



Redcar and Cleveland's Short Breaks Statement June 2021

For Disabled Children, Young People and
their Families



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Introduction

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council has a legal duty to provide access to Short Break services for parent carers of disabled children and young people living in Redcar and Cleveland. As part of this duty the Local Authority must produce a Short Breaks Service Statement. Our Statement details:

- The range of services on offer
- Eligibility criteria for accessing services
- How to access services
- How the range of services has been designed to meet the needs of local parent carers

This Statement will be reviewed regularly, the most up to date version will be available on the Short Breaks for Disabled Children page on our website www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk.



What is a Short Break?

Short Breaks are available for disabled children and young people aged 0 - 25 years and are intended to have positive benefits for both children and young people and their parent carers.

They provide opportunities for disabled children and young people:

- To spend time away from their parent carers;
- The chance to develop new friendships;
- To develop their independence;
- To take part in new experiences and to have fun doing positive activities such as swimming, youth clubs, days trips and much more.

Short Breaks aim to provide parent carers with:

- A necessary and valuable break from their caring responsibilities;
- A chance to rest and unwind;
- To spend time with other members of the family.

Short Break provision can range from a few hours a week to an allocated number of overnight breaks per year and anything in between.

What is Redcar and Cleveland's Offer?

Redcar and Cleveland's current Short Breaks offer commenced on 1st September 2019.

Services are provided under the 3 categories; Universal Services, Self-Referral Clubs and Social Worker Referral Services.

Universal Services 0 – 25 years

The majority of parent carers are able to get a short break by using free or low cost local services that are open to all. These may include: soft play areas, trampoline parks, school clubs, stay and play sessions, leisure services or uniformed groups such as Scouts/Guides.

Service providers have a duty to make reasonable adjustments and must not treat a disabled person less favourably. Some offer sessions specifically for children and young people with additional needs. However, not all universal services will be suitable for everyone. It is advisable to contact the company to discuss your child's needs and what they can offer.

Local Universal Services are advertised on <http://www.peoplesinfony.org.uk/>

Self-Referral Clubs (see page 6) 5 years +

Our Self-referral clubs are regular clubs such as After School, Weekend Clubs and Holiday Clubs and are specifically for children with disabilities. These clubs are funded by the Local Authority and are provided by our own staff and by specially selected organisations.

The clubs take place in and around the Borough providing children and young people with an opportunity to meet new people and try a wide range of activities such as Sports, Arts and Crafts, Swimming and Cooking. Some clubs will require families to make a small contribution to attend which will be used to fund activities and equipment.

Families can contact the groups direct without the need for a social care assessment or social worker referral.

Social Worker Referral Services (see page 7) 0 – 25 years

Sometimes a child or young person may have more significant or complex needs due to their disability and/or family circumstances and will need more specialist support. The level of support needed will be identified by a Social Worker Assessment and may include a mixture of specialist provision such as a personal assistant, respite care and/or group provision.

These services will be commissioned specifically for the child's/young person's needs or alternatively a family may choose to take a **Direct Payment** (see page 7 for more information) to arrange the services themselves.

Self-Referral Clubs

Our **Self-Referral Clubs** offer will be renewed every 12-18 months. We do this because we want you and your child to be involved in the development of these services and we understand that families' needs may change and what we offer one year might not be what families want or need the following year. We will do this by circulating an annual survey to families to capture this valuable information. The clubs will then be refreshed to reflect what families need.

What Clubs are available?

We currently offer After School, Weekend and Holiday Clubs. Details of the current offer can be found on the Short Breaks for Disabled Children page on www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk or you can request a copy of the offer by emailing Shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk. The offer is regularly shared with families on our Disability Register and with schools.

Eligibility

The Clubs are available for Redcar and Cleveland Children and Young People from 5 years up to 17 years (The Join Us Youth Service are able to support young people up to 19 years) who have a learning difficulty or disability or for those with additional support needs who cannot attend mainstream provision. Children and Young People do not need to have a diagnosed disability or be open social care to attend.

Due to needing to undertake financial assessments for young people aged 18 and over, we are unable to provide Self-Referral Clubs for this age group. There is, however, access to group activities available to those in the 18 – 25 age group via a Social Worker Referral.

