



# Short Breaks in Northamptonshire

## Service Statement 2016



An Easy Read Guide About Short Breaks  
Available In Northamptonshire



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## About our Short Breaks Services Statement



This information is for families living in Northamptonshire who have a child or young person with a disability and/or sensory impairment.



It includes information on the purpose of the Short Breaks Services Statement and the range of Short Breaks available in Northamptonshire.



All local authorities must have a 'Short Breaks Services Statement' for carers/parents that include the following:

# About Short Breaks:



The range of Short Breaks available.

The criteria by which services can be assessed.



How the range of Short Break services is designed to meet the needs of children and young people with a disability.



Our Short Breaks Services Statement was developed in partnership with children and young people, parents and carers to ensure it remains relevant to all.



The statement is compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and uses this to develop all provisions with reasonable adjustments.

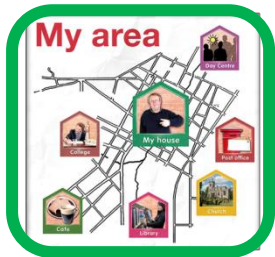
# What are Short Breaks?



Short Breaks aim to benefit children and young people with disabilities, complex health needs, and/or sensory impairments. Children and young people are offered experiences that foster and improve their individual and social development.



Short Breaks can happen at different times – during the day or evening; overnight or on weekends, and can last a few hours or a number of days.



They can also be offered in various locations ranging from the family home, a carer's home, a residential setting as part of the child's / young person's plan. Please note that all breaks must be part of an agreed plan



The type of service and time is dependent on the assessed need for the child and/or young person. Northamptonshire County Council believes that the success of Short Breaks has continued to:



# What are Short Breaks?



**Reduce social isolation.**



**Give greater access to leisure facilities.**



**Support the development of friendship/peer networks.**



**Enable personal development.**



**Provide a safe, enjoyable, educational experience that promotes the well-being of children and young people.**

# Short Break Eligibility Criteria:



Service	How needs are identifies	Consultation with	Type of Provision
<b>Universal Provision</b> – Available to all	Self – referral	Child / young person And parent / carer	Clubs, sports and leisure facilities, group activities and family breaks
<b>Targeted Services and Early Help</b> – Available to those who need additional services beyond Universal Services (Provision)	Assessment completed by the service provider	Child / young person, parent / carer and service coordinator	Services such as Specialist Schools and Community Clubs
<b>Specialist Services</b> – Available to individuals who have additional needs beyond Targeted Services	Children's Social Care and identified provider assessment	Child / young person, parent / carer, involved professionals, key workers	Home support, domiciliary care, direct payments, overnights, sessional support

# Universal Services:



Northamptonshire County Council is committed to ensuring children and young people with disabilities are able to access and enjoy all the services and settings in their community that their non disabled peers do.



For this reason, we will support all mainstream holiday clubs, after school clubs, nurseries or other provisions to ensure they can provide a safe and fun Short Break facility for disabled children and young people, as required by the Equality Act 2010.



Most of the children and young people in Northamptonshire who require services will receive them through Universal Services within their local community / area.

Northamptonshire is committed to this being true for children and young people with a disability.



Universal Services provision, for example, sport clubs, youth clubs, libraries and children's centres, are vital in ensuring that children and young people with disabilities enjoy themselves with friends and their peer groups.

# Targeted Services and Early Help:



Targeted Services are when you receive a specific service based on your needs. Some children and young people with disabilities will need to access services and provisions at a Targeted level. This is usually because they have more complex needs or have other issues which mean that Universal Services may not fit their individual needs.



Northamptonshire County Council continues to develop Targeted Short Break services for disabled children and young people. These are either provided directly by Northamptonshire County Council or funded by the Council and provided under contract.



A commitment to offer **7** days of Short Break's during the summer holiday. This is the time parents have consistently told us is the most difficult.



Funding for **6** "After School Clubs" for disabled children and young people. This ranges across Special Schools, Academies and third sector organisations. We intend to grow this further.



**7** 'Saturday Clubs' for children and young people with disabilities offering the opportunity of enjoyable leisure activities and a rest for parents and carers.



# Targeted Services:



Activity and play days during the summer holiday for disabled children and young people.



Establishment of **10** Holiday Clubs for disabled children and young people, offering breaks during summer holidays and other school holidays.



**5** further Holiday and Saturday Clubs specifically for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.



Youth Clubs specifically for young people with disabilities.



A specialist sitting service to provide qualified child minders as sitters for disabled children and young people in their own home whilst parents or carers take a break outside the family environment.

# Targeted Services:



Special funding is available to assist children and young people to attend these activities. Please contact the Local Offer for more information.

[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer)



Early Help means providing support as soon as the problem emerges, at any point in the child's life, from the foundation years, through to the teenage years.' Effective Early Help relies upon local agencies working together to:



Identify children and families who would benefit from Early Help.



Undertake an assessment of the need for Early Help.



Provide Targeted Early Help services to address the assessed needs of the child and their family.

# Specialist Services:



Northamptonshire County Council recognises that children and young people with a disability may require services at a Specialist level.



