

# Warrington Short Breaks Statement

Short Breaks for carers of disabled children in Warrington



**WARRINGTON**  
Borough Council

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# Introduction

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 placed a requirement for all local authorities to produce a statement explaining what 'short break services' are available to disabled children and their families, and how they could access them. We publish the statement online, and review it periodically to ensure that information is updated whenever services change or new ones are developed. It is important that we listen and respond to the views of children, parents, carers and professionals.

Feedback from Aspire holiday club  
*"Today has been so fun, we made spooky potions"*  
Child October 2020

Feedback from a parent of a child accessing Sportworks 2019  
*"This is an excellent provision and much needed. It is just a shame it does not run every day"*  
Child October 2020

This 'short breaks services' statement is for families and professionals living or working alongside children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) living in Warrington. It is a guide to the short break services and support offered by us.

Our statement sets out the range of short breaks services and support available in Warrington to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families. It also explains what a short break is, who can access them and how. The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 requires local authorities to:

- provide a short breaks service to carers of disabled children to help people who provide care for their children at home; prepare and keep under review the 'Local Offer' of services; and
- have regard to the views of carers in their area

Read about [Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 on legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)



# What are Short Breaks?

## Short Breaks – a summary

The short break statement goes into great detail about the types of breaks available for Warrington families, but to set the scene, here is an overview of what is on offer and how to access the breaks.

Short Breaks fall into two main types, universal and targeted breaks:

### Universal Short Breaks

These are the activities that are available for all Warrington families, including baby groups, youth clubs, sports clubs, scouts / guides. Help may be available to enable a child/ young person to access these.

### Targeted Short Breaks

These are aimed at families that cannot access the universal services and need more support to be able to get the break they need, these services will be based upon an assessment. This may include a direct payment to employ someone to support them.

There are also:

### Health Short Breaks

These are aimed at children who also have complex health needs. They can assess short breaks that are co-funded by health through a health care panel. This will be assessed and presented at a complex care panel by the lead professional. Where additional help is needed, an assessment will be carried out which looks at the family's needs as a whole, to ensure that everyone within the family gets the support they require. At the centre of this is the child/young person's needs, but the impact on parents/carers/siblings is also taken into account.

Most families needing support will be assessed by Early Help, where a Family Support Worker is allocated to the family and would carry out the assessment and suggest services that may be helpful.

For families needing a lot more support, they would be assessed by the Children with Disabilities team and be allocated a Social Worker. Within these assessments, information is gathered to take to the Short Breaks Panel where the final decision on what will be provided is agreed. This decision is based on the Short Breaks Matrix which is compiled by the worker based on the family's input.

Useful contact details: [shortbreaks@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@warrington.gov.uk) or call MASH: **01925 443400**





# Who can have a Short Break?

This section tells you who may be eligible for short breaks and how we work with disabled children, young people and their families, to make sure they receive the services that best meet their needs. In Warrington, we see disabled children as being those children and young people aged 0–25 years whose daily lives are substantially affected by one or more of the following diagnosed conditions:

- A hearing impairment
- A visual impairment
- A learning disability
- A physical disability
- A chronic/life threatening physical illness
- A communication disorder (including autism)
- A consciousness disorder (e.g. epilepsy)
- A mental health condition

Their condition should usually be expected to last for more than 12 months and have a substantial effect upon the child in one or more of the following areas:

- Physical ability
- Communication and understanding
- Awareness of risk and danger
- Behaviour
- Independence

We understand that children and young people may also be disadvantaged because of other factors, such as their environment; other people's attitudes; poverty and social exclusion. These factors are all considered as part of a child young/persons assessment for support.

Each individual child and family will have different needs and the impact of the child's disability needs to be considered against what would usually be expected for any child of the same age. Their family's circumstances will also be different and so it is important to assess how their situation impacts upon their ability to lead a fulfilling life within the community.

Families could find that universal provision readily available in the community will meet their needs but others may find they need something different which isn't available. If your needs can't be met through universal community activity and resource, you may be able to access a Direct Payment or Personal Budget.



# Warrington's Short Breaks offer

We offer a variety of Short Breaks and support services for SEND children and their families in conjunction with private and voluntary providers who receive council funding to deliver the service on our behalf.

We offer a spectrum of support that is based on the level of need the child and family requires. This can range from offering support, guidance and sign posting to relevant universal services, to a more complex level of need which requires a higher level of support.

Information about up and coming events and new activities can be found on [My Life Warrington](#), under "Things to do" at the bottom of the home page. You can also email [shortbreaks@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@warrington.gov.uk)

## The Local Offer

The Ask Ollie section of My Life Warrington sets out Warrington's offer of support for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. It includes provision from birth to 25 years, across education, health and social care and is informed by the feedback received from children and young people, parents and carers, and local services, including schools, colleges, health and social care agencies. For more information detail about the Local Offer visit [mylifewarrington.co.uk/localoffer](http://mylifewarrington.co.uk/localoffer)

We are updating the local offer and if you have any questions, please contact [shortbreaks@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@warrington.gov.uk)



## Universal Services

Short Breaks can be provided through access to 'universal' Short Break services available for all families without an assessment, for example attending a youth group or club/ activity.

## Warrington Play and Sensory Centre

This is a purpose built facility for young people and adults with additional needs/disabilities.

