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**Aiming High for
Disabled Children**
short breaks programme funding

AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Short Breaks Statement 2014-15

EXTENDING AND IMPROVING SHORT BREAKS SERVICES

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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 third Short Breaks Statement covering the period 2014-15

The Short Breaks Statement has been created to give Rotherham families with disabled children clear information about the short breaks services available to them.

Rotherham MBC Children and Young People's Service remains committed to the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme.



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How did we prepare this statement?

The Short Breaks Duty requires that every Council reviews their short breaks statement each year. We have done this by gathering the views of children, young people, parents, carers and professionals about Rotherham's short breaks services to help us to understand what currently works well and what needs to improve. We have also undertaken a self evaluation process and asked ourselves challenging questions about what we do and how we do it.

The feedback from the consultation and the outcomes of the self evaluation have resulted in a number of recommendations which can be found on pages ???. 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.

The National Picture


The government remains committed to short breaks development and invested further money as part of the Early Intervention Grant given to local authorities in the period of 2011-14.

The Children's Act 2014 included some of the biggest changes in 30 years to Special Educational Needs and Disability provision. The main changes for SEND are:

- Statements of Special Educational Needs are to be replaced with joined-up, holistic Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans from 1st September 2014
- EHC plans will come with the option of a Personal Budget
- School Action and School Action Plus are to be replaced by SEN Support
- All Local Authorities must publish in one place a 'Local Offer' – detailing what services, provision and support is expected to be available across the authority for children and young people with SEND and their families from September 2014

The Rotherham Send Local Offer website went live on the 1st September 2014. This website is designed to provide information on health, education, social care and activities for children 0-25 years with special education needs and disabilities. The website will make it easier for parents and carers to access the information they need, however organisations and activities are still being added to the website. The website can be accessed at:

rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/



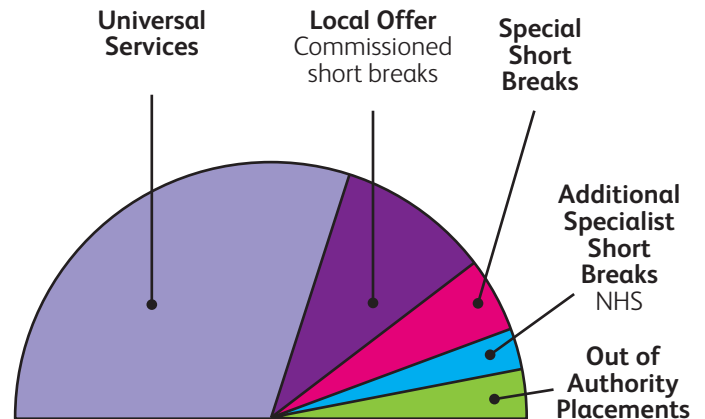
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How many disabled children, young people and families live in Rotherham?

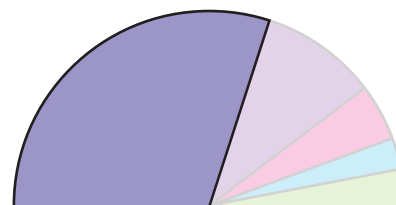
There are currently 807 children and young people registered on the voluntary Children's Disability Register. Parents and carers are encouraged to join the register in order to receive regular Aiming High updates and there has been a year-on-year increase in the number of children and young people on the register.

The number of pupils with a Special Education Needs (SEN) designation fell from 10,738 in January 2009 to 8,578 in January 2014. The number of children and young people with SEN Statements was 1,014 in January 2014.

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



Rotherham offers a range of services for disabled children and families, these services are available across universal to specialist provision and include:



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 include*:

■ Childcare

- 32 Pre-school Playgroups
- 53 Day Nurseries
- 14 Children's Centres – with childcare
- 20 Out of School Clubs
- 15 Holiday Schemes
- 39 Breakfast Clubs

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Further information is available at http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/200076/pre-schools/147/families_information_service

■ Integrated Youth Support Service

15 Youth Centres

Details are available at:

<https://public.rgfl.org/youthservice/>

■ Leisure Centres

4 Leisure Centres

Additional work is also being undertaken to improve disability provision for young people aged 14+ through support for local sports clubs and organisations in order to develop teams, sessions and competition for young people.

■ Parks and Green Spaces

425 Accessible Green Spaces which includes;

- Woodland
- Urban Parks
- Country Side
- Smaller Green Spaces.

■ Schools

123 Schools across all sectors.

AHDC supports the **Rotherham Charter for Parent and Child Voice** which is about 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 ring **07552 452810**

In addition there are various community groups such as Brownies and Girl Guides, Cubs and Scouts, sporting groups and clubs across the borough. Universal services such as a theatre, bowling alleys and play centers/soft play areas are also available in Rotherham. Events such as Rotherham By the Sea, Fairs Fayre and Rotherham Show are also held throughout the year.

