

# Short Breaks Statement

For children and young people with  
special educational needs and  
disabilities (SEND)

2018-2019



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## 1. Introduction

Paragraph 6(1) of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to provide services designed to give breaks for carers of disabled children and young people. Regulations relating to this duty, which came into force on the 1st April 2011, require each local authority to provide a Short Breaks Service Statement so that families know:

- ✓ *What services are available*
- ✓ *How these services can be accessed*
- ✓ *How the range of services are designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in their area*

## 2. Oldham's short breaks vision

Our vision in Oldham is to provide disabled children and young people, with opportunities and experiences that achieve positive outcomes for them. It is our aim that short breaks will contribute to keeping disabled children safe and healthy, enabling them to enjoy new activities, make friends, and have new learning opportunities, as well as preparing teenagers for adulthood. By providing disabled children and young people with such opportunities, it is our aim to support parents in their role as primary carers and give them breaks to assist them to look after themselves and their wider family

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

## 3. How have we put this statement together?

Oldham Council have undertaken a wide range of consultation with children, young people and their families who currently access short break services and providers of short break services. The consultation enabled us to understand better the needs and experiences of children and young people and their families in Oldham who use short break services and building on from this, how best we can develop existing and commission new services to best meet need.

Key themes that came from the consultation include:

- The current Short Breaks activities are good quality and are valued by families and children and young people
- There is not enough variety in the short breaks offer currently, and not enough capacity for the numbers of young people who would benefit from them
- Key gaps in the offer includes, school holiday daytime activities, animal based activities (including horse riding) outdoor activities, group work / social activities, sensory activities, provision for young children and young people with complex needs, weekend activities and activities that are age and stage appropriate for 15-18 yr. olds

- There is an issue around how families access information about what short breaks are available
- Schools would be the ideal place for parents to get information about what is available, and whilst some families feel that the special schools are good at giving this information, most families felt that they could do more to provide families with information about the offer.
- The families of children and young people in mainstream schools get little if any information from school about short breaks activities, and they feel this should be improved.
- Families feel that there is not the range of services that they would like to buy with their budget.

You can see an overview of feedback from the short break consultation and how we have responded to this on line by clicking here [local offer](#)

## 4. Definitions

### 4.1 Definition of Disability (In accordance with the Equality Act 2010)

A person is disabled if:

- ✓ They have a mental or physical impairment.
- ✓ The impairment has a substantial\* and long term\* adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day to day\* activities.

\*Substantial means more than minor or trivial;

\*Long term means that the effect of the impairment has lasted or is likely to last for at least twelve months

\*Normal day to day activities include everyday things like eating, washing, walking and going shopping.

## 4.2 Definition of Short Breaks

Short breaks form part of a continuum of services, which support disabled children, young people and their families. 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.

Short breaks can include day, evening, overnight and weekend activities and can take place in the child's home, in the home of an approved carer, a residential or community setting. They come in a range of formats and each one can last just a few hours to a few days, depending on the type of provision and the needs of the individual child and their family.



## 5. Access to 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.

Disabled children and young people 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.

Therefore short break services are delivered a number of different levels:

### 5.1 Short Breaks Delivered Through Universal Services (Level 1)

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. These services can be found via the SEND [local offer](#) website. Families can access most of these services directly and without a referral from social care or the short breaks team.

Universal short breaks may include:

- ✓ Local youth groups
- ✓ Group based, drama, community and sports activities
- ✓ Play schemes
- ✓ After school clubs

### 5.2 Short Breaks Delivered Through Targeted Services (Level 2 / 3)

These services that are aimed at children and young people with SEND that require more targeted support to access universal service provision (level 2) or more specialist support to access provision (level 3). This group of children and young people may need groups and services that are specifically designed to meet their needs. Targeted services will need to be accessed through a referral from the short breaks team or allocated social worker and are not universal access for all. These services are targeted solely for disabled children and young people. You do not need to have a personal budget to access these services or for the package to be agreed through the short breaks resource panel.

Targeted short breaks services may include:

- ✓ Group based services provided through universal services with additional support
- ✓ Group based services that are commissioned to provide a more targeted service for children and young people with SEND
- ✓ One to one support (through outreach provision or in the home)
- ✓ Personal budget

### 5.3 Short Breaks Delivered Through Specialist Services

These services for children and young people with SEND and their families that are commissioned following a social care assessment and are part of an individual care plan or through the short breaks team where appropriate. They are specialist services tailored to meet the individual needs of a child or young person. These services are accessed through the short breaks resource panel.

