AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Short Breaks Statement 2012-13

EXTENDING AND IMPROVING SHORT BREAKS SERVICES
Introduction

From 1st October 2011 every local authority has a duty to publish a short breaks statement and to review this statement annually. This is Rotherham’s second Short Breaks Statement and covers the period 2012/13.

The Short Breaks Statement has been created to give Rotherham families with disabled children clear information about the short breaks services available to them. To help us to understand what currently works well and what needs to improve we have gathered the views of children, young people, parents, carers, and professionals about Rotherham’s short breaks services. In addition to this we have undertaken a self evaluation process and asked ourselves challenging questions. The feedback from the consultation and the outcomes of the self evaluation has resulted in a number of recommendations which can be found on pages 13 and 14. Over the next twelve months we will continue to work in partnership with children, young people, families and services to implement the recommendations and improve the short breaks we offer.

Rotherham MBC Children and Young People’s Service remains committed to the AHDC programme and has allocated significant funding in 2012/13 through the Early Intervention Grant.

The National Picture

Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) began in 2007, it is a national programme supported jointly by The Department for Education and The Department for Health. The programme aims to transform the way services are set up and delivered for disabled children and their families.

In 2011 it is reported that 91,000 additional children nationally are accessing short breaks than there were at the start of the AHDC programme.

The Green Paper, Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability was published by the Department for Education in March 2011.

A subsequent ‘Progress and Next Steps’ follow-up was published in May 2012.

There are a number of proposals within the document which will significantly change our current policies, procedures and practice for working with disabled children, young people and their families.

These proposals include:

- Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) Birth to 25 years
- Joint Commissioning via pooled / aligned budgets
- Personal (Individual) Budgets
- Development of a “Local Offer”

Draft legislation on the Reform of provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs has now been published for consultation and will be introduced to Parliament in early 2013.

The changes are due to be implemented in September 2014.
How many disabled children, young people and families live in Rotherham?

The number of children and young people aged 0-19 in Rotherham fell from 64,300 in 2001 to 62,200 in 2011 despite a rising total population. The number is projected to increase gradually to 63,000 in 2020 and 64,000 in 2030, but the pattern varies by age groups.

The registration form for the Children’s Disability Register continues to be heavily promoted to parents and carers by the Disability Team and also through Aiming High Service Providers. Whilst the register is voluntary, parents and carers are encouraged to join the register in order to receive regular Aiming High updates. There has been a year-on-year increase in the number of young people on the register with the current number of young people on the register standing at 683 in October 2012.

Information from Rotherham’s Special Education Needs Team indicates that as of 22nd October 2012 there are 946 children with a Rotherham statement of special educational needs.

What’s available in Rotherham for disabled children, young people and their families?

Universal Services

Disabled children and families have access to a wide range of universal activities recreational spaces, clubs, sports and leisure services across the Borough.

For example there are various providers which includes*;

- **Childcare**
  - 34 Pre-school Playgroups
  - 29 Day Nurseries
  - 14 Children’s Centres – with childcare
  - 21 Out of School Clubs
  - 15 Holiday Schemes
  - 38 Breakfast Clubs
The two projects supported via The Disabled Children’s Access to Childcare funding (DCATCH) continue to be sustainable in 2012/13.

The projects are:
- Peer Support Parent Champions for Disabled Children
- The Student Inclusion Programme

For more information about these projects please contact Families Information Service 0800 0730230

Youth Service
16 Youth clubs

Leisure Centres
4 Leisure Centres

Parks and Green Spaces
425 Accessible Green Spaces which includes:
- Woodland
- Urban Parks
- Country Side
- Smaller Green Spaces.

Sports Development Team
Building on the work originally funded through AHDC The Sports Development Team organise weekly athletics and football sessions as well as numerous festivals across the borough throughout the year which are fully inclusive to all children and young people.

The Sport Development Team in partnership with the Disability Sports Forum have submitted a bid to Sport England this will enable us to create a post which will support Sports Clubs to be inclusive and / or provides disability specific sessions, training / education for coaches and volunteers and modified equipment.

Contact Chris Siddall 01709 822478

Schools
123 Schools across all sectors.

AHDC supports the Rotherham Charter for Parent and Child Voice which is about all Rotherham schools, settings and services promising parents, carers, children and young people they will care, include, communicate and work in partnership with them, recognising trust to be the essential positive factor in all relationships.

