# Short Breaks for disabled children and young people from birth up to their eighteenth birthday and their families

London Borough of Wandsworth

**Telephone** 020 8871 7899
**Email** fis@wandsworth.gov.uk www.wandsworth.gov.uk/localoffer



RICHMOND & WANDSWORTH BETTER SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

# Contents


| | |
|---|---|
| Introduction | **3** |
| What is a short break? | **3** |
| Who can have a short break? | **3** |
| What short breaks are available in Wandsworth? | **4** |
| Universal services | **5** |
| Targeted services | **5** |
| Services and support across universal and targeted | **6** |
| Services which need to be accessed using an additional assessment | **7** |
| Moving on – short break services for young adults and their carers | **9** |
| Consultation and working in partnership | **10** |
| Appendix | **11** |

## Introduction

The Wandsworth Short Breaks* offer is designed to give families of disabled children and young people access to a range of different short break opportunities, wherever possible without the need for further assessment. It continues to be kept under review. This short break service statement is designed to tell you about the current range of short breaks available in Wandsworth and how they can be accessed. In accordance with our duties, the Council publishes this statement online and makes sure that it is kept up to date.

## What is a short break?

Short breaks are hugely beneficial to families as they give disabled children and young people the chance to take part in fun activities and develop new interests, skills, relationships and greater independence, whilst giving their parents a break from their caring responsibilities. There is a great variety in short breaks in terms of:

- when they happen i.e. evening, overnight, weekend, holiday periods.
- where they happen i.e. in the family home or away from the family home.
- how they happen i.e. independent of other family members, as a family, with other families; and
- who provides them i.e. Council, voluntary or private sector.

## Who can have a short break?

The Wandsworth short breaks offer is designed for families living in Wandsworth who are caring for disabled children and young people aged between birth and their eighteenth birthday. A child or young person is considered to have a disability if their condition has a substantial effect on their ability to carry out day to day activities. This may mean that they have a learning or physical disability; an Autistic Spectrum Disorder; a hearing or visual

impairment; complex physical ill health; or that their behaviour may be challenging as a result of their physical or mental impairments. Emotional or behavioural disorders are not generally included unless they are associated with a specific disability such as autism.

The Council will assess any disabled child in response to a request from a parent or professional. However, some children and young people may have needs that require a high level of support to have a short break, or their families might need more help because of their circumstances. In this instance, the Council's Supporting Disabled Children Service will carry out an assessment so that children and young people can have a package of support that is individually tailored to their needs.

If you would like more detailed information about the short breaks' eligibility criteria, please click on the link below:

Eligibility criteria for short breaks Feb 25

Wandsworth's Eligibility Criteria for Supporting Disabled Children Service – February 2025

**What short breaks are available in Wandsworth?**

The following sections give you some general information about the types of short breaks available in Wandsworth. The Family Information Service Wandsworth can provide more information and advice about the range of short breaks available, and which services may be best suited to your needs. You can contact them through their website www.wandsworth.gov.uk/localoffer, by email fis@wandsworth.gov.uk or seek advice by leaving a message on the SEND Enquiry Line on 0208 871 8907.

Some examples of the types of services available in Wandsworth are given below. For a full list of the short breaks' services available in Wandsworth, with a brief description of the services offered and contact details, please click below:

Wandsworth Short Breaks Guide

## Universal services

Many families with disabled children and young people can use the same services used by all families, to have a break. This could mean that children and young people attend their local children's centres, after school clubs, holiday play centres, youth groups, or leisure centres. If you would like to use a universal service, you should approach the provider direct.

In Wandsworth we aim to increase the ability of all play and leisure services and local community organisations to include disabled children and young people. Please refer to our guide for more detail:

Wandsworth Short Breaks Guide

## Targeted services

Some children and their families need more specialist provision to enjoy a short break. In Wandsworth we fund a wide variety of specialist services that can offer short breaks to families of disabled children and young people without the need for an additional assessment. We have tried to ensure that there is a mix of provision including holiday schemes, weekend provision and after school opportunities.

Specialist services may cater for children and young people of different ages and disabilities. Examples of the services include:

- Family Information Service | KIDS Lady Allen Adventure Playground adventurous play after school, on Saturdays and during school holidays.

- Unique Youth at George Shearing Centre – a youth club for disabled young people after school and during school holidays.
- Generate Opportunities Ltd – a youth club for disabled young people during evenings and the school holidays.
- Enable Disability Sport - Enable run a number of different sports activities during term time and school holidays.

Targeted services will usually require some evidence of your child's disability and your Wandsworth home address. Examples include Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment; Education, Health and Care Plan; support from a professional who knows your child.

**Services and support across universal and targeted**

The Council gives funding opportunities to organisations to provide both universal and targeted short break opportunities.

Those with names included on the Disabled Children's Register (DCR) are able to apply for a WAND card (or, once they are over 18 and up to 24, a WAND+ card) if they meet the eligibility criteria. Family Information Service | Wandsworth's WAND and WAND+ cards

The WAND or WAND + Card serves as an identifier which indicates that the holder has a special educational need and/or disability that impacts on their ability to access services/activities in the community. We have a number of participating organisations who offer concessions or discounted services/activities for WAND and WAND Card + card holders and/or their parents/carers. Details of these can be found at:
Family Information Service | Wandsworth's WAND and WAND+ cards

If you would like more information on the DCR and WAND Cards please contact the Family Information Service Wandsworth. You

can contact them through the website www.wandsworth.gov.uk/localoffer, by email at fis@wandsworth.gov.uk by ringing on 020 8871 7899, or seek advice by leaving a message on the SEND Enquiry Line on 0208 871 8907.