The centre has been carefully planned and is fully accessible with a number of different areas where visitors can relax or play.

- Active zone - A large soft play structure built over two floors, highlights include; dizzy disc, slide, swinging ball and ball pool.
- Calm zone - A low level soft play area for those with reduced mobility or for younger children. This zone includes a low level trampoline, swing, DVD and overhead hoist track.
- Sensory room - A calm environment with a heated water bed, bubble tube, interactive light board, fibre optic curtain, ball pool, visualite ceiling panel and overhead hoist track.
- Café - Provides hot and cold drinks and a selection of hot food and snacks.
- The centre is also working towards a new sensory garden

The centre offers separate sessions for different age groups including pre-school sessions, carers sessions and young adults' social evenings. Exclusive hire slots (minimum two hours) are available on request for celebrations and parties. The centre also hosts its own annual Halloween, Christmas and New Year parties.

Warrington Play and Sensory Centre works closely with lots of support groups and agencies for support and advice including, Warrington



Parents and Carers, Westland Drive Respite Centre, Ask Ollie, National Autistic Society, CHAPS, Friends, FUN (Families United), Child Development Centre and many more.

You can check opening times, prices and weekly timetable online by visiting [warrington.gov.uk/sensory](http://warrington.gov.uk/sensory)

You can also call 01925 817347, email: [sensorycentre@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:sensorycentre@warrington.gov.uk) or find us on Facebook.

## Early Help

The purpose of Early Help is to offer support at the earliest opportunity to prevent things getting worse. The service is inclusive and provides universal services and more targeted support for all families.

Work in the Early Help service area is focused on the whole family working with an age range of children and young people 0-19 years (25 years if a young person has SEND). We work to promote collaboration with families and a range of partners, to provide the support which will make the most difference.

Early Help services include:

- Children Centres
- Early Years Education and Childcare
- Early Years SEND Support for children (0-4) with SEND
- Family Support Service
- Youth Support Service (including risky behaviour programme and drug and alcohol interventions)
- Evidence-based Parenting programmes
- Early Help Support Team

The Early Help teams work with families and professionals to offer a range of support services. More information can be found by visiting [mylifewarrington.co.uk](http://mylifewarrington.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook - Early Help and SEND Warrington.

## Children's Centres

Children's Centres are places where children and their families can receive a seamless integrated service and information, and where they can access help from multi-disciplinary teams of professionals (including health and midwifery). Our services are inclusive for all, and all children and families are welcome.

The Children Centres are inclusive for all and two of the centres have sensory rooms that can be booked out to use, one also has a sensory garden. The centres aim to support all children and their families with SEND.

Each Children's Centre will review its offer each term, most of the sessions need to be pre-booked and some are by referral only; however parents can self-refer into many group sessions. Each centre will have a slightly different programme, reflecting the community they serve, they can be found on Facebook - Early Help and SEND Warrington.





## Funded childcare for pre-school children

Parents can find information on how you can access funded childcare for your child with SEND by visiting [warrington.gov.uk/childcare](http://warrington.gov.uk/childcare). There are details of how your pre-school child can access funded places for 2 year old funding, 3-4 year old funding, and the disability access fund. Additionally there is information about our specialist provision at Sandy lane.

You can get more information from the Early years Funding Team by calling 01925 443131 or visit [mylifewarrington.co.uk](http://mylifewarrington.co.uk) you can also learn more about 30 hours of free childcare on the GOV.UK website: [gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare](http://gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare)

## Warrington Youth Zone

Warrington Youth Club (not managed by Warrington Borough Council) delivers a wide variety of projects to children and young people from across Warrington, aged 7 to 19, and up to 25 for those who have a disability. They are also commissioned to deliver the ASPIRE holiday club in conjunction with the council which offers support from age 6. These projects range from open-access youth clubs where young people can socialise and have fun, to more focused projects in sports and arts, as well as personal development programs which promote life-skills and wellbeing and training courses.

For more information visit the [Warrington Youth Zone website](http://Warrington Youth Zone website) or find them on Facebook - Warrington Youth Zone.





# Warrington Wolves foundation

Offer a range of different services and activities for children with additional needs and disabilities. Including Wolfprint, Wolfprint art and Wolfprint dance.

For more information visit [warringtonwolvesfoundation.com](http://warringtonwolvesfoundation.com), email [community@warringtonwolvesfoundation.com](mailto:community@warringtonwolvesfoundation.com) or call 01925 248894

## Targeted Services

It will not always be appropriate for all children and young people with disabilities to access the universal opportunities without additional support and in some cases they will need to access 'targeted' Short Break services which support their needs. These services require an assessment by the Local Authority and the completion of a Short Breaks matrix tool. The options and services available will be discussed through the assessment process.

### Accessing 'targeted' Short Break Services

The amount of support that a family may need to care for a child with SEND can vary significantly, influenced by the carer's own health and well-being, other caring responsibilities and the support that is available through family and friends. Also taken into consideration is whether they have joint or sole caring responsibilities and other matters like work patterns, family finances and housing.

Families can ask to be assessed at any time for a targeted short break. Currently in Warrington, families can either self-refer for an assessment, via the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) or they may be referred by someone working to support them or their child.

