

Leicester City Council Short Breaks Duty Statement



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Introduction

Welcome to Leicester City Councils Short Breaks Duty Statement.

The Children and Young Person's Act requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. This duty came into force on 1st April 2011; it is a statutory requirement that each local authority has to produce a short breaks statement, so that families know what services are available, the eligibility criteria for these services, and how the range of short breaks is designed to meet the local needs of families with disabled children living in Leicester.

What is a Short Break statement?

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

The Short Break Duty is the legal duty that all local authorities have to provide a range of short breaks for disabled children. The duty also requires the Local Authority to provide a Short Breaks statement. This document has been produced following a consultation with Leicester City Parents' and Carers' Forum, The Big Mouth Forum and a city-wide electronic consultation with the local authority, health, education and the voluntary sector.

What is a short break?

A short break is any activity that gives a child or young person a positive, enjoyable experience independently from their parents or carers, for example, helping them to socialise, form friendships and spend time with supportive carers. This will also give their parent or carer a valuable break from their caring role. Short breaks can take place after school, at the weekend, during school holidays or overnight. Short breaks can take place in the child or young person's own home, in the home of an approved carer or in a community setting or in a building based service. A short break can involve a child or young person joining in a group activity such as a club, or it can be an activity that a child or young person does on their own, supported by a personal assistant.

Some examples of short break activities could be after school clubs, youth clubs, sports, drama groups, adventure playgrounds, play schemes, holiday clubs and overnight stays with a Short Break Foster Carer or in a residential home.

What is a disability?

All young people in Leicester City with a disability are entitled to receive a short break. For the purpose of this statement, we have used the Disability Discrimination Act definition of disability to ensure that we meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 and Equality Act 2010.

A person with:

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

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

Who can access short breaks?

Many Short Breaks available within Leicester City can be arranged by contacting the organisation directly without the need for any assessment. However, for some children and young people, further assistance may be required due to their individual circumstances. To ensure the resources available are distributed fairly and targeted where most needed, the Disabled Children’s Service has an eligibility criteria and assessment process. The eligibility criteria can be found at families.leicester.gov.uk/disabled-childrens-service/eligibility-criteria/

What is the LOCAL OFFER?

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

The range of services in Leicester

The services are offered at three different levels:

- **Universal Services**

As the name suggests, Universal services are available to all young people who reside in Leicester City whether they have a disability or not. There is no need for an assessment to access these services as you can contact them directly. These services include after school clubs, leisure centres, youth clubs, adventure playgrounds, sports clubs, and organisations such as Cadets, Brownies and Scouts.

- **Early Help Services**

Early Help Services are services delivered by charities and voluntary sector organisations and can be accessed by contacting the organisers directly. However, some services are specifically set up and run for children and young people with additional needs - these are called targeted services. A few of these services are delivered directly by Disabled Children’s Service following an assessment: for example, the Gardening Club, the Venture Club and Pop up Play.

- **Specialist Services**

Some families are likely to need a higher level of support. Specialist services are accessed via a formal assessment by the Disabled Children’s Service Support Worker or Social Worker, which will

consider the impact of the child's or young person's disability on family life. The services offered will reflect the assessed needs of the child or young person and their family, providing a bespoke service. For example, homecare support, Direct Payments which are a specified amount of money paid to parents to buy their own support services to meet the assessed need. Often this is used by parents to employ a carer or personal assistant who can look after their child either at home or overnight short break provision for the agreed number of hours.

Support for Short Break Service Providers

The Disabled Children's Service offers a range of support and guidance to all Short Break Providers, including universal services. This support includes:

- Free training on a range of disability issues
- Support for behavioural issues from Behavioural Inclusion Service
- Personal Assistant Register, where details of availability of people who would undertake direct payment work can be accessed on the website:
 - families.leicester.gov.uk/disabled-childrens-service/personal-assistants
- Equipment hire service for specialist equipment, toys and resources which is now available to service providers, professionals, parents and carers, Foster Carers and young people.
 - families.leicester.gov.uk/disabled-childrens-service/support-and-services/equipment-hire
- Three people carriers, including two with wheelchair lifts that can be used whilst supporting a child/young person accessing a short break
- 'Supporting Me' forms can be used for by other providers to detail the support and risk assessment for each child or young person.

Additional information can be found at families.leicester.gov.uk/disabled-childrens-service

Transport

It is, in general, the responsibility of parents and carers to provide transport to and from short breaks. As providers of short breaks provision, the Disabled Children's Service is working in line with the Leicester City Council's policy to promote green transport. We are therefore working with public transport operatives and training representatives from a range of organisations to become Independent Travel Trainers, thereby enabling young people to travel to their choice of short break independently.

DCS have 3 people carriers that can be loaned to providers and parents/carers for the duration of a short break. Further details can be found at families.leicester.gov.uk/disabled-childrens-service/support-and-services/equipment-hire

Other Useful Information

The Disabled Children's Service has a website - families.leicester.gov.uk/disabled-childrens-service

This website contains a range of useful information for parents/carers and professional about services and provision including:

- Information, news and events
- Short breaks
- Taking part; The Big Mouth Forum for young people, Leicester City Parents' and Carers' Forum
- Preparing for adulthood
- Disabled Children's Register and how to claim your free carers pass

There are other links to other services and provision. If you need further help about short breaks or advice about any other issues, please call the Disabled Children's Service direct on 0116 454 4710.

Useful contact information

Local Authority

- Leicester City Council general enquires - 0116 454 1000
- Duty and Advice - 0116 454 1004
- Comments, Compliments and Complaints, 91 Granby Street, Leicester, LE1 6FB
Customer Services - 0116 454 1000
- Local Offer MyChoice - mychoice.leicester.gov.uk
- SENDIASS - www.sendiassleicester.org.uk

Health

- NHS Direct: 111 or www.england.nhs.uk/urgent-emergency-care/nhs-111/
- Leicester Partnership Trust - [www.leicspart.nhs.uk/ OurServicesAZ-LearningDisabilitiesServiceforFamiliesYoungPeopleandChildren.aspx](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/OurServicesAZ-LearningDisabilitiesServiceforFamiliesYoungPeopleandChildren.aspx)
- Leicester Royal Infirmary - 0300 303 1573
- Merlyn Vaz Walk-In Medical Centre, Spinney Hill Road, Leicester, LE5 3GH
0116 242 9450
- Specialist Health visitors - 0116 225 6560

Other organisations

- Family Information Service - families.leicester.gov.uk
- Leicester City Parent and Carer's Forum – 07582 197173; info@lcpcf.net
- The Parent & Carer Council – 07968 857598; enquiries@parentcarercouncil.co.uk
- Behavioural Inclusion Service - 0116 2255633

- Leicestershire Autistic Society - 0116 2916958 leicestershireautisticsociety@gmail.com
www.leicestershireautisticsociety.org.uk
- Menphys - 01455 323020; info@menphys.org.uk; www.menphys.org.uk
- ADHD Solutions - 0116 261 0711
- Mencap Direct: 0808 808 111; helpline@mencap.org.uk.
- UAVA provides coordinated domestic and sexual violence services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland for any male or female over the age of 13. Additional services and helpline are available for Leicester City residents on 0808 80 200 28;
www.uava.org.uk

999 - Only ring in an emergency when there is serious risk of injury, risk of serious damage to property, or a crime in progress. Otherwise ring 101 - use for Police non-emergency matters, for example to report a crime and other concerns.

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