Transport

For the majority of clubs, parent carers are required to take children to and from the sessions. Where a club does provide transport, this will be stated in the offer document. If a child or young person would be unable to attend a club due to lack of transport, we may be able to provide support with this. Each case will be assessed on an individual basis. Families should discuss needs with the club in the first instance.

Sibling Offer

The majority of clubs will provide regular or dedicated sessions where siblings, who do not have a disability and are of a similar age can also attend the clubs. Please contact individual clubs about their sibling offer.

Social Worker Referral Services

Sometimes a child or young person may have more significant or complex needs due to their disability and/or family circumstances and will need more specialist support. The level of support needed will be identified by a Social Worker Assessment and may include a mixture of specialist provision such as:

- A personal assistant
- Support in the family home
- Specialist group/club provision
- SEND nursery provision
- Short Breaks childminding
- Overnight respite away from the family home

These services will be commissioned specifically for the child's/young person's needs or alternatively a family may choose to take a **Direct Payment** (see page 7 for more information) to arrange the services themselves.

A Directory of our Social Worker Referral Services is available on our Short Breaks for Disabled Children page at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk or you can request a copy by emailing shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Adult Services 18 years +

If a young person transitions into Adult Services, in addition to the services available on Short Breaks Framework, young people aged 18+ will also have access to many other services which are specifically commissioned for adults, if you have been allocated an Adults Social Worker, they will be able to discuss these options with you.

Direct Payments

If your Social Worker agrees, you may choose to have some or all of your care and support costs paid to you as a Direct Payment. A Direct Payment enables you to make decisions about the provision of care and support such as employing a personal assistant.

There are lots of advantages to employing someone to help with your care and support, but

being an employer is a big responsibility and there are lots of things to consider.

'Our Guide to Employing a Personal Assistant' which is available at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk, provides more information on what being an employer means. It explains what families need to consider and what their responsibilities would be.

If you are interested in a Direct Payment please discuss with your Social Worker.

Eligibility for Social Worker Referral Services	
Birth up to 18 years	<p>A child and family social work assessment must be carried out for this level of support. The assessment will include a minimum of one home visit by an allocated social worker. Checks with health, education and care professionals involved with the child/young person and their family will also be undertaken. Following the assessment, the social worker will work with the family to identify a package of care and support to meet their individual needs.</p> <p>All packages of support will be discussed and agreed by a Multi-Agency Panel.</p> <p>For children with complex health needs, services may also be available through the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group. These services will follow a specialist health assessment, known as a Decision Support Tool (DST) which is not arranged by the council but can be discussed with a health professional and/or social worker involved with the family.</p>
18 – 25 years	<p>Eligibility is determined following an assessment of need under the Care Act 2014 which is completed by a Social Worker. If eligible for support, a financial assessment will be undertaken to determine the young person's ability to contribute to the service provision.</p>

If you do not have a social worker but feel you need more support, please ring:

If you are a parent/carer of someone aged	Contact Details
Birth up to 18 years	<p>Redcar and Cleveland Multi Agency Children's Hub on 01642 130700</p> <p>RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk</p>
18 – 25 years.	Adult Social Care Team 01642 065070

Where can I find more information?

Short Breaks Offer

For more information on Redcar and Cleveland's Short Breaks Offer please visit:

www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

and search '**Short Breaks for Disabled Children**'

Alternatively, you can email shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

RCBCs Children & Young People Disability Register

Families who join the Disability Register will receive regular updates via email. To join or find out more information about the Register please visit:

www.peoplesinfont.org.uk

click on the orange tab on the right of the page '**Children and Young People's Disability Register**'

SEND Local Offer

www.peoplesinfont.org.uk

Click on the tab:
SEND Local Offer

Then click on the green box:
Leisure Activities and Short Breaks

Short Breaks Market Stall Event

The Local Authority held their first Short Breaks Market Stall Event for Parents and Carers on 14th November 2019. Parents and Carers had the opportunity to meet Short Breaks Providers of both Self-Referral Services and Social Worker Referral Services as well as feedback on the draft Short Breaks Statement and complete the Short Breaks Annual Survey.