## How do I get extra support?

### Professionals

A professional making a referral for a disabled child to access targeted short breaks is expected to complete an Early Help Assessment in order to find out about the holistic needs of the child and family and what services have been tried out already.

A Multi-Agency Request for Services (MARS) should accompany the Early Help Assessment explaining the request for short breaks.

### Families with an allocated worker, either Early Help or Children Social Care

Please contact your allocated worker to discuss and complete a Short Breaks decision making tool, you can find details of this in the glossary. Families without an allocated worker

Please call 01925 443400 or email [childreferral@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:childreferral@warrington.gov.uk)  
The MASH team manage all initial enquiries about Children's Services. The Front Door manages access to Early Help and Social Care services for children and will direct requests for support to the appropriate team.

### Referrals

The MASH team will pass information onto Early Help or Childrens Social Care, who will make contact with parents and/or professionals to gather further information.

### Assessment

Either Early Help or Childrens Social Care will decide if there is enough information to make a decision about the need for Short Breaks, or if further assessment is needed. This will include the Short breaks matrix tool. Decisions will be made in relation Short Breaks at care purchasing panel.

## Short Breaks Panel

During the assessment process, a “Short Break Matrix tool” is completed, which helps to work out what the most appropriate level of support will be. This is then taken to the Short Breaks Panel for review. The panel meets fortnightly to decide what package of support the family will be offered. Panel members include Early Help, Children’s Social Care and the residential manager of Westland Drive, the local overnight short break provision. The Short Break offer is then regularly reviewed:

- Within Early Help, a Family Support Worker will meet with the family initially 3 months after the first Direct Payment is agreed then at least every six months to review at an EHCP annual review.
- Child in Need meetings – every 6 weeks
- Core Group meetings – every 6 weeks
- Child Protection Conference – Initially takes place within 15 days after a strategy meeting. Follow up conference takes place at 3 months, then 6 monthly thereafter.
- Child in Care Planning meetings – minimum 6 monthly, where it’s a child placed at home, these should take place 6 weekly.
- Child in Care Reviews – first one takes place at 6 weeks unless this is a managed move. Second review at 4 months. Further reviews 6 monthly until matched.

If you are unhappy regarding the decision that has been made at the Short Breaks panel, you need to appeal the decision in writing to your allocated worker. Heads of Service from Early Help and Childrens Social Care then review the decision and formally communicate their decision in writing.

## Short Breaks Panel Process

### Childrens Social Care Involvement

Child and Family Assessment completed, including in the Short breaks matrix tool

Or

### Early Help Support

Early Help Assessment completed and short break paperwork, including the Short Breaks Matrix tool. This is a comprehensive document looking at various areas of a family’s situation and need, and will be completed following a home visit.

### Short Breaks panel paperwork is completed

### Short Breaks Panel Meets

Panel meets fortnightly to consider the needs of child and family and suitable local services. If no services are available then panel will consider how the needs can be met and gather information for future service provision.

Panel will agree a level of short breaks either in hours or as an indicative budget and this will be reviewed on a regular basis, as short breaks can change in relation to the assessed need of the child. This will be based on the Short Breaks audit tool and/or Child and Family Assessment/Early Help Assessment.

## What happens when I am allocated an Early Help Family Support Worker?

When you have requested a short break through Early Help you will be allocated to a Family Support Worker who will complete an Early Help Assessment (EHA) alongside the Short Break Matrix in partnership with yourself. Once this has been completed the Short Breaks panel make a decision about the level of Personal Budget or Direct Payment required to meet your family’s needs.

Your Family Support Worker will help you to access the agreed short break which might include supporting you to find out how to employ a Personal Assistant or referring you to agency support.



If your EHA has concluded that your family's needs can be met by a short break you will be contacted by the Family Support Team in your local area every 6 months to review whether the short break is still helping. However, you can contact your local Children Centre whenever you need to if your support needs change.

If your EHA has identified more than short break support, then your Family Support Worker will talk to you about how they can help. This might include parenting support, signposting to carers support, Housing, CAB and Children Centre activities for example. If you agree to accept additional support, your worker will continue to work with you and as part of their work will review your short break every 6-months.

### **What happens when I am allocated a social worker?**

We know that there are some children and young people whose care and support cannot be met through universal or Early Help services alone. Disabled children with more complex needs or those living in more difficult family circumstances may require a higher level of support. In these instances, a social worker from the children with disabilities team will be allocated and they will complete a Child and Family Assessment.

An assessment by a Social Worker is undertaken when it is felt that consideration should be given to short breaks being provided on an overnight basis. When completing an assessment the Children with Disabilities Team will ensure that children and young people are at the heart of the assessment process and that consideration is given to needs of parents, carers and siblings. All assessments should be completed in partnership with children, parents and carers. Depending on the outcome of the assessment, needs can be met through a range of services, including:

- Direct payments that families can use to employ a personal assistant to deliver a short break

- Recommendation that support is accessed by universal and/or Early Help services
- 1:1 support through a commissioned service
- Family-based overnight short breaks
- Residential-based overnight short breaks.

Whilst a child remains open to Children's Social Care, Short Breaks will be reviewed as part of a Child in Need plan and reviewed every 6 weeks. If the family circumstances change and a Social Worker is no longer required, but the child is still accessing a Short Breaks service then consideration will be given to stepping down to Early Help services to continue to review the package of support.