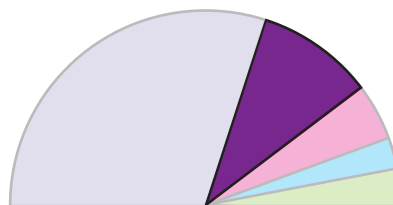
Universal services have a duty under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (2001), subsumed within the Equalities Act 2010, to make reasonable adjustments and not to treat a disabled person less favourably than any other individual.

The Council's Early Years Team provides support to all Ofsted registered childcare providers providing care for children with SEND. Support includes:

- Providing additional funding to enable providers to enhance staffing levels; from September 2013 to April 2014 72 children accessed the inclusion grant.
- Coordinate individualised planning for all staff working within the setting
- Arrange early transition packages

Early Years also provide an Inclusion Outreach Service to support staff within settings to implement strategies and interventions to support individual children.

*This list should not be assumed to be exhaustive.



Rotherham's Local Offer Commissioned Short Breaks Services

From April 2014 Rotherham has commissioned services from the public, voluntary and independent sectors to deliver short breaks. All disabled children and young people are entitled to a short break if they or their families would benefit from them but the level and type of service is determined by an assessment, for example Chat n Chill can be accessed by young people with a diagnosis of autism, whilst the Yours Project have a self assessment form for parents and carers to complete.

Commissioned Services are open referral and any parent or carer of a disabled child or young person can contact the providers in this section directly to ask for a service.

To obtain further information regarding the Short Breaks Process and Eligibility Criteria please contact:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks

or ring: **01709 336432**

The commissioned services include:

Chat & Chill

Term-time youth clubs for young people aged 13 to 25 years.

Tuesdays 6.30pm – 8.30pm at Chislett Youth & Community Centre.

Thursdays 6.30pm – 8.30pm at Maltby Linx Youth Centre

Contact: Autism Communication Team
01709 663413

Yours Project

Activities for children and young people aged 0-18 years with transport provided. The project is delivered by a range of providers to offer a range of activities.

Contact: 01709 830154.

Day of the week	Activity Provider	Venue	Time	Age Range	Frequency
Monday	Activate – After school club	High Street Centre, Rawmarsh	5pm – 6.30pm 6.30pm – 8pm or 5pm – 8pm	8yrs plus	Term time only
	Open Minds Theatre Company – Creative Arts, Music, Dance and Drama	Unity Centre, St Ann's	4.30pm – 7.30pm	8yrs plus	Term time only
Tuesday	YMCA White Rose – Youth Club	St Barnabas Centre, Broom	5pm – 8pm	14yrs – 19yrs	Term time only
	Ulley Activity Centre – Outdoor adventure and water sports	Ulley	4pm – 6pm	8yrs plus	April – October
Wednesday	YMCA White Rose – After school club	St Barnabas Centre, Broom	3.30pm – 6.30pm	9yrs – 13yrs	Term time only
	Rotherham United Community Sports Trust – Rolling programme of sports	Rotherham Leisure Complex, St Ann's Road	4pm – 6pm	8yrs plus	Term time only
Thursday	YMCA White Rose – After school club	St Barnabas Centre, Broom	4pm – 6pm	Under 8yrs	Term time only
	Swinton Lock Activity Centre – Canal based environmental activities, boating on the canal	Swinton Lock, Dunn Street, Swinton	4pm – 7pm	8yrs plus	May – November 2014 and January to March 2015
Friday	Rotherham United Community Sports Trust – Fit 4 Football	Rotherham Leisure Complex, St Ann's Roa	4pm – 6pm	8yrs plus	Term time only

Whilst no longer directly commissioned, work continues in partnership to deliver the following activities.

BME Youth Group

Youth club environment for young BME people aged 13 years upwards held at The Place Young People Centre.

Contact: 01709 334937

Children's Disability Family Support Service

provide 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.

Contact: 01709 555967

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 255266

Hilltop / Kelford Schools

Summer Holiday Clubs 10am – 3pm for children and young people aged 2-18 years.

Contact: 01709 813386

Kimberworth Place Short Breaks Facility

has areas specifically equipped for children with disabilities including fully accessible toilet facilities. These facilities are used by the Rotherham Branch of the National Autistic Society who run family drop in sessions.

Contact: 07554 439427

rotherham@nas.org.uk

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 furnished for children with disabilities including fully accessible toilet facilities.

Contact: 07747 447392

www.rpcf.co.uk/public/rotherham336.html.nc



rotherhamparentcarersforum

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.

