

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING  
CABINET MEMBER**

**SHORT BREAKS INFORMATION STATEMENT 2017-2020**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet Member approval of the revised Short Breaks Information Statement 2017-2020.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011' provides the framework for the development of short breaks. These regulations place statutory duties upon all local authorities (LA's). These are:

1) **Duty to make provision**, under which a local authority must:

- a) have regard to the needs of those carers who would be unable to provide care unless breaks from caring were given to them
- b) have regard to the needs of those carers who would be able to provide care for their disabled child more effectively if breaks were given to them to allow them to -
  - I. undertake education, training or any regular leisure activity,
  - II. meet the needs of other children in the family more effectively, or
  - III. carry out day- to-day tasks, which they must perform in order to run their household.

In performing this duty the regulations specify, in so far as is reasonably practicable, that a range of services be provided sufficient to assist carers to continue to provide care or, to do so more effectively, these include:

- a) day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere,
- b) overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere,
- c) education or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes, and

d) services that are available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays

## **2) Duty to provide a Short Break Services' Statement**

The Regulations place a duty on Local Authorities to develop, and publish a Short Breaks Information Statement. The statement must be prepared in consultation with local carers of disabled children, be kept under review and be updated as appropriate, to enable sufficiency to be maintained. The detailed 'statement' informs carers in the area of the range of short break services available and outlines how these services can be accessed, including how any eligibility for the services will be assessed.

2.2 North Lincolnshire Council's original Short Breaks' Statement was published in 2011, with a revised copy being published in July 2014. This statement has now been reviewed and refreshed in order to reflect current short breaks arrangements and developments. The revisions have taken into account consultation with Parents/ carers and young people.

2.3 A recent recommissioning project regarding group based short breaks, involving significant consultation with parents/carers and young people led to cabinet member approval for a change in service delivery. From April 2017 Group based short breaks will be delivered internally as opposed to an externally commissioned service. The revised Short Breaks Information Statement reflects these changes.

## **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 Approval of the Information Statement.

3.2 The Information Statement is not approved

## **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Approval of the Information Statement will enable North Lincolnshire's statutory duties to continue to be met, with parents/carers, and young people being informed of the Short Breaks available to them, how to access these and how they will be delivered.

## **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 No identified implications in respect of finance, staffing or property.

5.2 The Information Statement will be published on the North Lincolnshire Local Offer Website.

## **6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Not required

## **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 Consultation has taken place with all key stakeholders (including parents, carers, disabled children and young people) who were keen to highlight the elements of the service they most valued as well as those where they would like to see improvements and developments.

7.2 Key themes from the consultation embrace the inclusion agenda particularly emphasised the following :

- A wider range of engaging activities for the varied age and ability of children and young people
- Engagement within community settings such as the Hubs and Early Years Settings
- More activities for children and young people with autism; and those aged 16+ to promote independence and life skills
- Development of a befriending/buddying service to support young people transitionally into mainstream activities
- Wider range of activities during school holidays
- A balanced provider workforce to deliver short breaks

7.3 Outcomes of the consultation have been incorporated into the revised statement they have also informed service specifications and delivery methods.

7.4 The revised Information Statement has been shared with the PIP group, who are in agreement with its content.

7.5 There are no conflicts of interests to declare.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet approves The Short Breaks Information Statement 2017-2020

**DIRECTOR OF LEARNING, SKILLS AND CULTURE**

Civic Centre  
Ashby Road  
Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN16 1AB

Author (s): Darren Chaplin Principal Officer (Virtual School and Inclusion)  
Roxanne Kirby Lead Officer Disability Services

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Short Break Regulations 2011

Short Breaks Information Statement 2014-2017.