Specialist short breaks services may include:

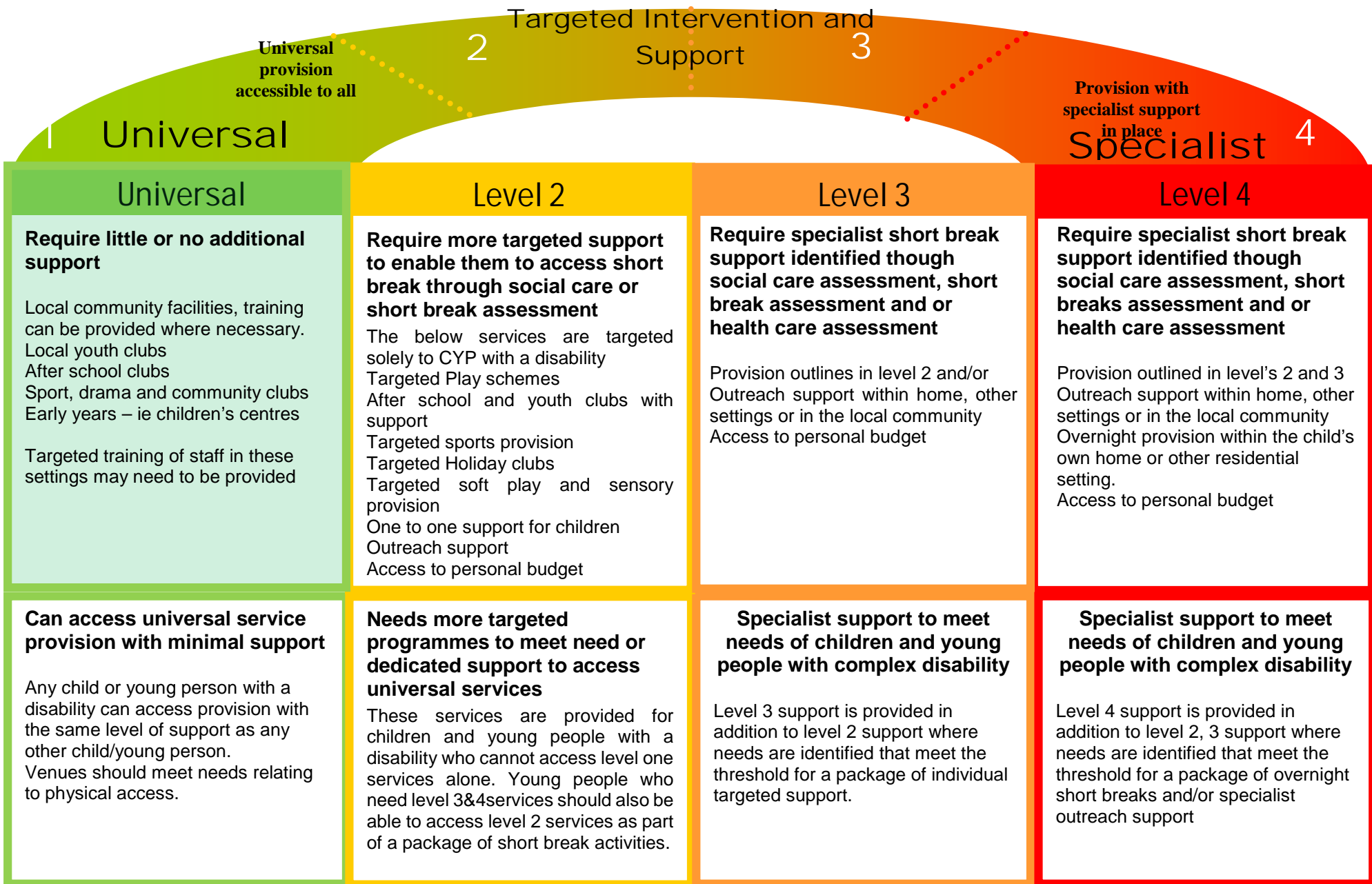
- ✓ Group based services
- ✓ One to one support
- ✓ Personal budget
- ✓ Overnight short breaks

#### 5.4 Measuring the Outcomes and Impact of Short Break Services

We will ensure that our short break services focus on improving life opportunities and outcomes for disabled children and their families through continuing to develop our participation strategy with disabled children, young people and their families. We know that the views of families and disabled children are essential to support positive outcomes. Not all disabled children and their families will need the same level of support; some will need more than others because of the nature of their child's disability and their individual circumstances. We will continue to monitor and review the views of disabled children, parents and providers so that everybody feels involved and included. This will assist us with developing a cycle of continual improvement. Regular meetings are in place with all providers of commissioned short breaks to continuously review individual packages of support and monitor the service as a whole.