"I found today very helpful, got lots of information on groups/sessions that my son can attend"

"This is my first time in reaching out for additional help, the day event has been not only informative but useful"

"There were some services/agencies I did not know existed so was very helpful"

2020s Short Breaks Market Stall Event was cancelled due to COVID-19 but as soon as it is safe to do so another event will be arranged.

How has the range of Short Breaks been developed to meet parent carer needs?

Our Short Breaks offer is developed in response to the feedback received from children, young people, parent carers, providers and professionals.

We have sought feedback by:

- Obtaining children and young people's views from organisations who deliver Short Breaks
- Obtaining feedback from children and young people via the family questionnaire
- Obtaining feedback from parent carers via the family questionnaire
- Talking with parent carers on the phone, via email and at meetings/events
- Working closely with SEND Family Voice, Redcar and Cleveland (Parent Carer Forum) who have been involved in the commissioning of services and the development of the Short Breaks Offer
- Monitoring the demand for different services
- Meeting with current and potential providers of Short Breaks

The following Short Break Consultations have taken place:

Date of Consultation	Method of Consultation	Public or Targeted Consultation	Number of responses received
Summer 2018	Paper Questionnaire	Public	48
November 2019	Survey Monkey and Paper Questionnaire	Public	103
December 2020	Paper Questionnaire	Targeted – Questionnaires sent to families who had a current Short Breaks Social Worker Package of Support	17
March 2021	Survey Monkey	Public	99

Going forward we will create and publish a 'Short Breaks You Said We Did' report which will outline the feedback from families and what we have or intend to do with the feedback. Once created, reports will be available on the Short Breaks for Disabled Children page at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk.

An overview of some of the feedback received and how this has influenced the offer is outlined below:

Marketing and Publicity

What you told us

In 2019 (Public Survey)

- 27% told us they were aware of the Short Breaks Offer
- 22% told us they knew a little about the Short Breaks Offer
- 51% said they knew nothing about the Short Breaks Offer

In 2020 (Targeted Survey – those with a social worker referral service)

- 70% said they were aware of the Short Breaks Offer
- 24% said they knew a little about the Short Breaks Offer
- 6% said they didn't know about Short Breaks Offer

In 2021 (Public Survey)

- 44% of respondents told us they knew about the Short Breaks Offer
- 56% of respondents told us they didn't know about the Short Breaks Offer

The above feedback clearly highlighted better methods of marketing and publicity is needed to ensure families are aware of the Short Breaks Offer.

What we did

We created a dedicated Short Breaks Offer Page on www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk which is regularly updated.

A Short Breaks Email Account has been set up Shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk. This is used to regularly share information with families who are on the RCBC Disability Register.

A Directory of Social Worker Referral Services has been created and is available on the Short Breaks Offer page.

Short Breaks information is regularly shared with key contacts such as SEND Family Voice, Redcar and Cleveland (Parent Carer Forum), Schools, Colleges, School Nursing and Health Visiting, Portage, Social Care, Youth Service, CAMHS and other professionals.

Next steps

- Creation of a Short Breaks Mailing List with poster advertisement.
- Circulation of the Short Breaks Statement and Webpage to families via the Disability Register and to Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators.

Self-Referral Clubs

What you told us

In 2019 (Public Survey) families were given a list of clubs and asked to select their top 3 choices. The clubs most requested by families were:

- Holiday Club – 4/5 hours
- Day trips
- Weekend Groups
- Evening groups such as after school groups and youth clubs

What we did

At the time the survey was completed the clubs available to families were Holiday and After School Clubs. Following the feedback, we incorporated weekend clubs and days trips (as part of the holiday club) into the offer.

What you told us

In 2019 (Public Survey) families were asked if they would find it beneficial to attend sessions with siblings (who do not have a learning disability or difficulty). The responses were:

- 12% Yes, regularly
- 43% Yes, occasionally
- 24% No
- 21% Not applicable

What we did

At the time the survey was completed only one club offered places to siblings. Following the feedback from families, most clubs now have a siblings offer. Some clubs have a number of sibling places at each session and some offer dedicated sibling sessions.

