

Short Break Statement for Oldham

For Children and Young People with Special
Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)



Last Reviewed: August 2023



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Introduction

Welcome to Oldham Council's co-produced Short Breaks Statement.

The Children and Young Person's Act requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. This duty came into force on 1st April 2011; it is a statutory requirement that each local authority has to produce a short breaks 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 living in Oldham.

Oldham Council have co-produced this short breaks statement with Children, young people and their families, Oldham Parent Carer Forum and Barrier Breakers, This statement will be reviewed annually following co-production principles with partners.

What is a Short Break statement?

A Short Breaks Statement is for professionals and families who support or care for a disabled child aged 0 - 19 years who live in Oldham. The statement provides information about short break services available, who qualifies for them and how to access them.

The Short Break Duty is the legal duty that all local authorities have to provide a range of short breaks for disabled children. Oldham's offer exceeds legislative requirements and has been commissioned to offer Short Breaks to CYP 0-19 with SEN as well as those with disabilities.

What is a Short Break?

A short break is any activity that gives a child or young person a positive, enjoyable experience independently from their parents or carers. Short Breaks are not designed to be in lieu of childcare it is designed to give families a break from their caring responsibilities Short breaks are provided to give:

- Children and young people enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, thereby contributing to their personal and social development and reducing social isolation.
- Parents, carers and families receive a necessary and valuable break from their caring responsibilities and to enable them to maintain and improve the quality of care they provide.

This will also give their parent or carer a valuable break from their caring role. Short breaks can take place after school, at the weekend, during school holidays or overnight. Short breaks can take place in the child or young person's own home, in the home of an approved carer or in a community setting or in a building-



based service or online. A short break can involve a child or young person joining in a group activity such as a club, or it can be an activity that a child or young person completes independently, supported by a personal assistant.

Short Breaks includes a wide variety of activities and overnight stays with a Short Break Foster Carer or in a residential home.

What is a disability?

For the purpose of this statement, we have used the Disability Discrimination Act definition of disability to ensure that we meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 and Equality Act 2010.

A person with:

“a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities” (Equality Act 2010).

Guidance on the Equality Act 2010 can be found at www.gov.uk/equality-act-2010-guidance

What is SEND?

- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can affect a child or young person’s ability to learn. They can affect their;
- Behaviour or ability to socialize, for example they struggle to make friends.
- Reading and writing, for example because they have dyslexia.
- Ability to understand things.
- Concentration levels, for example because they have ADHD.
- Physical ability.



Who can access Short Breaks?

Oldham Council recognises that not all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families will require the same level of support.

Children and young people with SEND may access a combination of universal, targeted and specialist services at any one time or move between them according to their age, support needs and family circumstances.

The majority of Short Breaks can be accessed without the need for any formal assessment. However, for some children and young people, further assistance may be required due to their individual circumstances. To ensure the resources available are distributed according to individual need, the Disabled Children's Service has an eligibility criteria and assessment process. The eligibility criteria can be found at: [Threshold](#)

The Short Break Play and Leisure Activity in Oldham has been enhanced and recommissioned from 1st April 2023. The newly commissioned offer providing a range of activity based opportunities for children and young people with SEND aged 0 – 19.

Details of the activities can be found using the following links:

Oldham's SEND Local Offer: www.oldham.gov.uk/localoffer

Oldham's SEND Local Offer is a database containing information about support and services in Oldham, information for parent/carers of children/young people with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) in a single place. This helps families understand what services they can expect from a range of local agencies including early years settings, health, education, and social care. Short Break providers are also listed on the website.

POINT – <https://www.point-send.co.uk/contact-point-activities>

POINT is the Lead provider of the Oldham Short Breaks Play & Leisure offer:



The range of services in Oldham

The services are offered at three different levels which are outlined below:

- **Universal Services**

These are services that are provided or routinely available to children, young people and their families. Children and young people with SEND can access these services if they require little or no support or where additional support and training has already been provided to staff.