## Health Short Breaks

NHS Warrington CCG works together with Warrington Borough Council to provide NHS Continuing Care to those children and young people who are assessed as eligible. Children and young people become eligible for NHS Continuing Care when their needs may be so complex that they cannot be met by the services which are routinely available from GP Practices, Hospitals or in the community commissioned by NHS Warrington CCG or NHS England.

Children and young people are assessed, following this, a panel of senior managers will review all of the evidence plus the assessment to decide on eligibility. Once deemed eligible a package of care can be put in place to support the assessed needs and meet desired outcomes. Sometimes this is in the form of respite, or short breaks. This is decided with families and their Social Worker and advice can be sought about the package from the child or young person's health professionals.

## Safeguarding

We ensure that the safeguarding of all the children accessing short breaks is at the centre of our practice. If you have a concern about a child it is everyone's responsibility to report this. Advice and guidance can be sought from the MASH team on 01925 443400 or at [childreferral@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:childreferral@warrington.gov.uk)

The protection of all children is managed at all service levels and safeguarding concerns should be reported to the care provider immediately or your allocated worker. If it is deemed to be placing children at significant harm then Children's Social Care must be notified, through MASH. All our targeted Short Breaks must provide copies of all policies and procedures, including safeguarding and whistleblowing to Warrington Commissioning team.

## Targeted Short Breaks

### What's on offer?

Warrington Borough Council aims to provide a wide variety of targeted Short Breaks services and a selection of the types of Short Breaks currently offered is shown below.

This list is not exhaustive and a comprehensive assessment of need will take place in order to match services to the needs of the family.

### Day-time Short Breaks

#### Holiday Clubs like ASPIRE

Aspire is a co-produced service by Warrington Borough Council (WBC) and Warrington Youth Zone (WYZ). It provides a unique service of respite care for parents and carers of children and young people with severe learning disabilities. We run play schemes from 9.30am – 3.30pm. WYZ is commissioned to deliver Aspire for a total of 6 weeks over the school year. These take place at Green Lane School, Foxwood School and Woolston 6th Form in Woolston.

There are opportunities for 6 to 17 year olds to explore, interact, grow, play, learn, get messy, socialise, experience new things and have fun. An opportunity they might find hard to get elsewhere. We tailor our activities to meet individuals' needs wherever possible allowing children to develop their skills, confidence and friends.

Referrals are accepted at the play and sensory centre in Woolston and decisions regarding places are made at Short Breaks Panel. Referrals will be made via Early Help or Social Care. There is also a cost involved with this service, please contact the Play and Sensory for more details. Tel: 01925 817347 email: [sensory\\_centre@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:sensory_centre@warrington.gov.uk)



## **Personal Assistant through Direct Payments/ Personal budget**

Direct payments is the money that the council gives to carers to enable you to set up and control the services to meet your child's needs.

Support and guidance around how to find and employ a personal assistant can be gained from Warrington Disability Partnership.

Warrington Council currently part funds an advice and support team, to help you to recruit a PA and to discuss the process of Direct Payments. For further information please contact Independent Living Team on 01925 240064

Warrington BC Direct payment and personal budgets policy is currently being updated and will soon be found on the council's website [warringtondisabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://warringtondisabilitypartnership.org.uk)

## **Group based activity sessions through Mpower:**

Provides support to children and adults with disabilities from the age of 8-80, they are specialists in providing outdoor group activities to build socialisation, learning opportunities and life skills. More information found at [mylifewarrington.co.uk](http://mylifewarrington.co.uk)

## **A carer provided through an agency**

Warrington Borough Council can commission a number of agencies to support children with disabilities. They provide support to children and adults with learning and physical disabilities and/or with mental health issues to lead their lives in a purposeful, healthy and enjoyable way as full and equal members of their local community. For more information please contact your allocated worker.

# **Overnight Short Breaks**

## **Residential overnight support, Westland Drive:**

Westland Drive Short Break Home provides short-term residential breaks, to young people and children with physical disabilities or learning disabilities. In addition we provide excellent support to young people on the Autistic spectrum from the ages of 4 to 17. The home can provide residential breaks for up to three children or young people, of both genders, at any one time. The objective of the home is to provide an environment that is enjoyable, stimulating and assists children and young people to achieve their potential within the community.

Great emphasis is placed on providing social and leisure experiences for children and young people that enables them to enjoy activities with their peers. Where a child or young person has developed a friendship with another child staying at the home we try to ensure that their stays coincide. We support the concept of friendship and socialisation for young people with Autism, as we thoroughly understand that this can be difficult for them. We assess their individual needs focusing on them as an individual, their sensory requests and routines.

Westland Drive consider referrals from a Social Worker when their assessment has demonstrated complex needs requiring an overnight break.

For more visit [warrington.gov.uk/short-break-home](http://warrington.gov.uk/short-break-home)

## Access to Hospices across the North West, for example Claire House

Claire House Children's Hospice (CHCH) helps seriously and terminally ill children live life to the full by creating wonderful experiences and bringing back a sense of normality to family life. By providing specialist nursing care and emotional support CHCH help families smile again when life couldn't get any tougher.

Claire House Children's Hospice Clatterbridge Road, Bebington Wirral, CH63 4JD

**Telephone: 0151 334 4626**



## Short Break Care packages

Typical Short Breaks that can be offered, can be found in the scenarios below.