To find out more visit the webpage: www.rotherhamconnectedlearning.org.uk/charter/charter_m.php

or contact
Jayne Fitzgerald RPCF on 07552 452810

*This list should not be assumed to be exhaustive

Universal services have a duty under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (2001) subsumed within the Equalities Duty 2010 to make reasonable adjustments and not to treat a disabled person less favourably.

You said;

“Disabled Children’s Information Officer to maintain close links with Families Information Service (FIS)”

We did;

“Disabled Children’s Information Officer spends one day per week with the FIS team and also regularly visits Rotherham Hospital Child Development Centre where she provides information to parents and carers”.

AHDC Charter for Parent and Child Voice

AHDC supports the Rotherham Charter for Parent and Child Voice which is about all Rotherham schools, settings and services promising parents, carers, children and young people they will care, include, communicate and work in partnership with them, recognising trust to be the essential positive factor in all relationships.
Rotherham’s Local Offer Commissioned Short Breaks Services

In March 2011-13 Rotherham has commissioned services from the public, voluntary and independent sectors to deliver short breaks. Commissioned short breaks services are open referral. Rotherham has developed an Aiming High for Disabled Children Short Break Process and Eligibility Criteria*. These services prioritise children and young people in categories A and B but do not exclude those who fall within category C.

Category A
Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (who have severe learning disabilities or behaviour which is challenging), OR those children and young people whose challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments such as severe learning disabilities

Category B
Children and young people with complex health needs including those with disabilities and life limiting conditions, and / or those who require palliative care and / or those with associated impairments such as cognitive or sensory impairments and / or have moving / handling needs and / or require special equipment / adaptations.

Category C
Children and young people whose condition and care requirements are described as moderate and who would be included within the wider definition of disability as detailed by the Disability Discrimination Act, 2005 i.e. Someone who has “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”. These must be substantial, adverse and long term and specifically linked to cognitive, sensory and / or a physical impairment.

*To obtain further information regarding the Short Breaks Process and Eligibility Criteria please contact:
Jackie Parkin or Linda Adcock on 01709 336432
or visit our webpage at www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks

The commissioned services include:
Commissioned services are detailed below.

Rotherham Parent Carer’s Forum
Sessions for parents, children and young people to attend on Monday evenings at Kimberworth Place where they can access areas which are specifically furbished for children with disabilities including fully accessible toilet facilities.
Contact: 07747 447392
www.askmycommunity.co.uk/rotherham-parents-forum

Scope
Sporting activities and arts and crafts on Saturdays 10.30am – 12.15pm for children 5 – 9 years and 1pm – 4pm for young people aged 10 –18 years at HVFC off Cranworth Road, Rotherham.
Contact: 01709 830820

Hilltop / Kelford Schools
Summer Holiday Clubs 10am – 3pm for children and young people aged 2 –18 years.
Contact: 01709 813386

Chat & Chill
Term-time youth clubs for young people aged 13 – 25 years.
Tuesdays 4.30pm – 8.30pm at Chislett Youth & Community Centre.
Thursdays 6.30pm – 8.30pm at Maltby Linx Youth Centre
Contact: 01709 663421 or 01709 336422
Siblings Activity Scheme
Summer holiday activity for the siblings of young people with an Autistic Spectrum Diagnosis
Contact: 01709 663421 or 01709 336422

ILS/Yours Project
Activities for children and young people aged 0 – 18 years with transport provided.
Contact: 01709 830154
www.ilsahdc.org.uk/

Youth Service/Elephants in Step Club
A youth club environment which usually consists of a ‘theme night’ such as Bond, Harry Potter and Doctor Who for young people aged 13 years upwards.
Contact: 01709 515404

Arts Week
Weekdays at MyPlace for one week during the school summer holidays, daily 10am – 4pm featuring songs, movements, drama, arts, crafts etc.
Contact: 01709 515404

Canoeing/Sailing
Family activity which parents must attend, for disabled children and their siblings aged 8 years and over.
Contact: 01709 853695

BME Youth Group
Youth club environment for young BME people aged 13 years upwards held at The Place Young People Centre.
Contact: 01709 335997

Habershon House
Summer holiday break for 2 or 3 nights for the whole family, aged 13 years upwards, at a residential property in Filey.
Contact: 01709 335997

Children’s Disability Family Support Service provides workshops for parents / carers relating to a common theme such as promoting positive behaviour, positive parenting and exploring sleep strategies. These workshops are usually delivered through a six week programme.
For further information contact Ellen Senior on 01709 555967

You said;

“You enhance quality assurance process which will offer constructive feedback and create opportunities for short breaks service development.”

