

Rhondda Cynon Taf

Disabled Children Short Break Statement



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

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RCT Short Break Statement

This short break statement is for families living in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) who have a disabled child aged 0-18 years.

It sets out our vision for short break services for families living in RCT and simply states who can access short break services and how. We may need to assess your child and family to ensure that we provide the right level of support and short breaks.

In Rhondda Cynon Taf our priorities are to ensure children:

- Have the best start in life.
- Are protected from harm.
- Have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.
- Are listened to and treated with respect.
- Have a safe home and community, which supports physical and emotional well-being.
- Receive services from skilled and competent staff.

Through consultation you have told us:

PARENT

- Gives us time to spend with his siblings
- We put dates on the calendar otherwise she will want to go every week
- We have an excellent relationship with the link carers we communicate regularly
- We are very pleased with service I didn't know what to expect when he first came

CHILD

- I like playing with friends
- Everything was perfect – I love Chris's pancakes.
- I like going to the gym but I don't like bowling
- I like extra stays when I can
- I like cookery sessions

CARER

- D has become much more involved and open in trying new things.

This short break statement has been developed in partnership with the RCT Parent and Carer Network, and partners in education and health and the voluntary sector to ensure that families of disabled children know:

1. What is a short break
2. That all disabled children are entitled to use mainstream services and
3. How Rhondda Cynon Taf decides who is or is not entitled to more specialist short breaks.

What is a Short Break?

Short Breaks were previously referred to as 'respite care'. A short break is meant to allow families to spend time together with or without their disabled children doing family activities. As well as providing a break from caring, short breaks are also about disabled children having fun, trying new activities and developing friendships.

Our current service delivery

In Rhondda Cynon Taf we currently provide a range of short breaks. The diagram below gives an overview of the types of short break services we have developed as a result of listening to what disabled young people and their families have told us.



Examples of Short Break services

We have developed a range of short break services; a flavour of some of these is illustrated below:

Type of service	Examples of short breaks
Overnight breaks	Nantgwyn and Ash Square residential units and the Family Link Scheme offer overnight short breaks
Direct Payments	Direct payments can be used to employ a personal assistant or to purchase a range of services from sitting to childminding from providers. This is a flexible arrangement that parents directly manage. The Council has a contract with Dewis Centre for Independent Living to provide support to direct payment users.
Family Support Service	Provide support to enable disabled children and young people to access activities of their choice within their own communities.
Holiday play and care schemes	School holiday open access play schemes are run throughout the county for all children aged 5 -14 and disabled children receive support to attend and participate. Play provision for pre-school disabled children is funded and provided through a range of early years childcare services.
Specialist clubs	There are a number of specialist clubs for disabled children and young people, for example, Pals.
Flying Start childcare	Provides free part time childcare for all children in Flying Start areas following their second birthday.
RCT Carers Support Project	Provide opportunities for carers to attend events and activities and training which may support them in their caring role.
Sitting services	Sitting services are provided by voluntary organisations across the county e.g. Crossroads
Specialist leisure services	Stars Programme, Miskin Project and specialist swimming clubs.
Continuing Health Care Packages	Specialised Nursing Care Services provided for children and young people who meet the Continuing Health Care Criteria

How to access Short Breaks

The range of short breaks available covers universal and specialist provision.

Level of support	Assessment type/ access to services	Examples of services
Universal / Prevention	No assessment required, self referral, contact the service directly.	Youth Service School Provision, Brownies, Cubs, leisure activities and clubs, holiday play schemes, RCT Parent & Carer Network newsletter and website.
Specialist/ complex	Assessment required using the Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families. Assessment for Continuing Health Care.	Direct Payments, overnight short breaks, Family Support Services, holiday support schemes, sitting services, specialised health care.

Universal Provision:

We have worked with providers of universal services to deliver disability awareness training and support to staff; to ensure that disabled children and young people are able to access a range of leisure opportunities. For example to attend summer play schemes and a range of holiday activities.

Carers within RCT are able to access discounted leisure activities, contact leisure services for further details.

Specialist Provision:

Children and young people are eligible for short breaks if they have a permanent and substantial physical disability, learning disability or sensory impairment, or a chronic or life threatening illness. A social worker will talk to you about your child's needs and your family circumstances and will, where appropriate discuss possible support that can be accessed.

Way Forward

We are committed to working with disabled children, their families and partners in both the voluntary and statutory sectors to ensure that our short break services focus on improving life opportunities and outcomes for disabled children and their families.

This statement will be kept under review and revised as appropriate.

If you have any questions or comments please contact the Family Information Service via email fis@rctcbc.gov.uk or call 0800 180 4151 freephone or the RCT Parent and Carer Network via email rctparentandcarernetwork@rctcbc.gov.uk

This statement is available in a range of formats and languages upon request.