### Scenario A

Arthur is a 10 year old boy with ADHD and challenging behaviour. He doesn't sleep very well and often ends up disturbing his younger brother and sister so that they are now having issues with school. Mum, Anna, has tried to send him to Scouts and Youth Club, but he was considered too disruptive and this made Arthur more anxious and aggressive. Anna has attended a parenting course for neurodiverse families, but is at her wits end in knowing how best to support Arthur, whilst looking after her younger children too. She can't reach out to other family members for support as Arthur is considered too much of a handful.

### Resources that would be offered:

A short break screening tool would be completed in conjunction with a Child and family assessment and would look at overnight provision at Westland drive which would be allocated for a certain time frame and reviewed and would be offered in conjunction with the sleep programme run by the Child Development Centre. This would allow the family to recharge their batteries, for mum to spend time with the other children, and to help Arthur with some routine also. Consideration would be given to where dad is and what level of support he can offer too. In addition to look at a referral to the ASPIRE holiday club to help out in school holidays.



### **Scenario B**

Brett is a 4 year old boy who has only recently been diagnosed with autism after concerns were raised by his nursery. He is non-verbal and not potty-trained. His mum, Betty, has had to give up work and is really struggling to cope with his needs, recently started on anti-depressants. Dad, Bob, is pretty much in denial about the whole thing as he reckons his son's just a late developer and will catch up soon. The situation is putting a big strain on the parent's relationship. Brett is due to start school next September and the EHCP process has started, but parents feel that a special school would feel like they're giving up on their son.

#### **Resources that would be offered:**

Early Help assessment to be completed looking at mental health support for mum, referral to SALT consideration for a FGC to look at what family members can support with Brett, look at introducing the family to FUN, also consideration given to 2 hours a week PA to allow mum a break from caring if there are no other family members available to support with Brett. Direct the Family to SENDIASS and WARRPAC

### **Scenario C**

Clare is a 9 year old with Cerebral Palsy. Mum, Cath, has recently split up with Dad, Colin, who now sees Clare for 2 hours on a Saturday as he works away during the week. Clare attends a mainstream school with 1:1 support, but has a very limited social circle as many of the things her friends take part in are too physical for her to enjoy well. She feels a bit of an outcast at school as she is more aware these days of the difference between her and her peers. Mum has back problems and struggles to find activities that are suitable for Clare and her younger sibling Cathy (5) – she feels guilty that Cathy is missing out on things due to the amount of time that she has to spend caring for Clare.

#### **Resources that would be offered:**

Early help assessment to be completed, to look at FGC to consider dad offering more support and also the wider family. Referral to be made to Buddy up to enable Clare to gain confidence and self-esteem, in addition this would also allow mum some time with Clare's younger sibling. Referral to be made to ASPIRE holiday club via the Early Help Practitioner for school holidays to help Clare to develop some friendship groups.

### **Scenario D**

Dev is 5 and has Angelman's Syndrome. He started having seizures when he was 2 and they are not fully controlled. Whilst he is able to walk, he can be very wobbly at times and needs lots of support, using a wheelchair when out of the house. He has global developmental delay and is attending a specialist school. Mum, Disha and dad, Deepak are immigrants and whilst they are used to a large family, have no local family support so are feeling quite isolated. Disha's English is quite limited so she struggles to communicate hers and her son's needs. Deepak works long hours, so most of the caring responsibility falls to Disha, who is feeling increasingly overwhelmed. Dev needs 24/7 care and his sleep is often disturbed through the night.

#### **Resources that would be offered:**

Initially early help assessment to be completed with the support of an interpreter, to look at also the social isolation of the family, especially mum and how this may be affecting her emotional wellbeing, also to make mum aware of activities and groups that are available in the local community, discuss the importance for mum getting involved with Warrpac.

Shortbreak screening tool to be completed, looking at the possibility of overnight support to enable Disha, a break from her caring role, an enable to her ensure that she has suitable rest.

## Scenario E

Eric is 14 and has autism with moderate learning difficulties. He would like more social opportunities, but would need some form of support as his social skills are limited and he doesn't have a great understanding of personal safety, nor independent travel. He can become very anxious when something unpredictable happens, sometimes going into meltdowns. Mum, Ellen, is also helping to care for her elderly mother who has recently become frailer. Ellen feels like she has no time for herself as she's constantly looking after her son and her mum.

### Resources that would be offered:

Early help assessment to be completed looking at support for the family as a whole, referral made to Buddy up and also look at a PA for Eric for 3 hours a week to help him to build up his confidence in accessing community groups and activities. In addition this would also allow mum a shortbreak, Carers assessment would also need to be completed for Ellen to look at what support she needs and if her mum is getting support also.

## Scenario F

Freddie (13) and Frankie (8) both have a rare genetic diagnosis causing physical and neurological disabilities. Freddie needs full personal care, dressing, washing, feeding, medication. Frankie is somewhat more independent but has significant behavioural problems, social difficulties and requires constant supervision if out by herself. Eldest sibling Fran is neurotypical and studying at college. She helps mum, Francis, out with caring, but this has an impact on her college studies and her own social life. Mum has recently had a fall, limiting her mobility, which has put real pressure on the whole family. Dad, Frank, may have to give up work but this would have financial implications for the family.

