and Special Peoples Group. Nottingham City considers this document as an active tool in its future development of short breaks services and as such is always happy to receive comments on its contents at any time. Any comments may be sent to disabledchildren.team@nottinghamcity.gov.uk. The document will be reviewed annually in September each year and included in the council's commissioning cycle as an active tool in the ongoing development of short breaks provision to meet local need. It will be revisited as part of the Whole life Disability Review currently taking place and amended as developments take place.

Who is responsible?

4. The lead officer responsible for preparing this statement is Marie Haford Service Manager Disabled Children Services who reports to Viv McCrossen

Head of Service Family and Community Teams. The draft statement will be approved by The Aiming High Steering Group, The Rainbows parents group and the special peoples group. Once agreed with our partners it will be submitted for sign off to the Children's Partnership Board.

Needs Assessment

The disabled population increased by 70% in the last 30 years (1976 –2006). The fastest growing section of the disabled population is the under 16 age group. The number of disabled children in the BME community will double over the next five years. The number of children born with complex needs and surviving into adolescence and beyond is also increasing (Every Child Matters, 2003).

The JSNA 2010 www.nottinghaminsight.org.uk/insight/jsna/children provides a comprehensive needs assessment of local need in relation to disabled children and their families.

The JSNA estimates there are 4,000 disabled children and young people, aged 0-19, of which almost 900 have severe and lifelong disabilities who live within the boundaries of Nottingham City Council.

The school census data identifies a rising percentage of special educational need and disability (SEND) in Nottingham City. In 2011, there were around 11,439 pupils (29%) with some form of SEND- this is an increase of over 2,558 pupils (28.8%) from 2004. And that Nottingham City has the highest incidence of SEND across the nine East Midlands authorities. Over 3,600 pupils were categorised as having higher level needs requiring additional support, an increase of over 1,300 (57%) pupils since 2004.

Also of significance in planning services is the impact of age, gender, ethnicity and Geography/ socio-demography on prevalence of disability.

Males with SEND outnumber females and account for around 62% of all pupils with an SEN Status. This is even starker in the higher need categories; as males who are supported at School Action Plus (SA+) outnumber females by over 2 to 1 and with Statements by almost 3 to 1.

The rise in the numbers of pupils with SEND has been greater within secondary schools than primary, 25% of all primary pupils have a special educational need or disability, the percentage of all pupils with SEND in the secondary phase stands at 35% in 2011 (a 51.5% increase from 2004 levels). In addition to this increase in recorded prevalence in older children, there is also an increase in need in older age groups.

It does not appear as though there are any significant under or over representation within ethnic groups in their overall level of SEND classification. However, analysis of those with higher level needs within each ethnic group as a percentage of that group with an SEND status shows that there appears to be disparity between some of the large ethnic groups in the city. 22.5% of Black African pupils and Pakistani pupils with an SEN Status are categorised

as higher need compared to over 28% of all the mixed race pupils and almost 36% of White British pupils. This may need further analysis as national data suggests an higher incidence of disability in some ethnic groups particularly south east Asian communities.

There is a direct relationship between SEND levels and poverty within the city. The more deprived wards and neighbourhoods across the City have higher levels of incidence amongst pupils. With St Annes, Dunkirk/Lenton, The Dales, Aspley, Bilborough, Aboretum and Mapperley all having an incidence of SEND of over 30%. Children with the highest level needs at SA+ with an incidence of over 10% are more prevalent in Clifton (north and south), Bilborough and Bridge. It is critical when planning locality based services that resources are targeted to this map of need.

As the disabled population increases, without a commensurate increase in service provision there is a risk that children with a range of disabilities, are excluded from their local community, universal and targeted provision, and from appropriate short breaks services.

Of the estimated 4000 children and young people with SEND, 900 of these have been identified as having severe, permanent and substantial disability. Currently the Disabled Childrens Team (DCT) provides services to 530 children which has risen from 400 since the start of the aiming high program. Using data gathered for Aiming High it is estimated that the number of children entitled and wishing to receive a specialist short break service will rise to 700. Given these figures, Nottingham City have constructed a core offer to ensure that universal and targeted services develop the capacity to meet the needs of approximately 3300 children and young people with SEN and disability whilst short breaks have capacity to meet the needs of the 700 severely disabled children. In order to meet this demand Nottingham City have developed a pathways approach to the provision of short breaks which is described in more detail below.

Nottingham City Aiming High project has been successful in increasing the numbers of children accessing a short break from specialist and targeted providers from 268 in 2008 to 1018 by the end of Aiming High in March 2011(Aiming High Laimp data quarter 5 2011).