We did;

“A quality assurance visit now takes place annually for all commissioned short breaks providers.”
**Specialist Short Breaks Providers**

Specialist short breaks are accessed following a referral to and an assessment by social care. If you would like to request an assessment then you can make a referral to Contact Assessment and Referral Team (CART) on **01709 823987**. The assessment will then be considered by a multiagency short breaks panel.*

The panel are able to allocate short breaks from the following menu of services:

**Orchard Children’s Centre consists of 3 elements:**
- **Liberty House** provides short breaks in a warm, homely and safe environment for young people between the ages of 8 - 18 years who experience a severe physical or learning disability and/or sensory impairment.
- **Cherry Tree House** provides medium to long term residential care in a warm, homely and safe environment for up to five young people between the ages of 8 to 17 years who experience a severe physical or learning disability.
- **Children’s Disability Family Support Service** provides target focused short break activities for disabled children and young people and support for families relating to areas of need.

**Families Together Service** offers disabled children, young people and their families short breaks in a home based environment with experienced carers.

**Direct Payments** are cash payments made by Local Authorities to parents of disabled children and young people who have been assessed as needing social care services. The payments are an alternative to having services provided or arranged by the Council and are made so that parents can arrange and purchase the support their child has been assessed as needing.

*The Children’s Disability Social Care Team’s statement of purpose and the Short Breaks Panel Priority Scoring process can be provided upon request by contacting Jackie Parkin on **01709 336432** or visit our website [www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks)*

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**Additional Specialist Short Breaks Providers**

**Complex Nursing Team** provides short breaks for children, young people between the age of 0 to 19 years with complex health needs and who may require palliative care.

**Contact** **01709 423830**

**Bluebell Wood Children’s Hospice** provides care and support to families who have a child or young person who has a life limiting condition and is not expected to live into adulthood. They support the whole family, both at the hospice, and in families’ own homes.

**Contact** **01909 517 360**

[www.bluebellwood.org/contact-us.php](http://www.bluebellwood.org/contact-us.php)

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**Out of Authority Placements**

There are currently **17** disabled children who are placed outside of Rotherham. **Two** of the children are in long term residential provision with the remaining **15** children in foster care.

RMBC is considering a range of options that will support services to reduce this number in the future.
How do we help to develop the skills of people working with disabled children, young people and their families?

All commissioned short breaks providers are subject to an annual quality assurance visit. The quality assurance visit observes short breaks service delivery, checks policies and procedures and discusses and shares good practice with professionals. Each service receives a report following the visit. The report identifies good practice and any areas for development.

A wide range of workforce development opportunities have been offered to both commissioned and specialist short breaks providers.

In addition to the group training courses short breaks providers are also able to access complex medical care needs and moving and handling training thus enabling the needs of individual children with more complex medical and physical needs to be met.

You said;

“Create a clear pathway for individualised training packages required to enable short breaks providers to include children / young people with complex health and moving and handling needs.”

We did;

“A process has now been put in place for all short breaks providers to request training when offering short breaks to children and young people with individual medical and/or moving and handling needs.”

The AHDC provider / strategy group will continue to work in partnership with short breaks providers to identify, support and provide Continuous Professional Development opportunities to short breaks providers.
What support is available at transition from child to adult services?

Children’s Disability Team has established a very close working relationship with the Adult Transition team in terms of transitions planning. This has been made more effective by the role of three transitions workers (2 FTE), one who works across Children’s and Adult services.

A comprehensive database has been established which identifies all children and young people over the age of 14 years who have a disability and where transitions planning can be identified at an early age.

The development of Person Centred Reviews in Rotherham over the past 4 years, and the use of early assessment prior to Adult Services, as enabled us to begin to tailor packages of care which are most likely to be replicated in adult services.

By having this bespoke service the workers have been able to identify where short breaks services can provide early intervention strategies to support with independence skills for young people and this has included money management, support with travelling and support with accessing college or local community social activities.

