

Short Break Service Statement - Summary

July 2011

Introduction

Short breaks are offered by the London Borough of Bromley to support disabled children and young people and their families. From April 2011, all local authorities have a duty to provide short breaks and have the Short Break Services Statement published by October 2011.

This is a summary of the draft Short Break Service Statement. You may read the whole statement at: www.bromley.gov.uk/info/10122/disabled_children_and_young_people or contact: Pel Ahmet, Specialist Information Officer: peлин.ahmet@bromley.gov.uk to receive a copy.

Purpose

The purpose of the Short Break Service Statement is to set out the range of services available, eligibility criteria for those services and how the range is designed to meet the needs of parents, carers and disabled children and young people. This Statement will be kept under review and revised as required in future years. Preparation and review of the Statement will be carried out to include the views of parents, carers and disabled children and young people.

Consultation

The draft Statement was prepared with information gathered from parents, carers and disabled children and young people during the Aiming High for Disabled Children Short Break Transformation Programme in 2008-2011.

Formal consultation for this draft Statement is taking place from the 18th July – 9th September 2011. Parents, carers and disabled children and young people, professionals and other interested parties will be able to share their views during this consultation.

For more information on current Short Break Services provided by the London Borough of Bromley for disabled children and young people and their families, go to: www.bromley.gov.uk/info/10122/disabled_children_and_young_people

Short Breaks in Bromley

The London Borough of Bromley has divided access to short break services into different categories. These categories aim to prioritise the short breaks for those with the greatest needs, and also make it easier to access short break services without the need for a social care assessment.

1. Universal Services – These are services that any child (with or without a disability) can access. Training has been provided to some of these providers to help their service be more inclusive. No CAF or social care assessment is required. Access is by self-referral. Information regarding Bromley's universal services for children and young people can be found on Bromley's Children and Families website: www.bromleyfamilies.info or by contacting The Family Information Service: email: bromleyfamilies@bromley.gov.uk tel: 020 8464 0276

2. Targeted Services – These are services commissioned by the Local Authority to provide short breaks for disabled children. No CAF or social care assessment is required, but the provider may have their own application requirements. Access is by self-referral.

Children and young people requesting short break services allocated by the Disabled Children's Social Work and Short Break Team must meet the eligibility criteria to access specialist services. Disabled children must be resident in Bromley and have a disability that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Access to these services is through a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) assessment completed by any relevant professional already involved with the family, or Initial or Core Assessment carried out by a social worker.

3. Local Offer – The Local Offer is the minimum level of specialist short break support offered. It is the choice of one service at 100 hours per year (Outreach, Mencap Childminding Network, Mencap Buddying), 18 days at Riverside Holiday or Saturday Club, or £1000 of Direct Payments annually. A CAF or social care assessment is required, except for application to the Riverside Holiday and Saturday Club. These applications are reviewed in partnership between the Riverside Scheme Co-ordinator and Disabled Children's Team.

4. Additional Specialist – These are services provided to disabled children and their families with an additional need for support or social care involvement to review their needs for short break services. This level may include overnight breaks at Hollybank (short break centre) and family based short breaks. A social care assessment is required and an additional eligibility criteria will be applied to help determine the level of short breaks to be offered.

The Local Authority also wants to develop more short break services for young people age 16-18 to support the transition process between Children and Young People's Services and Adult Services. Recent services have included personalised budgets and small independence building projects.

Gaps in Services

The Local Authority is continuing to work on developing services that have been identified in past and ongoing consultations. A wide range of additional short breaks have been offered over the past 3 years. The numbers of disabled children and young people accessing short breaks increased from 318 in 2008/09 to approximately 700 in 2010/11.

Families have asked for more family based overnight short breaks as an alternative to Hollybank overnight stays. There are plans with the Fostering Team to increase recruitment and training for more foster carers to provide overnight breaks.

The Local Authority is also aware that a more cost effective solution for transport is needed. One improvement that has been made is to encourage and commission services across the borough to facilitate easier access for more families.

Conclusion

The Short Break Transformation Programme has enhanced the short break services now available in the borough. Early Intervention Grant funding is now supporting the ongoing work of developing the Short Break Services in Bromley. It is hoped that these increased levels of support will continue to support disabled children to remain being cared for within their families and to live within their local communities.

Contact

This Statement is being produced in partnership with a multi-agency planning group including representatives from service user groups, Bromley Council, Bromley Healthcare, local voluntary sector partners, short break providers and commissioners.

Jane Ching is the Lead Officer responsible for preparing the 2011 Short Break Services Statement. You may contact her at: jane.ching@bromley.gov.uk if you have any questions or comments regarding this summary of the Short Breaks Service Statement.

It is vital to receive views and comments from parents, carers and disabled children and young people regarding the on-going development of our services and it would be appreciated if you could complete the attached questionnaire which is also available in an electronic format on:

www.bromley.gov.uk/info/10122/disabled_children_and_young_people

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Produced by the Specialist Support and Disability Services

The Bromley Children and Young People Partnership is a partnership of the following organisation

Bromley College of Further and Higher Education | Bromley Mytime | Bromley Safeguarding Children Board

Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum | Connexions South London Sub Regional Unit

Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership | Jobcentre Plus | London Borough of Bromley

London Probation Trust | Metropolitan Police Service (Bromley) | NHS Bromley

Orpington College | Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust | Primary and Special Schools

Secondary Schools | South London Healthcare NHS Trust