Consultation with parents of disabled children between 2008 and 2011 has resulted in the following messages for the future development of short breaks and wider services:

The Aiming High programme has identified a series of gaps in service. Customers have said they require:

- consistent, accessible, flexible and reliable provision,
- community youth and play services to be flexible in adapting to the requirements of differing cultures in meeting the needs of young people with complex SEND
- accessible transport

- accurate and accessible information
- coordinated assessments where the views of parents, carers and young people are central to defining individual service requirements,
- services that can be purchased with direct payments or individualised budgets.

As part of the Aiming High program Nottingham City has been successful in increasing the range of short breaks available to families with a disabled child, moving towards its ability to provide personalised and flexible services for families that allow choice. Nottingham City has also increased the numbers of families accessing direct payments but recognises that further work needs to take place to develop the market place to allow families to purchase their own services. An individual budgets pilot is being undertaken to inform the council on how to move forward with individual budgets as a choice for all families by 2014 as outlined in the sen green paper.

A whole life disability review is being undertaken in 2011 to develop the councils objectives for further improvement of short breaks and other services for disabled children and adults in the context of the current challenging financial environment. Partners, parents and young people will be consulted during this 2-3 year program. A primary focus of this review will be to remove duplication in existing service provision across, social care, health and education whilst continuing to increase the choice, quality and availability of short breaks services.

Our Aims

Our aim is to ensure that families with disabled children have the support they need to 'live ordinary family lives as a matter of course'.

We know that both local and national research demonstrates that short breaks are a priority for families with disabled children but alone they cannot achieve our aim unless they are delivered as part of a much broader package of family support services. Nottingham City has developed with partners it family support strategy and pathway <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ics/index.aspx?articleid=14713> which describes universal, additional and extensive provision. This applies equally to disabled children and is critical in meeting our aim.

The Nottingham Aiming High program had two strands to developing services. By collaborating with family and community teams and other partners we have made universal provision more accessible and inclusive for disabled children creating a core offer of play and youth provision which entitles all children to 2.5 hours of provision per week. And in addition significantly increasing short breaks resources to ensure it can meet the needs of the 700 disabled children who require additional short breaks services.

Short breaks for disabled children are a broad range of additional services designed to achieve the following:

- Promote positive activities for children
- To give children and their families the opportunity to lives which are as ordinary as possible
- To assist individuals who provide care for such children to continue to do so or to do so more effectively, by giving them breaks from caring.

We want to make sure that families can access short breaks as easily as possible and have therefore created our pathway model of short breaks.

Access and Eligibility to short breaks

Nottingham city has developed a new approach to the access and eligibility of short breaks services based on a pathways model this is described in detail in our document entitled Nottingham City short breaks statement – Threshold and access criteriaadd link. The following is a summary of that approach.

Disabled Children are entitled to a short break service if they have a permanent and substantial disability and are unable to access universal and additional services without significant specialist support.

A child is disabled within the meaning of the 1989 Childrens Act “if he is blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from mental disorder of any kind or is substantially or permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity”

This may include a physical or learning disability, a hearing or visual impairment. It includes children with autism and Asperger's Syndrome and children who may have challenging behaviour as a result of their learning disability. It also includes children who have complex needs and who may have palliative, life-limiting or a life- threatening condition

Whilst all disabled children are entitled to support, the needs of many disabled children can be met through the duties placed on local authorities to provide information, advice and guidance and by the use of universal services or by referral for additional services provided by statutory, voluntary and private sectors. Therefore the level and type of support will depend on a range of factors: the unique combination of disability, the circumstances of the Childs home life and wider social environment this means all referrals will be assessed on its own merits. The level of the assessment to be undertaken will be balanced against the likely service required and requested by the family this is called the pathways to short breaks.

Pathway 1 – The basic offer: Nottingham city offer a minimum offer of 102 hours of short breaks per year to all disabled children without specialist assessment as long as they are in receipt of the highest care component of DLA. This is accessed via a caf by the lead professional to demonstrate services are required beyond the core offer to meet the family's needs.

Pathway 2 – The Enhanced Offer: This is accessed via a referral to the Disabled Childrens Team who will complete an initial assessment of need. This is a short assessment taking 7 days and can allocate care up to a maximum of 359 hours per year as long as this does not include overnight care outside of the family home no further assessment will be required and the family will be allocated a worker from the disabled childrens team who will review the suitability of the care they receive.

Pathway 3 – The specialist offer: This is for children with the most complex needs who need a very high level of care over 360 hours per year or overnight care in a highly specialised environment and can only be accessed after a full core assessment (including carers assessment if agreed) of the child and family's needs and presentation to the short breaks resources panel. This may include overnight care in a family or residential setting if the child's needs cannot be met in any other way. This also includes specialist nurse assessments for the small number of children who have continuing care needs.