To access services at this level, a referral must be made to the **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** on **0300 126 1000**.



A social care assessment will then be completed by the Disabled Children's Team. If the assessment shows the need for services beyond those listed, an alternative types of short breaks may be more appropriate. These include:



**Person care within the child or young person's own home.**



**Overnight short breaks within the home of another family.**



**Overnight short breaks within a residential home.**

# Specialist Services:



Families may instead receive Direct Payments or a Personal Budget. The Council has worked with services to provide a Direct Payment Support Service to families who wish to explore this option.



Direct Payments can only be used to purchase a service that meets the identified needs of the child / young person.



They may be used to purchase services that directly support the child or young person.



This can include a carer to assist with personal care needs being met.



Or to accompany the child or young person in the community and enable them to access social inclusion activities.



# Special Educational Needs and Disabilities:



In line with the Children and Families Act 2014, Northamptonshire County Council is changing the way it provides support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.



Education, Health and Care Plans (**EHC**) are replacing statements of Special Educational Needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments (section 139a's).



They include information and support plan about the child's or young person's special educational needs, as well as health and social care needs.



For some, the plan will continue into further education and training up to the age of 25 years.



All children and young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan will have the option to request a Personal Budget.

# The Local Offer:



The Local Offer outlines what help, support and services are available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families in Northamptonshire up to the age of 25 in line with the Children and Families Act 2014.



## **The Local Offer provides:**

Information about education, social care and health services, as well as services provided by voluntary and community groups.



Information about services for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans, as well as those without.



The Local Offer is published and updated on the internet and is available in other formats on request.



Northamptonshire County Council Local Offer website provides information about Education, Social Care, Health, parental support and activities for children / young people and their families.

[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/Localoffer](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/Localoffer)

# Transport:



Parents and carers are expected and encouraged to transport their children to and from activities. We do understand and appreciate that transport can be challenging in a county of the size of Northamptonshire.



Northamptonshire County Council acknowledge that transport can be a barrier to accessing short breaks, and that transport problems can reduce the positive outcomes achieved through Short Breaks.



We will continue to support local groups and services to become more accessible.



We will also continue to work with partners and the Northamptonshire County Council Transport Service to enable providers, where possible, to take responsibility for transport arrangements.



Community and voluntary transport is designed to help those who are unable to use public transport because of age, disability or lack of a public transport service.

# Transport:



These schemes are operated directly by community organisations with each organisation offering different levels of service.



Transition to Adult Services Short Breaks help to promote preparation for adulthood for young people and their families. The development of friendships, relationships and community participation is essential.



Age appropriate Short Breaks such as those accessed via universal provision, including youth clubs and holiday clubs, enable young people to develop confidence and promote independence.



Children and young people can engage in activities in a safe and caring environment where they can build friendships, be part of their community and help to raise their aspirations.

**Universal** and **Targeted** services enable young people and their families to have choice and control in making decisions about age appropriate activities.



Short Breaks promote opportunities for developing independent life skills and community inclusion.



# Tom's Story:



Whilst knowing that we as a family needed to have some respite for Tom one of the most important things in making that decision was that it was something that Tom was going to get a lot out of and really enjoy doing. The last thing we as parents wanted was for Tom to feel pushed out or him to feel we didn't want him around. There are of course then the obvious worries of whether anyone else could look after him properly and meet his needs! Once we had made the decision to go down the route of Link Family and we had been allocated a family who would like to have Tom we didn't look back.

There are of course then the obvious worries of whether anyone else could look after him properly and meet his needs! Once we had made the decision to go down the route of Link Family and we had been allocated a family who would like to have Tom we didn't look back.

Tom thoroughly enjoyed his visits to his Link Family as they always made sure that he did the activities which he loved i.e. going out for meals, cooking, playing on the iPod and going shopping. Whenever we picked him up from a visit the first thing he would ask was when he could go again! This really reassured us that he was more than happy to go away for these visits and certainly didn't feel neglected by us. Tom always talks very fondly of his Link Family visits and still has good relationships with the family and sees them regularly.

Once Tom turned 18 his Link Family visits sadly had to come to an end and we had to look for an alternative way to meet his needs with overnight respite. Fortunately we have found a local company who offer such a service and Tom is really enjoying his time with them.

# Tom's Story:

He has the continuity of a main carer with them but lots of opportunities to socialise with the other staff and young people using the service. I guess its a little bit more grown up and Tom enjoys the opportunity of going out with the 'lads'.

Its very flexible and they are more than happy for Tom to continue doing any of his normal routine clubs etc and will drop him off and pick him up when necessary. As a family it works really well as we have a set pattern of when Tom stays and then some extra nights for the odd weekend etc if we want to do something with our other son which may prove difficult with Tom in his wheelchair. All in all it works very well for us and we all gain from it.

“Whenever we picked him up from a visit the first thing he would ask was when he could go again!”





# Contact us:



Please contact us if you would like this information in another language or format:



**Telephone:**  
**0300 126 1000**



**Email:**  
**[localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk)**



**Website:**  
**[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer)**

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