Short Breaks Information Statement 2017-2020

You Said - We did Document 2016

2017- 2020



# Short Breaks for Disabled Children



2017 - 2020

North Lincolnshire

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## 1. Introduction and background

This statement is for Parents/ carers living within North Lincolnshire who have a disabled child aged 0 – 18 years. ‘The breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011’ placed a statutory duty on councils to prepare and publish a ‘statement’ to inform parents/carers of the range of short break services available. It has to include how eligibility for these services will be assessed and how they can be accessed. The original statement was published in October 2011. The statement has been reviewed annually in consultation with local parents/carers of disabled children, providers of short break services and other partners.

The North Lincolnshire Parents’ Involvement and Participation Group (PIP) continue to work very closely with North Lincolnshire Council in the ongoing development of short break provision and their continued input has informed this statement.

## 2. What are short breaks?

A short break is a valuable break from caring for a Parent/carer of a disabled child or young person. It is also an opportunity for a disabled child or young person to take part in meaningful and fun activities. Short breaks can take a variety of forms, including the provision of day, evening, overnight and weekend activities. Short breaks can take place in the child’s own home, in a community setting, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential setting. Short breaks can help contribute to the child and young person’s social inclusion and personal development.



## 3. Our Vision: that North Lincolnshire is a place where children are safe, families are supported and people’s lives are transformed.

### ***Children feel safe and are safe:***

- *Children know where they can get help if they don’t feel safe at home*
- *North Lincolnshire is a safe place to grow up*
- *Children are empowered to make safe lifestyle choices*

### ***Children enjoy good health and emotional wellbeing:***

- *Children are making informed choices about healthy lifestyles*
- *Children are able to talk about emotional wellbeing and positive mental health*

- *Increased opportunity to access physical, cultural and community activity*

**Children recognise and achieve their potential:**

- *Children being ready for school*
- *Young people being ready for work*
- *Children being self-confident*

**The framework for short breaks takes account of the following key principles:**

- That universal and mainstream provision (services we all use) are accessible to all disabled children and their families whilst acknowledging that some children will always need specialist support/services.
- That need arises from a combination of barriers to accessing universal and mainstream provision and family environmental factors.
- That level of need can change and those children, young people and their families can move up and down through the levels of support.
- That for some families a short break will form part of a package of services that enables their needs to be fully met.
- That in order to provide a valuable break for parents/ carer they need to be confident that their children are in a safe, nurturing environment whilst on activities.
- That there is full acknowledgement of the child/young person's and family's views/preferences in assessing and designing their individual package of short break care and support.

**Short break provision in North Lincolnshire will support this vision and these strategic priorities by ensuring that:**

- Disabled children will have the same opportunities to develop and fulfil their potential as all other children;
- Disabled children will have the same opportunity to enjoy fun, meaningful experiences independently of their primary carers, thereby contributing to their social development and reduce social isolation;
- Families with disabled children will get the support they need, when they need it;
- Universal children's services will be more genuinely inclusive of disabled children including those with complex needs;
- Parents / carers and families will have a valuable break from their caring responsibilities, whilst being confident that their children are safe within their short break activity.



#### 4. Who is responsible for this statement?

North Lincolnshire Council

#### 5. How will the short breaks statement be published?

North Lincolnshire Council's short break statement will be published on:

- North Lincolnshire's Local Offer- [www.northlincslocaloffer.com](http://www.northlincslocaloffer.com)
- North Lincolnshire PIP Forum website – [www.northlincspipforum.co.uk](http://www.northlincspipforum.co.uk)
- Family Information Service – the statement will be available in hard copy format where required



#### 6. Breaks for carers of disabled children regulations (summary)

A copy of the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 is available for detailed reference at

[www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

In order to meet the requirements of the Regulations, councils must have regard to the needs of carers in respect of their capacity to care for, or continue to care for, their disabled child and must provide a range of services designed to meet this need. A Short Break Services Statement must be prepared and published, outlining how this is to be achieved. The Statement must be kept under review and revised, as appropriate (Section 5 of the Regulations).