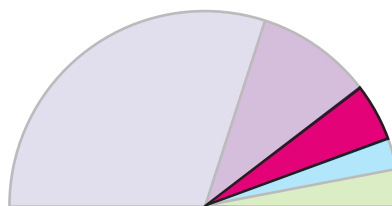
Contact: 01709 822189

Sports Development

Inclusive sports opportunities for disabled people to start, stay and succeed in sport. A range of provision targeting different ages and abilities and designed to meet the needs of the individual is provided, working closely with local leisure services and community based sports clubs to provide a high level of sports coaching whether that be at recreational or competition level.

Contact: 01709 363355

Leon.wormley@rotherham.gov.uk



Specialist Short Breaks Providers

Specialist short breaks are accessed following a referral to, and an assessment by, social care. If commissioned services are not meeting your needs you can request an assessment by contacting the Assessment and Referral Team on **01709 823987**. The assessment will then be considered by a multi-agency 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 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 5 young people between the ages of 8-17 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.

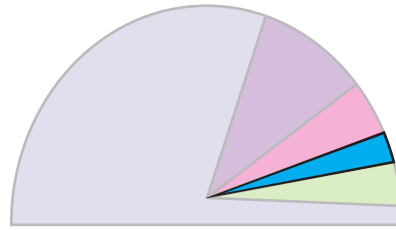
Families Together Service offers disabled children, young people and their families short breaks in a home based environment with experienced carers.

Personal Budget is a sum of money to secure provision which the Council and / or NHS has set out in an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC) and where the parents or young person have choice and control in securing that provision. Some or all of a personal budget can be made through a Direct Payment which a parent or young person uses to purchase the support or services they need.

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 visiting our website

www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks
or 01709 336432



Additional Specialist Short Breaks Providers

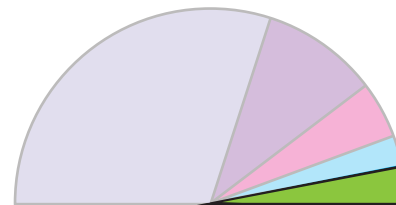
Complex Nursing Team provides short breaks for children, young people between the age of 0-19 years with complex health needs and who may require palliative care.

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:

www.bluebellwood.org/contact-us.php
or 01909 517 360



Out of Authority Placements

There are currently **16** disabled children who are placed outside of Rotherham. **2** of the children are in long term residential provision with the remaining **14** children in foster care.

RMBC is considering a range of options that will support services to reduce this number in the future.

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How do short breaks benefit families and disabled children?

Below are some of the comments from children and young people and their parents and carers about how short breaks have benefited them.

“I love coming to the youth group, everything is ok.” Child

“It works well, the group are friendly, helpful and my son is happy when he is there.”

Parent/carer

“It’s really good for socialising and having friends to talk to.”

Child

“...it’s been a huge relief having a few hours break.” Parent/carer

“I don’t mind the summer break because I went on holiday.”

Child

“My son joined in, he does not normally join in with other kids.”

Parent/carer

“I like everything you do.” Child

“The kindness of people.”

Parent/carer

“Increase the age limit because I’ve only got one year left.”

Child

“Life changing” Parent/carer

“I like playing games, everything is good.” Child

“Support.” Parent/carer

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 which identifies good practice and any areas for development.

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.

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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, including having a key worker who straddles both children's and adult's teams and links into the adult's learning disability service.

Working practice will be changing during the coming year due to new SEND legislation.

The development of Person Centred Reviews in Rotherham and the use of early assessment prior to Adult Services, has enabled us to begin to tailor packages of care which are most likely to be replicated in adult services. This is now embedded in all school processes.

By having this bespoke service 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.

Is transport available to enable access to short breaks?

Getting to and from short breaks can be an issue for some children, young people and their families. We 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 works with families to identify individual transport needs. Including working in partnership with Rotherham Community Transport
- The Children's Disability Family Support Service 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 home

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

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How can you find out about what short breaks are 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:

- Visit our webpage at:
www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks
- Visit us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ahdc.shortbreaks
- Telephone Families Information Services on
0800 0730230
- Register on the Voluntary Children's Disability Register - registration form can be downloaded from the webpage above
- At The Fairs Fayre Event held at Magna on 29th October 2014
- The Rotherham Send Local Offer website at:
<http://rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/>

In addition to this we also give information face to face, leaflets, mail-outs, news letters, radio campaigns and local advertising

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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/ carers 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/ carers will be active participants rather than passive recipients of short breaks services.

Personalisation is the process of enabling children, young people and their families to be more in control of the services they receive. Working in a person centred way will enable families to exercise choice and control over the shape of that support.

To enable us to do this we will ensure that disabled children, young people and their families:

- Have their needs assessed promptly and accurately by individuals who work in a person centred way.
- Are fully informed and in control at all times
- Are active and valued equal partners in decision making
- Have the opportunity to shape service delivery and experience improved and enhanced access to appropriate services.

