

**Tameside MBC**

**SHORT BREAKS SERVICE STATEMENT**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND**

**2023-24**

**Section 1: Introduction**

* 1. **What are we doing and why?**

Paragraph 6(1) of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to provide services designed to give breaks for carers of disabled children. Regulations relating to this duty, which came into force on the 1st April 2011, require each local authority to provide a Short Breaks Service Statement so that families know:

This document is reviewed annually to ensure that it remains fit for purpose, given the changes in society, the local community and children’s and families presenting needs.

* What services are available?
* How these services can be accessed?
* How the range of services has been designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in their area?
  1. **How are we putting this statement together?**

We have undertaken a lot of consultation in Tameside around the provision of short breaks to find out what family’s needs are and how we can meet them through offering a range of short breaks.

All of this information, plus continuous feedback from families and from the parent forum has been used to review this statement.

As we deliver our short breaks programme, we have continuously gained feedback and worked in partnership with parents/carers to continue to enhance and in some cases transform services.

* 1. **Who has prepared the statement?**

This statement has been reviewed by Lynne Barnett- Partnership Manager, Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs. (The review has been agreed with our parent forum.) need to represent this to the forum

We have ensured that, through listening to families, children and young people with a disability and service providers; their voices are at the heart of this statement.

**Section 2: Definitions**

**2.1 Definition of Disability (In accordance with the Equality Act 2010)**

A person is disabled if:

* They have a mental or physical impairment
* The impairment has a substantial\* and long term\* adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day to day\* activities

\**Substantial means more that minor or trivial;*

*\*Long term means that the effect of the impairment has lasted or is likely to last for at least twelve months*

*\*Normal day to day activities include everyday things like eating, washing, walking and going shopping.*

**2.2 Definition of Short Breaks**

Short breaks form part of a continuum of services, which support disabled children, young people and their families. Short breaks are provided to give:

* Children and young people enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, thereby contributing to their personal and social development and reducing social isolation
* Parents, carers and families receive a necessary and valuable break from their caring responsibilities and to enable them to maintain and improve the quality of care they provide.

There are two main categories of short breaks that Tameside provides:-:

**2.3 Community short breaks**

These short breaks are for those children with disabilities who are not able to access universal activities and are at risk of social exclusion. These breaks can be accessed by contacting the providers directly and are not subject to a formal assessment of need. They are community based short breaks and the majority are managed and led by parent volunteers.

**2.4 Targeted complex needs short** **breaks**

These short breaks are accessed through a social care / early help assessment and are for children and families where there is a high level of need and complexityand who require specialist provision to enable them to access short breaks and other services. Families will usually be in receipt DLA and have an EHC plan. These short breaks usually consist of a package of support that may include overnight short breaks, direct payment/individual budget, direct support in the family home and outreach support. A Social Worker or Intervention Worker will oversee the higher level packages and they will always be subject to an assessment of need and approval at the ISCAN resource panel

**2.5 Range of Short Breaks**

Short breaks can include day, evening, overnight and weekend activities and can take place in the child’s home, the home of an approved carer, a residential or community setting. They come in a range of formats and each one can last just a few hours to a few days, and occasionally longer depending on the type of provision and the needs of the child and their family.

**Section 3: Tameside’s Short Breaks Programme**

**3.1 Tameside Council’s Vision for Short Breaks**

Tameside have worked in partnership with parents/carers, children with disabilities, volunteers and professionals to transform our short break services for disabled children. By continuing to listen to the needs, aspirations and ideas of disabled children and their families we will continue to jointly provide a range of short breaks that are fun, promote independence, support learning and provide a break for primary carers from their caring responsibilities.

We achieve this by continuing to provide a range of responsive, timely and accessible short breaks.

Tameside priorities for disabled children and their families:

* + Continually improve access to services for disabled children and young people and their families
  + Ensure children and young people have access to services in their local area
  + Services to be of a high quality with regard to safety, disability knowledge and staff training
  + Demonstrate commitment towards equality of opportunity for disabled children and young people.

**Section 4: Consultation**

**4.1 How does consultation feedback / influence the assessment of need?**

Participation is about providing choices and opportunities for children and their parent/carers to have an input into decisions that affect their lives.

It is about talking, listening to and hearing children and their parents and carers, encouraging and supporting them to contribute, and acting on their views and ideas whilst being open, honest and realistic with them on the levels of involvement they can have.

**4.2 Positive steps have already been made:**

* The development of the Children with Disabilities Parent Forum continues to be active in influencing decision making
* Our early intervention plans place the parents and child’s priorities at the centre of our interventions
* Joint development on the strategy for SEND 2019- 2022
* Parents/carers play a key role in the design of our community based short breaks
* Parent groups now deliver a range of sustainable community based short breaks, with some supported by grants from Tameside MBC.

**4.3 Children and Young People**

We consistently gain feedback from children and young people and parent/carers. All of our providers gain valuable feedback from young people to check that services are still enjoyable and meeting their needs. This information informs the annual commissioning cycle and future commissioning activity.

**4.4 Parents and Carers**

Tameside has a very active parent forum that meet on a regular basis. The forum has support from all of our parent groups and they feed into the forum. The forum invites Managers and partners attend the forum to consult on a wide range of issues/developments.

**4.5 Other Consultation**

The short breaks provider group is made up of professionals, parents and the voluntary sector who continuously give feedback as the commissioners of short breaks service. This helps providers make changes to the short breaks on an on-going basis to make sure they are meeting children, young people and family’s needs.

**Section 5. The Tameside Local Offer 2022/23**

**5.1 Our Community Based Short Breaks Provision 2022/23**

The following short breaks are for those families who have had a Social Care / Early Help Assessment. These breaks will require approval at the ISCAN resource panel

* Direct Payment/ individual budget
* Residential overnight short break
* Home based domiciliary support
* Targeted outreach support
* Community based holiday club sessions which require 1:1 support

The Tameside local offer is further met through our extensive range of parent led groups.

These community based targeted short breaks can be found by following the links below.

[www.freewebs.com/tasca4u](http://www.freewebs.com/tasca4u)

[www.ourkidseyes.org/activities](http://www.ourkidseyes.org/activities)

[www.hopetameside.org.uk](http://www.hopetameside.org.uk)

<https://www.activetameside.com/everybody-can>

[www.t21network.co.uk](http://www.t21network.co.uk)

[www.factautism.org.uk](http://www.factautism.org.uk)

**5.2 Transitions**

We are actively working with our adult colleagues to ensure a smoother process for Children and Young People with a disability in regards to all aspects of their lives, including access to short breaks.

In commencing our discussions with adult services at an earlier stage of the young person’s life (aged 14), adult services are then supported to project what short break services will be required for the future, thus assisting their ability to continue to meet the presenting needs of the young adults within the community.

Current providers are already assisting young people from the age of 16 through transition regarding their community short breaks, by introducing young people to the equivalent or alternate adult clubs and provisions, with the plan to reduce any unnecessary stress of multiple changes of services as the young person reaches 18 years of age.

**5. Reviewing the statement**

The statement will be reviewed on an annual basis.

