



Norfolk Short Breaks Statement 2017

This statement is for carers of disabled children in Norfolk which is required by law and confirms:

- How we determine eligibility for Short Breaks services currently,
- The range of services available in Norfolk to meet the needs of carers, but also to provide disabled children with everyday opportunities and
- How we plan to develop our Short Breaks offer next year.

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ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT

To be eligible, the child or young person must have a physical or mental impairment that is substantial and permanent, where:

- Substantial means considerable or significant factors that are life changing or limiting, and likely to involve risk and dependence.
- Permanent means existing indefinitely and unlikely to improve (allowing for the episodic / intermittent nature of some conditions).

The Short Breaks Team cannot accept applications for children under the age of five as the expectation is that they should be receiving their universal Early Years Funding (available from age two for children in receipt of DLA) and support from Children's Centres who are commissioned to provide services to that age group.

If a child under five has exceptional needs they would need to be referred by a professional to MASH on an NSCB1 form clearly explaining why it was felt they had

exceptional needs. If appropriate they would then be referred to one of the specialist Children with Disabilities social work teams for a holistic social work assessment of the child and family's needs. This would still not be an automatic right to access Short Breaks as many services do not provide for children under five year old.

In Norfolk we use a Resource Allocation System (RAS) which is a strength based assessment tool that identifies the barriers to disabled children accessing everyday opportunities. If a child or young person over the age of five scores 70 or above on a Resource Allocation Questionnaire it is likely that they will have some eligibility to an indicative individual budget.

TYPES OF SERVICES THAT MUST BE PROVIDED

Schedule 2 of the Children's Act 1989 states the local authority has a duty to provide services that:

- minimize the effect of a child's disabilities,
- give children an opportunity to live ordinary lives and
- provide support to those people who care for a disabled child/ren by enabling them to have breaks from caring.

BREAKS FOR PARENT CARERS

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 states that a local authority must have regard to the needs of carers who would be unable to continue to care unless breaks from caring were given to them.

It must also be considered if a carer could provide more effective care to a disabled child if breaks from caring were given to allow them to undertake:

- Training, education and employment,
- Meet the needs of other children in the home more effectively or
- Carry out day to day tasks which they must perform in order to run their household.

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 stipulates provision of short breaks must be available for:

- Day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere,
- Overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere,
- Educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes and
- Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.

WHAT CHILDREN AND PARENTS HAVE TOLD US ABOUT OUR PREVIOUS SHORT BREAKS OFFER

People who had access to Short Breaks find the services invaluable.

Short Breaks providers are helpful and supportive.

However, you have also told us there is not sufficient provision for:

- Children with autism and
- Children with challenging behaviour.

There is a lack of provision in the West and Breckland areas including Thetford, Attleborough, Hunstanton and Brancaster areas.

North Norfolk has limited provision available for the presenting needs around Fakenham and the Raynhams.

There is not enough opportunity to be included in everyday activities.

Parents and disabled children want an emphasis on learning independence skills and preparing disabled children for their futures.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

On 1st of April 2017 we introduced Individual Budgets. Over 78% of families who responded to our feedback questionnaire expressed being satisfied or very satisfied.

(November 2017)

Since June 2017 new applications for Short Breaks do not need a social work assessment, unless it is indicated it is needed.