### Resources that would be offered:

Early Help assessment to be completed to look at a financial assessment to ensure that the family are receiving the correct benefits. FGC to be completed to see if there are also extended family members that can support the family. Shortbreak screening tool to be completed to look at the family receiving direct payments to support Freddie and Frankie to enable the family to have a break from caring, this will also benefit Francis who is currently supporting her mum with the caring responsibilities. In addition to look at the referral to ASPIRE holiday club to help in school holidays.



# Direct Payments for Short Breaks

This section contains additional information specifically relating to Short Breaks services provided through a Direct Payment.

Some families might prefer to arrange their own service as this may offer greater flexibility and choice of activities that may be better suited to their child and family's. The process for accessing a Direct Payment is through a referral through MASH, Early Help and then a referral to Short Breaks Panel.

Once it has been established that your family is eligible for Short Breaks, the relevant assessment will identify your child's needs and the worker will discuss all the options available to you including a Direct Payment.

If the 'Lead Professional' for your family is a Social Worker, they will complete a Child and Family Assessment. If the Lead Professional is an early help worker they will complete an Early Help Assessment. A short break tool will also be completed alongside both of these assessments to help identify how many hours short break will meet the assessed need.

The assessment and short break tool will establish the level of support that is appropriate for your child and family and they will agree the appropriate services which may include a personal direct payment to employ a personal assistant or pay for an activity to meet your child's assessed need.

Guidance notes and relevant documents will be available on Warrington's Local Offer - Leisure section under 'Short Breaks'. Each child that receives a Short Break via a Direct Payment will have their support reviewed every 6-12 months and recorded in a plan led by

either their social worker or Early Help worker.

Advice regarding how to advertise for a Personal Assistant can be found by contacting Warrington disability partnership by emailing [warringtondisabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:warringtondisabilitypartnership.org.uk) or call them on: 01925 240064.

## Preparation for Adulthood (PFA)

The transition from childhood to adulthood can be a time of celebration, change and sometimes, challenge. Young people with special educational needs or disability and their families will be considering and making decisions about continued learning, their social life, work or volunteering and where they will live.

From the age of 14 years a referral can be made to the Preparation for adulthood (PFA) team which is a council adult social care team. Staff in this team can provide information regarding the PFA journey including the contact details for services that can provide support. At around 16 years of age the PFA team will look at the young person's needs again and in most cases a social worker will start to work with the young person and their family at that time to agree what the young person's needs are going forward. A plan will then be made to show how those needs can be met. This assessment is called a Care Act assessment.

The discussion will cover:

- Being Healthy
- Being supported to live independently
- Being occupied (e.g. day opportunities, work, volunteering, life long learning)
- Being part of their community

These discussions will be repeated each year between 16 and 18 years of age, recognising that needs change as time goes by and it is important to understand the exact support needed in adulthood. The young person will be at the centre of these discussions and all efforts



will be made to gain their views, together with those of family members. Staff from different organisations may take part in these discussions and will provide information to help everyone understand the young person's needs. Social workers will attend the EHCP annual reviews and take part in planning for future provision.

At 18 years, of age young adults who continue to receive education or training and have care and support needs will continue to be supported by a social worker in the PFA team who will be able to organise services including for example, short breaks. The PFA team can be contacted on 01925 446170; the duty worker is available Monday to Friday to answer questions and deal with any urgent matters. Our out of hours service deals with urgent/emergency situations and can be contacted on 01925 443322.

## Short Breaks

Once a young person reaches 18 years, of age short breaks including overnight support is available and provided by:

Catalyst choices at Woodleigh and Honeysuckle cottage in Warrington

Shared Lives; a shared lives carer can support someone in their own home or in the shared lives carer's home on a sessional or fulltime basis, providing respite to families and giving an opportunity for the young adult to develop independent living skills.

A number of care agencies are, at times, able to offer short break in a supported living home in an emergency situation if they have vacancies at the time.

Some care agencies e.g. Catalyst choices offer an outreach service which can provide a short break and an opportunity for a young person to follow their interests and to access their community.

## Day opportunities

Being occupied is important to all of us and this means different things to different people. It'll be important for a young adult to be able to follow their own interests.

Warrington has day services run by different organisations including:

- Walton Lea partnership: [waltonlea.org.uk](http://waltonlea.org.uk)
- Gorse Covert centre run by Catalyst choices [mylifewarrington.co.uk](http://mylifewarrington.co.uk)
- Macintyre day opportunities and a disco in the town centre [macintyrecharity.org](http://macintyrecharity.org)

A short list of examples of other services which can be used by young adults include:

- Ella Together, an inclusive performance group [ellatogether.org.uk](http://ellatogether.org.uk)
- Creative Remedies; a programme of arts activities that aim to improve the health and wellbeing of Warrington residents [warrington.gov.uk/creativeremedies](http://warrington.gov.uk/creativeremedies)
- Young adults with a learning disability can be referred to the Wellbeing service to pursue interests including music and sports groups
- Accessible swimming is available at Orford Jubilee Hub: [livewirewarrington.co.uk/leisure/our-locations](http://livewirewarrington.co.uk/leisure/our-locations)
- The Puddle project: [info@thepuddleproject.org](mailto:info@thepuddleproject.org)
- Youth zone – [info@wyz.org.uk](mailto:info@wyz.org.uk)
- Mpower- activities for young people - 01928 581408

## Paying for Services

From the age of 18 years a young adult may have to pay towards the cost of any services received. We will calculate how much the young adult needs to pay. This will be based on their finances and not the finances of the whole family.