- **Targeted Services**

Targeted short breaks are available to children and young people with SEND 0-19 who require greater support than that offered in the Universal provision. An assessment may be required to access these services

- **Specialist Services**

Some children and young people with SEND 0-19 will need a higher level of support. Specialist services are accessed via a formal assessment by the Children with Disabilities Social Care team for example a Social Worker. This will enable full consideration of the impact of a child or young person's needs.



Gemini House - overnight & day

Short breaks for children with disabilities



We are a specialist home offering short breaks to children with disabilities, ages 5-18 years. We will then support transition to adult services.

We aim to offer a service which is bespoke to the individual child and to develop their independence and self-help skills during their time at Gemini.

We are Ofsted registered and work closely with social workers, schools and health to ensure positive outcomes for our young people.





Oldham Short Break Commissioned Services 2023/2024

Name of Short Break	Spaces available	Type of break	Parental contribution	Age range	When / Where	Duration	How do you access this
Short Breaks Play and Leisure Activities - POINT	up to 200 spaces per week	Targeted activities tailored to needs. Various activities available, termly timetable.	£2 per hour	0-19	Various/Termly timetable	Various/Termly timetable	https://www.point-send.co.uk/contact-point-activities

Oldham Short Break Non-Commissioned Services 2023/2024

Costings below have been revised to be co-terminus with commissioned services

Name of short break	Spaces available	Type of break	Parental contribution	Age range	When / Where	Duration	How do you access this
Autism Youth Club 8-12 year old's 	10	Targeted Youth Group	£3 per session	8-12	Monday evenings	6pm – 8pm	Sharon Salt Mob:07738044049 Email: sharon.salt@oldham.gov.uk
Autism Youth Club 12-18 year old's 	10	Targeted Youth Group	£3 per session	12-18	Thursday evenings	6pm – 8pm	Sharon Salt Mob:07738044049 Email: sharon.salt@oldham.gov.uk
Barrier Breakers	Up to 20 (but we never turn anyone away)	Targeted Youth Group	£0	11 – 25 (new members must join before 21 years)	Barrier Breakers offices. Oldham Civic Centre – Monday evenings	6pm - 8pm	Phone contact: 0161 770 3116 Email: dayna.brannick@oldham.gov.uk or oldham.youthservice@oldham.gov.uk



PA brokerage preferred supplier list 2023/2024

Provider	Access	Type of support	Parental Contribution	Age range?	When / Where	Duration	How do you access this
Sica	Commissioned on individual basis	Targeted/specialist one to one support	Assessed need : no contribution. Can be accessed privately.	0-18	Dependent upon assessed need	Dependent upon assessed need	Accessed via your allocated worker.
Caremark	Commissioned on individual basis	Targeted/specialist one to one support	Assessed need : no contribution. Can be accessed privately.	0-18	Dependent upon assessed need	Dependent upon assessed need	Accessed via your allocated worker.
Reed	Commissioned on individual basis	Targeted/specialist one to one support	Assessed need : no contribution. Can be accessed privately.	0-18	Dependent upon assessed need	Dependent upon assessed need	Accessed via your allocated worker.

Useful contact information:

- Oldham Council general enquires – **0161 770 3000**
- Duty and Advice – **0161 770 7777**
- Local Offer - [Children and young people with SEND \(Local Offer\) | Oldham Council](#)
- Family Information Service - [Family Information Service 0-19 years old \(25 years with SEND\) | Oldham Council](#)
- POINT – Lead provider of Oldham Short Breaks Play & leisure offer: www.point-send.co.uk/activities
- Oldham Parent Carer Forum – <https://www.point-send.co.uk/Pages/Category/oldham-pcf>
- Barrier Breakers – Barrierbreakers@oldham.gov.uk
- SENDIASS - <https://www.point-send.co.uk/Pages/Category/oldham-sendiass>