A number of 16 plus young people have been successfully supported by either the use of the Children’s Disability Family Support Service or direct payments to achieve better outcomes leading into transitions.

One positive example of this was to use a direct payment to support and increase a young person’s confidence as he ultimately wanted to work in supermarket which he is now able to do.

DREAM PROJECT is three year project funded by the Big Lottery; that will provide a range of volunteering opportunities, work experience and activities for young people / adults (18 years and over) with moderate/severe learning disabilities. The project will offer craft based activities and provide volunteering opportunities that will meet individual’s needs. DREAM will provide a safe and supportive environment to enable individuals to become more independent.

Where will sessions be held?
- Durlston House,
  5 Moorgate Road, Rotherham, S60 2EN
- Liz Hartlebury – Mobile: 07714 560099
- Visit our webpage at: www.varotherham.org.uk/dream
Is transport available to enable access to short breaks?

It is clear to say that getting to and from short breaks can be an issue for some children, young people and their families. However, we will work in partnership with families to explore a range of approaches and options which could include:

- AHDC mini-buses which are available for use at The Orchard Children’s Centre.
- The Yours Project will work with families to identify individual transport needs. This includes working in partnership with Rotherham Community Transport.
- The Children’s Disability Family Support Service will also support young people to develop independent travel skills where appropriate.
- We work with families to explore options for travel expenses via the DLA mobility component.
- Alternative short breaks provision – closer to their home.

We continue to support families to find the most appropriate option which enables them to benefit from their short break.

You said;

“Review the way transport is provided.”

We did;

“Transport remains an issue for some families however, we will continue to explore a variety of approaches to enable families to access short breaks services.”

How can you find out about what short breaks on offer?

We use a range of methods to let children, young people and their families know about short breaks. Here are some of things you can do to get the information you need:

- Telephone Families Information Services on 0800 0730230
- Visit our webpage at: www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks
- Register on the Voluntary Children’s Disability Register - registration form can be downloaded from the webpage above.
- Visit our Facebook page at:
- At The Fairs Fayre Event held at The Magna on 1st November 2012
- In addition to this we also give information face to face, leaflets, mail-outs, news letters. Radio Campaign, and local advertising.

You said;

“Explore additional opportunities to distribute information, particularly with families with children and young people in mainstream provision.”

We did;

“Presentation given to ALL Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators in mainstream schools and early years settings.”
You said;

“To work with providers with a view to increasing the number of services for disabled children aged 0 – 9 years, particularly for weekday evening, weekends and school holidays.”

We did;

“Worked in partnership with Scope to adapt activities and reduce their target age range from 10 years and over to 5 years and over.”

How do we support disabled children, young people and their families to have a real choice about their short breaks?

The joint vision of Rotherham MBC and NHS Rotherham is to transform the way in which short breaks are provided to ensure that disabled children and young people and their parent/carer can access a quality and diverse range of short break provision that is available at a time and place of their choice and meets their individual needs. It is a fundamental aim that children and young people and their parent/carer will be active participants rather than passive recipients of short breaks services.

Over the next twelve to eighteen months we will explore opportunities to pilot the use of personal budgets. A Personal Budget is a sum of money allocated to your child or young person as a result of an assessment of their needs. A personal budget will give children, young people and their families increased participation and choice about the short breaks they access.

**Personalisation intends to ensure that:**

- children, young people and families are able to be a part of their community
- good advice and guidance is available to everyone
- services are in place to help prevent crisis and sort out difficulties at an early stage
- where children, young people and families require longer-term support, it is designed and delivered with them to meet their individual needs and preferences.

In the future personal budgets will be accessed via a referral to and an assessment by social care. This will be carried out by applying the same process and criteria as all other Specialist Short Breaks Services.
This is what children and young people have told us and the actions we have taken so far:

You said;

“To increase the number of Black, Minority, Ethnic (BME) disabled young people and families accessing Short Breaks.”

We did;

“Research has been carried out to identify BME families who are not accessing a short break and targeted information has been distributed to those families via schools.”

For a copy of the full research report please contact Jackie Parkin on 01709 336432 or visit our website at www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks

You said;

“Work in partnership with Leisure Services to explore and Pilot swimming sessions specifically for disabled children and young people.”

We did;

“We have worked in partnership with DC Leisure who now provide accessible swimming sessions at both Rotherham Central and Maltby Leisure Centre.”