##### ➤ Duty to make a provision (section 3)

Councils must take into account the needs of carers who would:

- Be unable to continue caring for their disabled child unless breaks from caring were given:

OR

- Be able to give more effective care, if breaks were given to allow them to, for example, attend educational classes or training, or regular leisure activities or meet the needs of other children in the family, or carry out necessary day to day tasks in the household.

➤ **Types of services that must be provided (section 4)**

Councils must, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide a range of services sufficient to meet the needs of carers to care or to care more effectively, including:

- Services in the evenings, at the weekends and during school holidays
- Daytime care in the child’s own home and elsewhere
- Overnight care in the child’s own home and elsewhere
- Educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside of their own homes

**7. Short Breaks in North Lincolnshire**

Short Breaks continue to develop within North Lincolnshire with the authority maintaining a commitment to consult with and engage both parent/carers and children/young people in working groups and through ongoing feedback. Our partner agencies, including the PIP forum are consulted regularly with regard to the development of short breaks within North Lincolnshire.



**8. Progress on Actions 2014-2017: You Said, We Did**

Continual feedback has been sought from parents/ carers and young people, with a full recommissioning project regarding group based short breaks being undertaken in 2016. The project included significant consultation with parents/ carers and young people.

**What Parents/Carers Said:**

- Would like activities to be closer to home
- Would like community venues
- Would like something for teenagers in the local area
- Would like more of a range of activities
- Would like access to activities that are not solely for Disabled Children
- Would like their children and young people to develop more independence, develop socially and have a buddy to accompany them to activities
- Would like children and young people to have fun and enjoy themselves

**What Children and Young People said:**

- Would like a friend/buddy for support
- Would like activities in the evenings during the week and during the day at weekends
- 38% would like activities just for young people with a disability
- 62% would like activities that any young person could attend
- Would like to attend regular arts, music, drama and film activities



- Would like to develop their skills and learn new skills
- Would like holiday clubs, trips away and social evenings

#### **What we did:**

- New group based activities will be based within localities
- Community wellbeing hubs, and other community based venues will be utilised
- Age appropriate activities will be made appropriate, for example age 14+ specific activities, including independence work
- Short breaks will be integrated within mainstream activities
- Activities will focus on fun, with young people being involved in the continual development/ reviewing of activities
- Activities will be available on an evening, weekend and throughout holidays
- Discrete activities for children with disabilities will be made available as required
- A range of activities will be on offer, including art, music and social evenings.

#### **9. Range of short break services available in North Lincolnshire**

The information received from feedback, and consultation has shaped and evolved the way in which we will deliver short breaks moving forward within North Lincolnshire. These short break services meet the requirements of the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011'. These are:

##### **1) Day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere (S.4 (2) a):**

**Individualised Short Breaks** is care that could take place in the child's own home on any day of the week. It could also mean that a worker could be employed by a registered care agency to accompany a young person to an activity of their choosing. Alternatively, a parent/carer could use a Direct Payment to purchase a service in lieu of that delivered by North Lincolnshire Council.

##### **2) Overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere (S.4 (2) b):**

Overnight Short breaks are available to disabled children and young people who are assessed as having additional needs which impact on the family causing ongoing sleep deprivation for family members and/or high levels of family stress.

If assessed as appropriate overnight care could be offered within the child's home, or elsewhere.

**The Cygnets** is a residential short breaks home that provides overnight breaks to children who have a learning difficulty and complex needs; they provide this care for those children aged 5 to 18.

**The Butterflies Short Break Foster Scheme** provides overnight short breaks to disabled children, whose needs can be best met by individual care within a family based setting. This can be provided for those children aged 0 to 18 years.

### 3) Group Based Specialist Short Break Activities

Each locality within North Lincolnshire will provide a range of group based activities at appropriate venues for disabled children and young people to engage in on a regular basis.



**Playscheme for disabled children.** This is a scheme that is held during the Easter and Summer school holidays. The scheme is for children aged 5-18 who attend a specialist Educational setting and have been nominated to attend.