What you told us

In 2021 (Public Survey) families requested the weekend provision was available all year not just during term time.

What we did

We have implemented this change, from September 2021 our weekend club will run all year.

Self-Referral Clubs

What you told us

In 2019 (Public Survey) families highlighted that transport could be a barrier to children and young people accessing clubs.

What we did

Transport can be an expensive resource and if this was put in place for all clubs this would have a significant impact on the number of clubs we are able to offer to families.

We have worked hard to ensure there is a spread of provision around the Borough giving more families access to services without the need for transport.

Where transport is a genuine barrier to a child accessing a club, we will consider each request for transport on an individual basis. If a family wishes to apply for transport, they should discuss with the Club Leader who will complete the application on their behalf.

What you told us

Comment from a parent ***“Who would see to medication whilst he was out?”***

What we did

Since 2019 it has been a requirement that all Short Break Clubs have a member of staff present who is trained to administer medication (level 3).

If your child requires medication while attending sessions, please speak to the Club Leader about how this will be managed.

In the 2021 survey we asked parents and carers what did they think or their child think is the best thing about our Short Breaks Club Offer:

“Being able to be in a safe, friendly, familiar environment with staff who are aware of children’s needs”.

“Something to look forward too, sports especially”.

“If he could tell you, he would probably say he likes the 1:1 support and familiar faces every time he attends”.

“Gives us both a break from each other”

“It gives us a little respite plus it has increased his confidence”.

Social Worker Referral Services

What families told us

In 2019 (public survey) families reported there were not enough local services to meet their needs.

What we did

We are working hard to encourage new quality providers to join our Short Breaks Framework.

Providers interested in offering a Short Break must go through a procurement exercise and several quality checks including evidencing their last Ofsted or Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection was rated 'Good' or above. We aim to add new providers to the offer every 3 months.

In 2019 we had 6 organisations contracted to provide Social Worker Referral Short Breaks. In June 2021, the number of organisations has increased to 15, we hope to see many more quality providers join in the next 12 months.

More information on these providers can be found in the Social Worker Referral Directory for Families and Professionals, please email Shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk to request a copy or visit our the Short Breaks for Disabled Children webpage at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk.

What families told us

In 2020 (targeted survey of those families with a social care package of support) we asked families if there was anything we could do to improve social worker referral services, some of the comments highlighted a need for venues for children to attend with their workers:

“Make rooms available for PAs to use in bad weather. Outdoors in the cold and wet is not good for the children”.

“Make the free space within your many buildings available to the PA. So they can give the children shelter”.

What we did

Since January 2020 we have offered children and their PA workers the use of 8 Family Hubs/Youth Centres, however, during the pandemic this had to reduce to 4 buildings. As restrictions ease the venues will once again be made available. Advertisement will be shared with the Disability Register, SEND Family Voice, Redcar and Cleveland (Parent Carer Forum) and Care Agencies.

How can I feedback on Redcar and Cleveland's Short Breaks Offer?

We welcome all feedback on our Short Breaks Offer and our Statement, we need to know what we are doing well and what could be improved.

Feedback can be sent to us in several ways:

	<p>By completing an Annual Short Breaks Survey</p> <p>2021s survey was shared in March 2021 and is now closed for responses. The survey will be issued on an annual basis.</p>
	<p>By Email</p> <p>Please email your comments, compliments and/or concerns to:</p> <p>Shortbreaks@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk</p>
	<p>Talk to us</p> <p>Please feel free to share your feedback with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your Social Worker• Your Short Breaks Provider
	<p>Children and Young People Evaluation of Services</p> <p>A Young Inspectors Group has recently been formed to ensure children and young people have a voice in the design and evaluation of SEND services including Short Breaks. The group are currently receiving training and support from the SEND Youth Service and already planning their first inspections. For more information please contact Terry Colley on 01642 513696.</p> <p>In addition, organisations who deliver our Short Breaks will continually involve Children and Young People in the development of their service.</p>