Each child or young person will have a support plan in place containing clear outcomes related to the short break. This support plan will be reviewed at the most every six months to ensure individual children and young people are working towards their outcomes and the tailored services provided are still meeting their identified needs.

## 6. Oldham's Overarching Eligibility Framework: Short Breaks for Children with a Disability





## 7. Data relating to Oldham's children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

Group of children and young people with SEND	Data (2016/17)
Number of children and young people living with a disability in Oldham	2,883 (5.4%)
Number of children and young people with special educational needs	6033 (14% of school population)
Number of children and young people on SEN support in Oldham	4868 (11% of school population)
Number of children and young people with an education, health and care plan	1935

### 7.1 Children and young people who accessed a short break in 2017/18

Type of short break accessed	Data (2016/17)
Residential short break	23 children and young people
Hours of play and leisure activities accessed	11,512 hours accessed
Hours of one to one support accessed (including waking nights within the home)	73,740 hours accessed
Access to a direct payment of a personal budget	193
Total number of children and young people accessing a short breaks	489 children and young people

## 8. Oldham's Short Breaks Commissioned Provision 2017 / 18

Below is a table outlining the types and amount of short breaks provision commissioned by Oldham Council in 2017/18

<b>Name of short break</b>	<b>Spaces available</b>	<b>Type of break</b>	<b>Parental contribution</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>When / Where</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>How do you access this</b>
Shining stars swimming	9 per session	Targeted swimming tuition	£7.50	4-11	5 Days per week – various locations	1.5 hours per session	Through the short breaks team
<b>Barrier Breakers</b>	Unlimited	Targeted youth group	£0	11-18 (18-21)	Barrier Breakers offices. Oldham Civic Centre	Weekly	Direct contact with Barrier Breaker 0161 770 23115
<b>Sports works summers holiday camp</b>	25 per day	Targeted youth sports group	£8	5-18	Monday and Thursdays during summer holidays		Through the short breaks team
<b>Autism Youth Club year olds</b>		Targeted youth group	£2	8-12	Monday and Thursday evenings		Through the short breaks team
<b>Autism Youth Club year olds</b>		Targeted youth group	£2	12-18	Monday and Thursday evenings		Through the short breaks team
<b>KIDS</b>	20 per session	Targeted youth group for a range of SEND needs	£5 per evening. £20 per holiday session	10-16	Primrose Community Centre		Through the short breaks team

<b>Ability Wheels</b>		Targeted group based with universal access. Adapted cycling group		All ages	Alexandra Park		Contact 07703 468 294 or 0161 503 1543
<b>Voyage</b>	Commissioned on individual basis	Targeted/specialist one to one support	£0	0-18	Home and local community	Outlined in individual support plans	Through the short breaks resource panel
<b>Caremark</b>	Commissioned on individual basis	Targeted/specialist one to one support	£0	0-18	Home and local community	Outlined in individual support plans	Through the short breaks resource panel
<b>REED</b>	Commissioned on individual basis	Targeted/specialist one to one support	£0	0-18	Home and local community	Outlined in individual support plans	Through the short breaks resource panel

## **9. Summary**

Parents, disabled children and young people will continue to be fully involved in this process, helping us decide who should deliver our short breaks in Oldham. We are committed to ensuring that parents and young people are equal partners in the design of our services. We want parents and young people to help us monitor the quality of all of our short breaks and help decide what we change and what we keep on an ongoing basis. We will do this by a variety of methods including:

- Regular feedback from young people and their families who are accessing short break provision
- Regular monitoring meetings with providers of short breaks provision
- Monitoring of compliments and complaints received by short breaks providers
- Monitoring requests for short breaks that come to the resource panel to understand need and how current short breaks provision is meeting need

The Short Breaks Service Statement will be published on The Oldham SEND Local offer website.