#### 4) Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays (S.4 (2) d):

Parent/Carers can choose to use their short break sessions flexibly throughout the year at a time which best suits the needs and requirements of their family the most. Group Based activities will be available locally within each of the localities in North Lincolnshire. Parents can choose to have a direct payment in lieu of short breaks provided by the Local Authority.

#### 10. How do I get a short break?

To be eligible for short break services the child or young person must have a disability (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) and live in North Lincolnshire. You are 'disabled' as defined by the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

How do I access Short Breaks?  
Request a registration form on (01724) 407988, or attend  
The Brumby Learning Centre, Grange Lane North, Scunthorpe, DN16 1BN



### What happens next?

A member of the Short Breaks Team will contact you to discuss your needs and to make sure you

### What will I receive?

At the first level you will receive a number of sessions which is this authorities 'local offer'. You will be able to access a range of group based activities without the need for any assessment. Our 'local offer' is up to 78 sessions (approx. 2 per week) and you can use this flexibly throughout the year.



### What if my child's needs are more complex?

Disabled children and young people with more complex needs, or those children living with more complex situations, may require a higher level of short breaks and more specialist support to meet their needs. This will be achieved through an assessment by a Children's Specialist Disability Social Worker.



### How will I be kept informed?

A worker from the Short Breaks Team will make sure that you are kept involved and informed as to what is happening and that you are allocated an appropriate level of short breaks following the assessment

Short Breaks will be regularly reviewed to ensure they continue to meet need. Greater emphasis will be given to how short breaks can be offered within young people's local community, for example utilising the community wellbeing hubs. It is hoped that this integration within localities will aid transitions to adulthood and community resilience. Support, advice and guidance will be available for young people, and their families in relation to preparing for adulthood.

### **Actions for 2017/2020**

Group based short breaks will be delivered internally by North Lincolnshire Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. This will be the beginning of our new journey, group based short breaks will continue to evolve with full consultation with parents/ carers and young people. A steering group has been developed to ensure parent/ young person voice is a driving force behind the development.

The complex needs playscheme will continue to be delivered by the current provider, with continual feedback being gained from parents/ carers and young people to ensure it remains fun and meaningful for young people, whilst enabling parents/ carers to have a break from their caring role.

The recommissioning of individualised short breaks will continue, with involvement of parents/ carers and young people to ensure that those young people with complex needs are able to access opportunities in line with their peers in a safe and secure environment.

## **11.**

### **Key Contacts**

#### **Clare Lawcock**

##### **Senior Officer**

Short Breaks and External Provisions Team - Virtual School and Inclusion

Disability Services,

Brumby Learning Centre,

Grange Lane North,

Scunthorpe,

DN16 1BN

Tel: (01724) 407988

[Clare.Lawcock@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:Clare.Lawcock@northlincs.gov.uk)

#### **Roxanne Kirby**

##### **Lead Officer – Disability Services**

Virtual School and Inclusion- Disability Services,

North Lincolnshire Council,

Hewson House,

Station Road,

Brigg,  
North Lincolnshire,  
DN20 8XJ  
Tel: (01724) 296401 or 297240  
[Roxanne.Kirby@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:Roxanne.Kirby@northlincs.gov.uk)

**Darren Chaplin**  
**Principal Officer (Virtual School and Inclusion)**

Virtual School and Inclusion  
North Lincolnshire Council,  
Hewson House,  
Station Road,  
Brigg,  
North Lincolnshire,  
DN20 8XJ  
Tel: (01724) 296401 or 297240  
[Darren.Chaplin@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:Darren.Chaplin@northlincs.gov.uk)

For Short Breaks Registration Forms or further information then please contact the  
Short Breaks and External Provisions Team - Virtual School and Inclusion  
Disability Services,  
Brumby Learning Centre,  
Grange Lane North,  
Scunthorpe,  
DN16 1BN  
Tel: (01724) 407988