Types of Short Breaks

The following short breaks services are currently available in Nottingham via the pathways model, they do not include the many universal, targeted and voluntary sector provision that are available by direct access, referral or via the core offer and are additional to these services. Full information about other services available to all children or specifically to disabled children can be accessed via the Family information service on 0800 458 4114 email: fis@nottinghamcity.gov.uk and via the askiris website at www.askiris.org.uk an information service specifically for the parents of disabled children.

Residential Short Breaks Services: These meet the needs of children with the most complex needs and are available from aged 10 – 18. Children attending these units will have severe learning disabilities, significant autism and challenging behaviour or complex health needs as part of a physical disability or syndrome.

Family based short breaks: These meet the needs of children aged 0 – 18 who have complex needs and require care outside their own home. They can provide both day and overnight care

Linkwork (befriending): working with children aged 5 – 18 this service provides an individual sessional worker to accompany children to activities or to enable them to access the community. This can be a long or short term service for children who cannot access the community without specialist one to one support.

Homecare (domiciliary care): this provides practical support to families with children aged 0 -18 to enable parents to either have a break or to provide essential care under the chronically sick and disabled carers act 1970 when there is no adult who can provide the practical care the child needs. This might be getting the child ready for school or to undertake house work etc.

Sitting Services: provide staff to care for disabled children aged 0 - 18 in their own home or in the community often whilst parents go out. Sitting services are also provided for children with complex health needs via a specialist nursing team.

Daycare: provides an activity based fun playscheme type setting to children in the local community in the school holiday or weekends. A range of schemes are available depending on the needs of the child. These are provided when the child cannot access mainstream holiday and after school provision. Some schemes are accessible without assessment and via direct referral to the scheme itself.

Direct Payments: are cash payments made in lieu of the above services and enable parents or young people over 16 to purchase their own care or employ their own staff. Direct payments cannot yet be made in lieu of health provided short breaks although this may change in the future. Support services are available to assist with employment responsibilities.

Transport

We know that transport is needed by some families in order for their children to get to their short break and for the family to receive the maximum benefit from their break. However we also know that transport is expensive and time consuming - the need for transport is therefore part of any assessment of need and will only be provided when the family cannot reasonable transport the child themselves to the short break or when this would not allow them to gain a benefit from the break.

If children travel from school to their overnight short break and they currently receive home to school transport this will be arranged to take the child to their short break to prevent the family having to make multiple journeys.

Transition

We want transition from children's to adult's services to be an exciting and optimistic time for young people. We want to support young adults to take their place in the world. As part of Aiming High, Nottingham City have invested in improving our transitions service. A multi-agency transition team will work with all children and young people 16 plus who require specialist services when they move to onto adulthood to ensure a tailored package of support can be provided via individualised approach to planning. An individual budgets pilot is specifically looking at how the transition of young people 16 plus can be supported by individual budgets being available earlier. Nottingham City will be considering further how it can develop services for 0-25 as part of its whole life disability review in response to the sen green paper.

Measuring Impact

We will ensure that our short break services focus on improving the life chances of disabled children and their families through continuing to develop our impact and outcomes monitoring of all services based on the short breaks standards. We know that the views of families, both parents and children are essential for future success. We will therefore ensure our parent forums and children's consultation forums are supported and developed to become independent self-sustaining bodies.

We will ensure that all the short breaks we provide make a positive difference to our young people. We will continue to measure children's and parental satisfaction in the use of our services. And use this information to improve services. We will publicise any changes we make in response to consultation or review utilising IRIS our parent information service to do this.

We have invested along with our NHS partners in the development of a comprehensive staff training program to ensure both specialist and universal providers have the skills to work with disabled children. Nottingham City NHS have specifically commissioned nursing support to ensure the health needs of children our met in our specialist short breaks provision. We have invested in an E-learning package to develop all staffs skills in their work with Disabled Children.

Priorities for Improvement

- Ensuring the market place is developed to ensure services can be purchased directly by parents.
- Ensuring service capacity continues to reflect the demand for services
- Increasing the numbers of contract carers to ensure families can access family based care
- Further integrating the provision and assessment of short breaks across health and social care.
- Ensuring consistent, accessible, flexible and reliable provision
- Developing a transport policy
- Assisting the Rainbows parents and special peoples groups to become self-sustaining independent bodies.
- Developing and establishing as a permanent service, our specialist outreach program, to support parents of disabled children, with challenging behaviour, in their own home.