**Services which need to be accessed using an additional assessment**

Supporting Disabled Children Service (from birth to eighteenth birthday)

Some children and families need more help than is available through general specialist services. If you think that this applies to your family then you can request a social work assessment by ringing Children Specialist Services on 020 8871 6622 or email: mash@wandsworth.gov.uk and asking for a Child and Family Assessment, with a view to accessing short breaks. You may also be referred to the Supporting Disabled Children Service by a professional working with you. Unless there are concerns about your child's safety, this will be with your consent. A social worker will carry out an assessment and will discuss with you a range of issues that may affect whether you will be able to receive a service, these may include:

- Family breakdown, either imminent or likely in the future, which is due to the additional stresses caused by bringing up a disabled child, which would be eased by the provision of a service.
- Severe challenging behaviour from a disabled child which impact on all aspects of the child/young person's functioning or pose a risk to themselves or to others.
- A disabled child who occasionally needs more supervision than children of the same age
- Single carer, particularly if there are other children in the household.
- The effect of disturbed nights on the carer and their family.
- A child who has speech and language impairment

- The impact Moving & Handling a disabled child has on the wellbeing of the carer.
- The health of the carer.
- Number of children in the household their ages and needs.
- The family's own resources and/or Universal and Targeted services are unable to provide the required level of support.
- Disabled children who have recently been subject to a child protection plan and who remain in need of ongoing specialist services.
- No or a limited extended family network.
- Opportunities for a young person to gain skills and experience to support independence appropriate to their ability are not available.

The Supporting Disabled Children's Service use Formulate, a tool to assist in providing guidance about the services that would benefit a disabled child and provide an indication of the hours needed and the cost. It is used to make sure that children with a similar level of need receive similar care packages and reduces the possibility of worker bias. Details can be found in the link below:

How we decided your estimated budget

This information will be used to decide whether you need additional services and what additional services should be provided. These services might include:

- support in the home/community;
- overnight breaks, either at Oakdene, the Council's overnight short breaks home, with a short breaks foster carer, or if necessary with a specialist provider;
- extra staffing to enable your child to attend a short breaks provider if they have very complex needs or challenging behaviour; or direct payments to enable you to purchase the services that you need.

Details can be found in the links below:

DP Wandsworth Leaflet
Ruils Independent Living : Ruils Independent Living

Having services available across these three levels (universal, targeted and specialist) allows the different needs of disabled children and families to be met effectively.

**Moving on – short break services for young adults and their carers**

Planning for a young person's transition into adulthood is done to maximise personal independence and choices, and includes consideration of possibilities around housing and support, day support and opportunities within the community including help to obtain employment, leisure opportunities, and short breaks for carers.

Young people likely to need support as adults will be added to a tracking list from age 14 and discussed at the regular meetings between the Supporting Disabled Children Service and the Preparing for Adulthood Service to make sure key pieces of work are completed and that they are on the right pathway for their needs. Adult Social Care Service will work with other teams to identify young people with EHCPs who are likely to require support from adult support services.

Once a young person reaches 16 years old referrals are made to Adult Social Care for young people already identified on the tracking list by the relevant teams in Children's Services. At aged 17 young people referred are allocated to a social worker in the Preparing for Adulthood Service for completion of the Care Act assessment. A Care and Support Plan will be developed, taking into account the young person's strengths, abilities and wishes and a funding application submitted to the Preparing for Adulthood Panel, no later than 3 months before the young person's 18th birthday. A mental capacity assessment will also be completed if

there are concerns that the young person lacks capacity to make decisions about their care and support. Work with young people transfers to a social worker in the Preparing for Adulthood Service when the young person becomes 18 and this is when the adult care and support package starts, this is reviewed after six weeks and annually thereafter. Please see the link below for more information:

Family Information Service | Preparing for adulthood

The Council offers a range of services to carers of disabled adults. More information can be found at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/carers. Services include a care at home scheme and some residential respite. Access to these services is via a social work assessment.

Further information is available on:

Make a referral to adult social care - Wandsworth Borough Council

**Consultation and working in partnership**

The range of short breaks on offer continues to be developed in consultation with disabled children and young people and their families. This is done either on a small scale where short break providers seek the views of their service users to influence their future planning; or on a large scale where the Council consults all interested parties and gives them the opportunity to influence the Council's short breaks commissioning decisions and ensures the offer continues to meet the needs of Wandsworth families and provides value for money.

We will continue to ask users what they think of our services and how we can improve them. We also expect organisations we fund to provide short breaks services to seek feedback from families and young people about the services offered to them and how they could be improved.

Parents/carers and young people can continue to have a say in Wandsworth's short breaks offer through contacting the SEND Local Offer Team. Feedback on Short Breaks offer is welcome by phone to the SEND Enquiry Line on 0208 871 8907 as well as:
Our feedback link:
Wandsworth SEND Local Offer Feedback

And/or via the Parent/carer forum –
Family Information Service | SEND Parent Carers in Wandsworth

## Appendix

*Regulation 5 of the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 provides:

'5.— Short breaks services statement
(1) A local authority must…prepare a statement for carers in their area (a "short breaks services statement") setting out details of—
(a) the range of services provided in accordance with regulation 4,
(b) any criteria by which eligibility for those services will be assessed, and
(c) how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of carers in their area.'

Eligibility criteria for short breaks Feb 25

Wandsworth's Eligibility Criteria for Supporting Disabled Children Service – February 2025