## Carers

Parents who are caring for a young adult over the age of 18 years can ask for their needs to be assessed by the carer support team by phoning 01925 44322. Carer's needs will usually be assessed by the social worker who is supporting the young person and as a result the carer may be able to access a carer's direct payment or receive professional support for a period of time. The number for the Carer's centre is 01925 987010 and can help carers who are struggling and in need of someone to talk to about their situation. Carer drop-in sessions take place at:

### Evening Support Group

Currently meeting on Zoom  
Ring 01925 987010 for Zoom login details.  
First Tuesday of the month  
6.30-8.30pm

### Lymm Adult Support Group

Lymm Youth & Community Centre,  
Bridgewater Street,  
Lymm ,  
WA13 0AB  
Tuesday 1-3pm

### Fearnhead Adult Support Group

Fearnhead Cross Youth & Community Centre, Insall Road, Fearnhead, WA2 0HD  
Thursday 10-12noon

## How we identify carers needs

Parent carers of children can have their needs identified through a holistic assessment (CAFA /EHA) and this will explore the caring responsibility of parent carers and how best to support them.

## Listening to your views and experiences

We and our partners are committed to listening to the views of children and young people with SEND and their families, so that they are fully involved in decisions about their support and have more choice and control in the decisions made about their lives.

Parents continue to have a voice within key decision making and strategy groups, working in partnership with the local authority and health consortiums to influence service provision and decisions. Warrington Parents and Carers (Warrpac) Forum contribute to key work

programmes, such as the SEND Impact Group; procurement processes to select service providers; the ongoing management of projects like the Sensory Centre and advise a workforce group looking at training and development of staff.

## How do we gather your feedback?

We have worked alongside Warrington Parents and Carers Forum to review the Short Breaks Service and have consulted with parent/carers t the borough. Warrington children services attend the SEND conferences annually delivered by Warrpac within the conference in March 2019, parents and carers were asked about short breaks and what they thought the barriers were in accessing them and what they would like to see. Sadly 2020 conference could not take place due to COVID-19 however feedback gained from the previous conference from parents can be seen below:

"Westlands is a very welcoming/safe feeling environment with really good energy about it. She is happy and content here already for a child that isn't good with change, plus staff are great and seem to have a genuine relationship with each child."

What do you think we could improve on? "I wish there was more availability for the outreach as PA's etc are hard to find and Westlands provided a lot more stability and consistency"

Parent  
September 2020

Thank you so much for all of the activities during August, the Covid-19 situation is very strange, and we have been cooped up for months, so this has been a very positive few weeks for Natasha."

Natasha's Grandparent,  
September 2020 Aspire

- Services that are: non-judgemental, more flexibility to meet more need, a forest school, mindfulness sessions, suitably trained consistent staff, tailored to meet young people needs.
- Training for parents around behaviour support
- The barriers parents and carers feel are obstructing these: money and funding, changing needs of their child, issues with siblings, parents need to gain trust with the provider, does the service provide personal care.

### And how can we overcome these barriers?

“More funding, all professionals knowing what is available, training for staff, small group sessions, and better communications with parents.”

All of your feedback has led to a new holiday scheme being developed that is child centred, has smaller grouping, more staff supervision and more skilled staff, the feedback from this has been really positive, families just need more of it.

Families can talk to any of the staff delivering the short breaks services to share their views or concerns about the services they use. Workers routinely gain families’ views when discussing the assessments, Short Breaks plans and reviews. They also talk with carers at coffee mornings, Carers Forums, Support Groups and information events at a range of locations across the borough. In addition when provider’s contracts are reviewed on a 6 monthly basis, the commissioning team look at areas of good practice and new ideas of development, this has come from ideas from parents and where providers have identified a gap in service.

## How this statement has been prepared?

The Short Breaks statement will be reviewed each year with consultation from members of Warrington parents and carers, providers, professionals and young people.

### Participation in future reviews

This statement will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains a good reflection of current services. We are likely to make changes to the statement as our services develop, and we will notify parents and carers of the changes and the new developments via, the local offer website and via Warrington parents and carers forum.

“We want children and young people with SEND to do their best at nursery, school and college; find employment; lead happy and fulfilled lives; have greater control over the support they receive and feel valued.”

Warrington SEND strategy 2020 vision

### Our vision for short-break services in Warrington

Warrington’s SEND strategy 2020 Vision highlights the aims and aspirations we have for all children in Warrington with additional needs.



## You said, we did

More child centred holiday scheme that has smaller groups settings that can meet the children's needs. More skilled staff, this has been established with the feedback from parents, however this needs to be increased and is looking to run for six weeks of the school holidays. Increase in sport works sessions, this has not be able to take place, as the cost of the sessions has increased, due to venue costs, therefore the we have absorbed these increases.

The "SEND in the wolves group" is now well established this is a group for children with PMLD and for their families and siblings to access, this takes places at the play and sensory centre 10-12 on Mondays in school holidays, this is run by Warrington Wolves in-conjunction with the play and sensory centre. These sessions currently support 22 families.