Useful Contacts

Contact	Description	Contact Details
Redcar and Cleveland Multi Agency Children's Hub (MACH)	The Multi Agency Children's Hub is the first point of contact for anyone who has a concern about the welfare or safety of a child or young person or thinks they may need extra help and support.	01642 130700 Between 8:30am – 5:00pm Monday – Thursday and 8:30am – 4:30pm on a Friday RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk
Adults Social Care Team	The Single Point of Access is the first point of contact for anyone who has a concern about the welfare or safety of vulnerable person or thinks they may need extra help and support.	01642 065070
SEND Family Voice, Redcar and Cleveland (Parent Carer Forum)	The way parent carers work with professionals is by forming groups called parent carer forums. A parent carer forum is a group of parents and carers of disabled children. Their aim is to make sure the services in their area meet the needs of disabled children and their families. They do this by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made.	info@randcpcf.co.uk www.sendfamilyvoicerc.co.uk Facebook – SEND Family Voice, Redcar & Cleveland 07425 014728

<p>Children and Young People's Advocacy Service</p>	<p>Redcar and Cleveland's Advocacy Service is provided by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)</p> <p>NYAS advocates can support and listen to you if you feel your wishes and feelings are not being heard by your social workers, carers or anyone else involved in decisions about your care and welfare.</p> <p>NYAS can help if you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not being listened to • In need of some advice • In need of help to talk to Children's Services • Aren't being treated fairly • Being told you have to move • Having difficulties about school • Not having the contact with your family that you want • Homelessness • Experiencing the separation or divorce of your parents • Not feeling safe. 	<p>0808 808 1001</p> <p>help@nyas.net;</p> <p>https://youngpeople.nyas.net/</p>
<p>Family Information Service</p>	<p>The Families' Information Service (FIS) is a universal service; it provides a Freephone helpline to all families in Redcar and Cleveland looking for services for their children.</p> <p>As well as the helpline, the FIS team maintains the People's Information Network (PIN) this is a website providing information about activities and events available to families across the Borough including the Local Offer.</p>	<p>FIS@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk</p> <p>www.peoplesinfonet.org.uk</p> <p>0800 073 8800</p>
<p>SENDIAS Service – Information Advice and Support Service for Children and Young People with SEND</p>	<p>South Tees SENDiass, offer free impartial, confidential information and advice for children and young people aged 0-25 and their parents and carers where a child or young person has or may have special educational needs or disability.</p>	<p>Alison Joyce</p> <p>07925149157</p> <p>southtesssendiass@barnardos.org.uk</p>

<p>Early Years SEND Team</p>	<p>The Early Years SEND Team support young children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities from birth to school age. They help by providing support for the early identification of children with special needs giving advice to registered settings on suitable play equipment, support with curriculum activities to promote inclusive practice and supporting children attending Specialist provision.</p> <p>Additionally their work includes offering Home Visits, Individual Teaching Programmes, Family Portage Groups and delivery of the National Autistic Society Early Bird Parenting Programme. They also offer key working which helps parents become more actively involved in making decisions and helps to coordinate the services around the child.</p>	<p>Jane Todd</p> <p>01642 770810</p> <p>jane.todd@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk</p>
<p>SEND Team</p>	<p>The SEND team support school, parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs to ensure that all are able to access the education they deserve according to their statutory rights.</p>	<p>SEN@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk</p>

Statement Reviews/Updates

The Statement will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Date	Author	Who contributed to this version?	Change Description	Document Review Date
January 2020	Children's Commissioning (BD)	Parent carers, Redcar and Cleveland's Parent/Carer Forum, Relevant LA Officers, Short Break Providers	New Statement Created	January 2021
June 2021	Children's Commissioning (BD)	RCBC Children's Commissioning, Baysdale Respite Centre, RCBC Service Improvement and Participation Officer, SEN, Children with Disabilities Social Care, Parent Carer Forum	Annual update, changes made in the following sections: Self-Referral Clubs, Social Worker Referral Services, Where can I find more info, How has the range of Short Breaks been developed, How to feedback, Useful contacts, Updated images.	June 2022

This document is available in alternative formats and in different languages on request. If you need support or assistance to help you read and/or understand this document, please contact the Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council on 01642 774774.