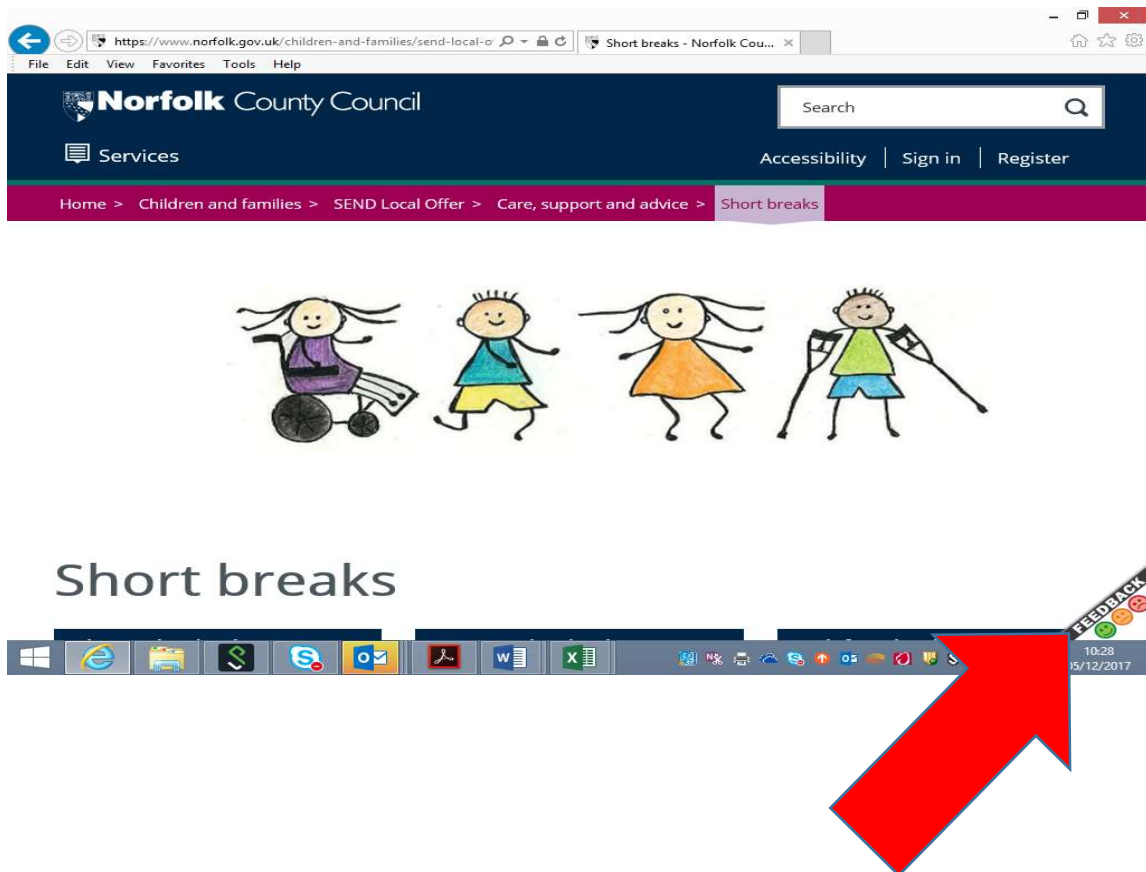
Since June 2017 - 69 applications have been accepted for short breaks (only 6 of these have had to be referred into social work teams with parental permission). (November 2017)

New applications for individual budgets have increased by 50% on this time last year and we think this will increase further.

Our ambition is that more children access Short Breaks in Norfolk. Currently 1,265 disabled children and their families' access Short Breaks and we want to increase this offer to 2,500 over the next three years.

WHAT SHORT BREAKS SERVICES DOES NORFOLK OFFER

You can find information on the Local Offer on the Short Breaks page about how to apply.



If you have any feedback about the page or the services you access through your Individual Budget please leave your feedback. Please click on the relevant face and type in your response.

RESIDENTIAL RESPITE UNITS

Residential respite is only for those families where it has been assessed by a social worker that a child is at risk of family breakdown without the ability to have regular and reliable breaks.

The units are:

- Foxwood Based in Norwich
(In-house)
- Marshfields Based in Kings Lynn
(In-house)
- Nelson Lodge Based in Long Stratton
- Morley House Based in Kings Lynn

Residential respite is available for those children with the most challenging needs whose carers need extensive support to enable them to continue caring for their disabled child.

These children are more likely not to be able to access community provision.

Children who access residential respite will have an allocated social worker who will visit the child every 6 weeks.

SHORT BREAKS FOSTERING (IN-HOUSE)

Linked Families

Access to Linked Families must be assessed by a social worker. If it is decided that overnight care in a foster setting is needed the child will need to be allocated to a social worker.

We have a group of specially recruited foster carers who offer overnight and day care for disabled children to have short breaks away from their family units.

This is particularly helpful for children with more complex needs and where elements of family support are required.