More transparency around how decisions are made around short breaks, new short breaks matrix tool has been designed in conjunction with Warrpac, this is shared in the statement along with the flow charts around short break panel. There is work planned in 2023 to review the short break matrix tool to measure its effectiveness.

## Further Information

For further information or to get involved find us on:

- [facebook.com/warrpac](https://www.facebook.com/warrpac)
- Visit: [warrpac.org](https://www.warrpac.org)
- Email: [warrpac@gmail.com](mailto:warrpac@gmail.com)
- Tel: 07581 302172

## Warrington SENDIASS

The role of SENDIASS is to support parents of children with additional needs in early education settings, schools and Young People, aged 0 – 25.

- We are an Independent service and operate impartially but work closely with the local authority.
- We help parents and young people in explaining how the system works in relation to SEN
- We provide information on what support and options are available and explain their/child's/young person`s rights, giving them the tools to express their views

We provide support and advice in the following areas:

- What can you do if your child/young person is having difficulties at or before they go to nursery/school/college
- Support at school entry, and changing from primary to secondary schools & 6th form college, choosing types of schools, different types of provision.
- Explaining different stages of SEN support. Provide information on the roles and responsibilities expected from Educational Providers.
- Support in filling in forms, writing letters, parental views
- Support in explaining reports, cutting through jargon.
- Advice on EHC assessments and plans/draft plans.
- Support at meetings.
- Attending annual reviews and early reviews with schools
- Advice and support on different types of exclusions.
- Disagreement resolution services – Help resolving disagreements in schools, appeals for admission, school choice/transport etc. Formal mediation and Tribunals, including support with paperwork and attending hearings.

## Contact us

Email: [imacdonald@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:imacdonald@warrington.gov.uk) or  
[karen.howard@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:karen.howard@warrington.gov.uk)

Visit us on [warringtonsendiass.co.uk](http://warringtonsendiass.co.uk)

Tel: 01925 442978 (Out of hours answer phone available)

The Short Breaks statement can be found within the Local Offer section of our website.

We hope you find the information useful but if you have any queries about short breaks or want to find out more information then please email: [shortbreaks@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@warrington.gov.uk)

## What if I have a problem with the short break activity?

If you have a problem with a short break activity or service, you should raise your concerns with the provider in the first instance, and ask for a copy of their complaints policy if needed. If you remain unhappy or you need some support to address the problem contact your allocated worker or Early Help or Children's Social Care.

Email for short breaks in inbox at: [shortbreaks@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@warrington.gov.uk)

## Glossary

**SEN or SEND:** The needs of children who have a learning difficulty, which means that they require special educational provision to be made for them. Children who have a learning difficulty find it harder to learn than the majority of children of the same age, or they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from accessing the education provided for other children.

**SEND Strategy:** The local authority's plan that sets out their vision and key principles to supporting children with special educational needs or disabilities in the areas of education, social care and health.

**Short Break:** Short Breaks can last from just a few hours to a few days – from daytime and evening activities to weekend and overnight or maybe longer. They can take place in a community setting, the child's own home, the home of an approved carer or in a residential setting. They also provide parents and families with a necessary and valuable break from caring responsibilities.

**Local Offer:** Part of the reforms in September 2014, it is a way of enabling the sharing of information about all services available in the local area. Covers social, health and education services: what is available, how to access it, cost, and reviews. "Ask Ollie" is Warrington's Local Offer.

**Personal budget:** If you or someone you care for get help from Children Social Care or Early Help, you can apply for direct payments. These let you choose and buy the services you need yourself, instead of getting them from us.

**SENDIASS:** Special Educational Needs & Disability Information Advice & Support Service.

**MASH:** Multi-agency safeguarding hub, this team is a multi-agency team of Early Help, Health, Education Children’s Social Care and the Police. This is often referred to as “the front door”, this is due to the team receiving all the referrals for Children’s Services. This team looks through the referrals and allocates to the right service. Yes the team respond to safeguarding concerns too, but it also looks at referrals for services and directs them to the correct team.

**Child in Need (CIN):** Children in need are defined in law as children who are aged under 18 and:

- Need local authority services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development.
- Need local authority services to prevent significant or further harm to health or development.
- Are disabled.

**Early Help Assessment (EHA):** Early Help Assessments (EHA) are used to identify and assess your family’s needs. The assessment is completed with your family and a range of different organisations, such as schools and health services. This is so the support given meets the needs of the whole family.

**Child and Family Assessment (CAFA):** A CAFA is completed by a Social Worker to gather information about a child and family to understand their needs and inform decision making.

**Family Support Worker (FSW):** Family support workers provide emotional and practical help and advice to families who are experiencing difficulties.

**Multi Agency Request for Services (MARS):** A MARS is the referral document used to request services from Children’s Social Care or Early Help.

## Useful links

### Early Help Assessment

[warrington.gov.uk/early-help](http://warrington.gov.uk/early-help)

### SEND

[warrington.gov.uk/SEND](http://warrington.gov.uk/SEND)

### SEND Strategy

MyLifeWarrington

### Preparation for Adulthood

[preparingforadulthood.org.uk](http://preparingforadulthood.org.uk)

[scie.org.uk](http://scie.org.uk) - contains information about the Care act 2014

[councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk](http://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk) – search ‘decision making and NICE guideline published





