

RESPITE CARE AND SHORT BREAKS

RESPITE CARE

Two different services provide respite care;

Children With Disabilities Team (CWD)

The CWD team provide different respite care services for children and young people with disabilities.

You can make a self-referral via the MASH to access the service, or a professional can complete an Early Help Family Support Assessment (EHFSA) on your behalf with consent. All referrals are sent to the MASH. A Single Social Work Assessment (SSWA) will then be completed if the referral is progressed.

Your child or young person will also need to meet the following criteria;

- ▶ A substantial/severe learning disability
- ▶ A physical disability that seriously limits activities of daily life
- ▶ A chronic or life-threatening/life-limiting illness
- ▶ A profound loss of hearing or sight, substantial development delay
- ▶ An EHCP requires significant support within the school/college environment where the child would not be able to attend without social care involvement
- ▶ Multiple disabilities/difficulties where a child has a combination of disabilities that individually may not be regarded as severe.

The services they can provide are;

Direct Payments

This can be paid directly to parents to self-manage their accounts or via 'Vibrance' (a registered charity: www.vibrance.org.uk/) who will set up an account and will manage the child/young person's payments directly. Families mainly use Direct Payments to access the support of Personal Assistance (PA's). The role of the PA can vary but is primarily used to support the child or young person to access the community safely, to accompany them to clubs or activities of their choice or, to provide support within the home to enable the parent or carer to go out, perhaps with other siblings or to have some short breaks from their caring roles.

Afterschool and holiday clubs

CWD will often pay this as a “direct service”, which means that they will agree to the package at the Resource Allocation Panel (RAP) (e.g. two clubs per week), and then CWD will be invoiced directly by the provider.

Overnight respite

This may be at one of our local provisions, such as St Christopher’s Cottage or Eco Nights/ Gowlands (depending on the needs of the child or young person). Again, this would be paid as a direct service – or sometimes families may accumulate their Direct Payment’s to purchase a night, in agreement with their Social Worker.

Every child/young person’s case is considered on their individual needs and the family’s needs as a whole.

Each case will be discussed at the multi-agency Resource Allocation Panel (RAP). A decision will be made regarding the Care Package by drawing upon the needs assessment (SSWA), the CHC checklist and Panel members range of knowledge of services available.

The following criteria will be applied:

- ▶ Need for the child to have social opportunities
- ▶ Need for parent(s) to have a short break
- ▶ Need for siblings/young carers to have a break
- ▶ Need to provide practical support in the home

SEND CHILD MINDERS

Marvellous Minders

A service that provides support to parents with children who have specific complex needs. The scheme aims to find a suitable Childminder to allow parents and carers to have short breaks while their child receives high-quality care while working closely with the Children with Disabilities Team. A designated Childminding Coordinator will coordinate the scheme to develop a personalised service that supports families. They will link them with a specialist Childminder who can offer care tailored to their child’s specific needs in a friendly, home-based setting, providing a flexible, caring, support service for parents and carers. Placements are paid for through Social Care funding, through Direct Payment funds or by the parents themselves. The Marvellous Minders scheme has a broad range of Childminders that can offer specific help before and after school, weekends, school holidays, overnight care, one-to-one or small group care where children benefit from learning from their peers.

How to Access

Access to the Coordinator could be through several routes, for example, a direct link between the Childminding Co-ordinator and the Children with Disabilities Team (CWD Team) or a direct referral from the Family Information Service. The Coordinator’s role is to link the CWD Team, Childminders and the families, ensuring all parties are happy. The Coordinator will ensure all Childminders within the Marvellous Minders scheme are regularly monitored, ensuring that their practice is constantly at a high standard, and arrange specialist training for them if needed, so the best care is always available. In addition to supporting the Childminders, the Childminding Coordinator will support parents in finding the most suitable Childminder that can meet their child’s needs.

What Qualifications do Minders Have?

All of the Marvellous Minders are fully qualified Childminders, registered and inspected by Ofsted, and regularly monitored by the PACEY Development Officers. All Childminders have a personal specification and criteria that set out the qualities PACEY are seeking before they are included in the scheme, ensuring that parents receive the best care for their child. All Childminders included in the scheme have knowledge of safeguarding children and appropriate procedures, child development, general disability awareness, and holding a current paediatric first aid certificate, amongst other relevant training certificates. All Marvellous Minders commit to further training to aid and extend their knowledge of children with disabilities to fully understand the child's complex needs in their care and receive help and support from the CWD Team via telephone support and training opportunities.

SHORT BREAKS

Who are Short Breaks for?

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's Children's Short Break programmes are open to children and young people who:

- ▶ Live in the borough of Southend
- ▶ Are aged between 0-18 years
- ▶ Have a long term, permanent, physical or mental impairment that has a substantial long-term effect on their ability to carry out day to day activities
- ▶ Have a sensory impairment
- ▶ Have Autism Spectrum Disorder
- ▶ They may have challenging behaviour as a result of their learning disability.

What are Short Breaks?

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (SBC) wants to offer children/young people with disabilities and additional needs and their families the opportunity to join in with safe, entertaining and enjoyable activities. SBC's Children's Short Breaks also offers family members/carers the chance to have a break from their regular caring routine. A short break is a good quality, fun activity that your disabled child or young person attends with or without you. Short breaks should give:

- ▶ Your child has a valuable and enjoyable experience away from your daily life, which helps with their personal, social and educational development
- ▶ You a valuable break to allow you to rest, take up other interests or spend time with your other children
- ▶ Time together doing ordinary family things
- ▶ Your children the chance to try new activities and develop new friends.

Non-disabled children in Southend-on-Sea go to clubs, sports and activities within their local community. Children with disabilities should have exactly the same opportunities. We have moved to a more integrated model of service delivery, with many activities in the community being available without any additional assessments. This can be anything from a couple of hours a week at a club, swimming on a Saturday morning or attending a play scheme.

The regulations define a short break as:

- ▶ Educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes
- ▶ Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays
- ▶ Day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere
- ▶ Overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere. The carer must not reside at the same address or hold parental responsibility for the child. 5 The carer must be 18 years and over; have the right skills and training required to support children. The carer will need to have undergone appropriate checks such as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Southend Borough Council offers a Community Grant of up to £500 for families to be used on activities for the child or young person or for a privately paid carer to support the child or young person to attend activities.

Applications will be considered from parents/carers of a child or young person who meets the short breaks eligibility criteria.

What sort of activities can this funding be used for?

Activities such as trampolining, horse riding, after school/holiday clubs.

Why is your application needed?

A Steering Group is made up of representatives from Health, Education, Commissioning and Social Care as well as the local community. The Steering Group need the detailed information provided on your application to assess if your child is eligible for a Short Break. Your application includes information on your child's disability and how a Short Break would benefit the family as a whole.

Individual support can be requested to work with the child in their own home or take the child/young person out to meet their friends or accompany them to clubs. A detailed breakdown of the cost of the care will be required on submission of the application, i.e. how many hours and cost per hour that the carer will be working. SBC will need to be assured that all payments made for staffing will adhere to UK taxation laws.

Families who meet the criteria and would like to apply for the SBC's Children's Short Break Community Access Grant as a parent/carers should contact: Shortbreaks@southend.gov.uk