



Leicester City Council Short Breaks Duty Statement



Introduction

Welcome to the Leicester City Council Short Breaks Duty Statement. Under the Children and Young People's Act, local authorities are required to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. This duty, which came into effect on April 1, 2011, mandates that each local authority produce a short breaks statement. The statement outlines the services available and how the range of short breaks are designed to meet the specific needs of families with disabled children living in Leicester.

What is a Short Break statement?

The Leicester City Council Short Breaks Duty Statement is intended for professionals and families who support or care for disabled children aged 0-19 years residing in Leicester City. This statement offers information about available short break services, and how to access them.

The Short Breaks Duty is a legal obligation for all local authorities to provide a variety of short breaks for disabled children. It also requires the Local Authority to publish a Short Breaks statement. This document has been developed following consultations with the Leicester City Parents' and Carers' Forum, The Big Mouth Forum, and a city-wide electronic consultation involving the local authority, health services, education, and the voluntary sector.

What is a short break?

A short break is any activity that gives a child or young person a fun and positive experience, away from their parents or carers. It helps them socialise, make friends, and spend time with supportive carers, while also giving their parents or carers a much-needed break. Short breaks can happen after school, on weekends, during school holidays, or overnight.

These breaks can take place in the child or young person's own home, in a community setting, or at a building-based service. A short break could involve joining a group activity like a club or doing something on their own, supported by an approved carer or personal assistant.

Examples of short break activities include after-school clubs, youth clubs, sports, drama groups, adventure playgrounds, play schemes, and holiday clubs.

Overnight short breaks are planned stays for children and young people with complex needs or behavioural difficulties. These stays help parents and carers get a break and can take place in a Leicester City Council residential home or with a Family Link carer, following an assessment.

What is a disability?

All young people in Leicester City with a disability are entitled to receive a short break. For this statement, we have used the definition of disability from the Disability Discrimination Act to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, as well as the 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 provider directly without the need for any assessment. However, for some children and young people, an assessment may be necessary to ensure that support is tailored to their individual needs. This process helps ensure resources are distributed fairly and targeted to where they are most needed.

What is the Local Offer?

The Leicester City Local Offer is a website that provides information about support and services available in Leicester for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). It brings together all the information parents and carers need in one place, helping families understand what services they can expect from local agencies, including early years settings, health, education, and social care. Short break providers are also listed on the website. Further information can be found at families.leicester.gov.uk/send-local-offer

The range of services in Leicester

The services are offered at three different levels:

Universal services

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.

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.

Specialist services

Some families may require a higher level of support. Specialist services are available through a formal assessment by the Disabled Children's Service Support Worker, who will evaluate the impact of the child's or young person's disability on family life.

The services provided will be tailored to meet the specific needs of the child or young person and their family. This may include homecare support or Direct Payments. Direct Payments are funds allocated to parents to purchase their own support services to meet assessed needs for their child. Parents often use this money to hire an agency carer or personal assistant to help their child access activities in the community or at home.

Support for Short Break Service Providers

The Disabled Children's Service offers a range of support and guidance to all Short Break Providers. 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 at families.leicester.gov.uk/disabled-childrens-service/personal-assistants

'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

Generally, it is the responsibility of parents and carers to provide transport to and from short breaks. As part of the short breaks provision, the Disabled Children's Service follows Leicester City Council's policy to encourage green transport. To support this, we are working with staff from various organisations to become Independent Travel Trainers. This will help young people learn how to travel independently to their chosen short breaks.

Other Useful Information

The Disabled Children's Service 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 on 0116 454 4650.

Useful numbers:

Local Authority

- Leicester City Council General enquires: 0116 454 1000
- Children's Advice, Support and Prevention (CASP) Service: 0116 454 1004
- Comments, Compliments and Complaints: www.leicester.gov.uk/contact-us/comments-compliments-and-complaints
- Family Information Service: families.leicester.gov.uk
- Local Offer My Choice: mychoice.leicester.gov.uk

Health

- NHS Direct: 111 or www.england.nhs.uk/urgent-emergency-care/nhs-111
- Leicester Royal Infirmary: 0300 303 1573
- Merlyn Vaz Walk-In Medical Centre Spinney Hill Road, Leicester, LE5 3GH
Tel: 0116 242 9450
- Specialist Health visitors: 0116 225 6560

Other organisations

- SENDIASS www.sendiassleicester.org.uk
- Leicester City Parent and Carer's Forum: 07582197173 info@lcpcf.net
- The Parent and Carer Council: 07968857598 enquiries@parentcarercouncil.co.uk
- Behavioural Inclusion Service: 0116 2255633
- Menphys, Tel: 01455 323 020; info@menphys.org.uk www.menphys.org.uk
- Mencap Direct: 0808 808 111; helpline@mencap.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 the 101 - use for Police non-emergency matters, for example to report a crime and other concerns.
- 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 is available for Leicester City residents on: 0808 80 200 28
www.uava.org.uk

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