Independent living is one of the goals of personalisation. It does not mean living on your own or doing things alone, but rather it means "having choice and control over the assistance and/or equipment needed to go about your daily life having equal access to housing, transport and mobility, health, employment and education and training opportunities" (Office of Disability Issues 2008).

How do we find out what children and young people think?

Children and young people are asked what they would like to do at the sessions they attend. We undertake visits each year to see all the activities on offer and talk to the children and young people about what they do and don't enjoy. To help prepare to write this statement we also requested all our providers ask children and young people 3 questions:

- What works well?
- What could we improve?
- What would you like to do next?

How do we find out what parents and carers think?

Each year we send a questionnaire out to the parents/carers of every child on the Children's Disability Register asking for their views on the short breaks service and access to universal services.

Individual providers also collate feedback from parents/carers at different times throughout the year, these are used to influence practice.

How do we find out what providers think?

To prepare this statement we send a questionnaire to all of our service providers to gather their views. We also have a monthly meeting with all service providers, quarterly individual meetings with service providers and carry out annual quality assurance visits to all their activities.

This is what children and young people have told us and the actions we have taken so far:

You said;

Include information in the statement on provision for young people aged 18+

We did;

This is being included in the Rotherham SEND Local Offer.

You said;

Work with service providers to implement service specific activity requests where possible and appropriate.

We did;

Providers have implemented all practical suggestions and requests made, eg water activities and residential trips.

What do you think about short breaks now and what improvements could we make in the future?

In August 2014 we have again asked you what you thoughts are about short breaks in Rotherham.*

We received 8 responses from universal service providers, 6 responses from short breaks providers, 80 responses from parents and carers, 88 responses from children and young people and 4 self evaluation forms.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS ONGOING FROM 2012 STATEMENT

1	Continue to work in partnership with current commissioned short break providers to develop a process which will aid sustainability of services in the future
2	Discuss potential for a Mystery Shopping scheme, where by young people assess the quality and young people friendliness of provision, with colleagues in IYSS
3	Continue to support the AHDC Short Breaks Provider Forum and explore additional opportunities for partnership working
4	Follow up on the provision of disability friendly equipment in parks with the Parks & Open Spaces Department
5	Develop good practice case studies for circulation
6	Performance manage short breaks against outcomes for service users and their families/carers, delivering evidence of achievement for annual monitoring
7	Set out clearly how to access personal budgets and promote access

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONSULTATION

8	Consider possibilities to extend frequency of short breaks
9	Promote the Rotherham Send Local Offer website

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PARENTS AND CARERS CONSULTATION

10	Promote the Rotherham Send Local Offer website
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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SERVICE PROVIDER CONSULTATION

11	Continue to promote short breaks and AHDC with senior management
12	Consider how to extend range and variety of short breaks available

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOROUGH STATISTICS AND SERVICE PROVIDER DATA

13	Undertake comparison of age range of children and young people on the Disability Register and age range of children and young people attending short breaks
14	Consider how to work with Universal Providers to improve access to disabled children and young people

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS

15	Ensure Statement is outcome focused
16	Link Statement to SEND reforms
17	Include a link in the Statement to the local offer
18	Ensure eligibility criteria is clear
19	Enhance information on personal budgets and direct payments
20	Include information in the Statement on the quality assurance process

* A detailed response analysis can be found in the Aiming High for Disabled Children Needs Analysis 2013-14 which can be obtained by contacting www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks or **01709 336432**

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Early Support

for children, young people and families

What is Early Support?

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/earllysupport>



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 koho poznáte potrebuje pomoc pri pochopení alebo čítaní tohto dokumentu, prosím kontaktujte nás na vyššie uvedenom čísle alebo nám pošlite e-mail.

نہ گھر تو یان کہ سیک کہ تو دہیناسی پیویستی بہیارمہتی ہہ بیت بو نہ وہی لہم بہ لگہ نامہ یہ تیبتگات یان بیخوینیتہ وہ، تکایہ پہیوہندیمان پیوہ بکہ لہسہر نہو ژمارہیہی سہرہ وہدا یان بہو نیمہیلہ۔

إذا كنت انت أو اي شخص تعرفه بحاجة إلى مساعدة لفهم أو قراءة هذه الوثيقة، الرجاء الاتصال على الرقم اعلاه، أو مراسلتنا عبر البريد الإلكتروني

اگر آپ یا آپ کے جاننے والے کسی شخص کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے یا پڑھنے کیلئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا نمبر پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں یا ہمیں ای میل کریں۔

اگر جناب عالی یا شخص دیگر کی کہ شما اورا می شناسید برای خواندن یا فهمیدن این مدارک نیاز به کمک دارد لطفاً با ما بوسیله شماره بالا یا ایمیل تماس حاصل فرمایید۔