You said;

“Work in partnership with short breaks providers to explore establishing a disco evening and also an arts & crafts session at Kimberworth Place. Also explore the possibility of additional cinema trips by providers and also service environment.”

We did;

“Kimberworth Place is now regularly used by short breaks providers for a range of activities including arts, crafts, disco and whole family drop-ins. Accessible cinema opportunities have been piloted at My-Place by The Yours Project.”
What do you think about short breaks now, and what improvements could we make in the future?

In July 2012 we have again asked you what you thoughts are about short breaks in Rotherham. We received 2 responses from universal service providers, 6 responses from short breaks providers, 64 responses from parents and carers, 39 responses from children and young people and 5 self evaluation forms.

The comments, views and suggestions you have made in the recent consultation has resulted in the following recommendations:

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<tr>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOROUGH STATISTICS AND SERVICE PROVIDER DATA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To continue to prioritise and increase the numbers of Group A and B children accessing services.</td>
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<td>2. To increase the number of BME disabled young people and families accessing short breaks.</td>
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<td>4. Ensure that Aiming High short breaks are fully considered as part of the development and re-alignment of Disability provision in response to the SEN Green Paper Support and Aspirations a new Approach to Special Educational Needs &amp; Disability.</td>
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<td>5. Explore opportunities to refresh the equipment resource at Kimberworth Place short breaks facility.</td>
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<th>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PARENTS AND CARERS CONSULTATION</th>
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<td>6. Further enhance distribution of information, particularly with families with children and young people in mainstream provision.</td>
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<td>7. Target information to prioritise those families with children / young people in categories A &amp; B who do not access any short breaks services presently.</td>
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<td>8. Continue to work in partnership with current commissioned short breaks providers to develop a process which will aid sustainability of services in the future.</td>
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<tr>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHILDREN &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONSULTATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>9. Continue to liaise with Kimberworth Primary School to explore the possibility of access to school playing fields and tennis courts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Ensure that a wide range of activities (including games and music) continue to be commissioned.</td>
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<td>11. Consider introducing a Mystery Shopping scheme, whereby young people assess the quality and young people friendliness of provision.</td>
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**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SERVICE PROVIDER CONSULTATION**

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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Continue to support the AHDC Short Breaks Provider Forum and explore additional opportunities for partnership working</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Continue and enhance the quality assurance process to offer constructive feedback and create opportunities for short breaks service development.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Refresh the skills and workforce audit to inform further continuous professional development opportunities</td>
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**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM UNIVERSAL SERVICE CONSULTATION**

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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Continue to work in partnership with universal service providers to explore inclusive opportunities for disabled children and young people</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Promote the Rotherham Parent Carer Charter</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Consider introducing a buddying scheme where young people could help disabled children and young people access universal services</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Work with universal service providers to promote activities targeted at disabled children</td>
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**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM IMPACT SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS**

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<td>19</td>
<td>Ensure that the Short Breaks Statement has a clear link to the Eligibility Criteria.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Ensure that the Short Breaks Statement has narrative around how it has been developed in response to consultation and the subsequent needs analysis and recommendations.</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Ensure that there is clarity around which are the non-specialist and specialist short break services.</td>
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**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OFSTED**

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<td>19</td>
<td>Continue to promote short breaks to BME disabled children and families.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Ensure mainstream social care workers promote Short Breaks to appropriate families.</td>
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* A detailed response analysis can be found in the Aiming High for Disabled Children Needs Assessment Refresh 2012/13 which can be obtained by contacting Jackie Parkin on 01709 336432
Early Support is a way of working, underpinned by 10 principles that aim to improve the delivery of services for disabled children, young people and their families. It enables services to coordinate their activity better and provide families with a single point of contact and continuity through key working.

To find out more visit: http://www.ncb.org.uk/earlysupport

To find out more about Early Support in Rotherham contact: Jackie Parkin on 01709 336432
If you or someone you know needs help to understand or read this document, please contact us:

0800 0730 230  linda.adcock@rotherham.gov.uk  Minicom: 01709 823536

Ak vy alebo niekto poznáte potrebujete pomoc pri pochopení alebo čítaní tohto dokumentu, prosím kontaktujte nas na vyššie uvedenom číslе alebo nam pošlite e-mail.

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