

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL SHORT-BREAKS SERVICE STATEMENT 2018

SHORT BREAKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS



CONTENTS

VISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) IN MANCHESTER

SHORT BREAKS IN MANCHESTER

WHAT IS A SHORT BREAK?

WHAT IS A SHORT-BREAK STATEMENT?

HOW CAN SHORT BREAKS HELP ME AND MY FAMILY?

WHO ARE SHORT BREAKS FOR?

WHERE DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE?

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SHORT BREAK?

WHAT IF I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A SHORT-BREAK ACTIVITY?

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

PARENT VOICE

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE VOICE

CHILDCARE

TRANSPORT

TRANSITION TO ADULthood

HOW HAVE SHORT BREAKS BEEN DEVELOPED?

HOW HAS THE SERVICE STATEMENT BEEN PREPARED?

PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE REVIEWS

VISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) IN MANCHESTER

‘Our Manchester’ sets out a long-term vision for Manchester’s future. The strategy takes a bold approach that focuses on people’s strengths and helps to unlock the potential that exists in the city. The strategy recognises the importance of creating an equitable city where everyone can contribute to and share in success.

Within this context, the Our Manchester Disability Plan sets out a vision for Manchester’s children and adults with a disability. It is Manchester’s plan to support and enable disabled children and adults to fully participate in all the city’s opportunities, facilities, activities and communities.

This strategy is based on a Social Model of Disability. This states that it is not people’s conditions or impairments that disable people, but environmental and societal conventions, and that the way society is organised creates barriers and does not accommodate difference – and, therefore, disabled people.

THE INTENTION IS THAT WHEN THESE BARRIERS ARE REMOVED, MANCHESTER WILL BE A DISABLED-FRIENDLY CITY WHERE:

- Disabled children’s aspirations are recognised and can be realised
- All areas of the city and all parts of city life are accessible
- Disabled children and adults can be independent and have choice and control over their lives
- Its residents are the city’s best assets and we should build on these strengths
- Everyone has the right to fulfil their own potential.



SHORT BREAKS IN MANCHESTER

WHAT IS A SHORT BREAK?

A short break gives a disabled child or young person the opportunity to have fun and try new skills. It also gives parents and carers a break from their caring role. Short-break activities are offered at weekends, evenings and during school holidays. Taking a short break can give parents and carers the time to undertake training, enjoy leisure activities and carry out day-to-day tasks, or spend time with other children.

WHAT IS A SHORT-BREAK STATEMENT?

A Short-Break Statement is a guide to the short-break services and support offered by Manchester City Council. Every local authority has to provide a statement then listen and respond to the views of parents and carers.

“Sarah talks about the play scheme for weeks afterwards. It makes such a difference to us as a family.”

Marcus, a parent.

“It’s a lifeline!”

Jen, a parent

HOW CAN SHORT BREAKS HELP ME AND MY FAMILY?

Short breaks can help your family because they help children and young people to:

- Take part in exciting activities that interest them
- Develop independence and gain more confidence
- Spend time with their friends – and make new ones
- Achieve personal goals and learn new skills.

For parents and carers they can:

- Reduce feelings of stress
- Provide the time to spend with their other children
- Help to achieve personal goals and learn new skills
- Allow time to meet and get to know other families that share similar experiences.



WHO ARE SHORT BREAKS FOR?

The Short-Breaks programme is for any disabled child or young person aged up to 18. It involves universal/mainstream activities and a smaller range of targeted and specialist services (specifically for disabled children and young people). Because of the ongoing investment in our Universal Services, many families' short-break needs can be met through using the wide-ranging services available locally, such as youth clubs, play schemes, leisure centres etc.

Where additional support is needed, a targeted offer can be made. This usually involves a payment or service specifically geared to disabled children/young people. For children who need a lot of support, highly specialised or bespoke services are available for children and young people and their carers. Some families choose to use a Direct Payment to buy their own services, as agreed in a support plan.

We have eligibility criteria for short breaks that detail the various levels of breaks available for families and children with different levels of need.

Have a look at some of our short-break [case studies](#).

“The short-break payment has made a massive difference to Ali’s confidence, and he has a much wider range of interests because of it.”

Sandra, a parent

MINIMAL SUPPORT NEEDED

Mainstream activities, such as youth clubs, play schemes and leisure centres.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDED

Targeted offer geared to disabled children and young people.

LOTS OF SUPPORT NEEDED

Highly specialised, bespoke service for children and their carers.

WHERE DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE?

To find out more about the activities available, you can search on the local offer or call in at a local offer drop-in for assistance. There may be activities available that can be accessed by your family and child without requiring any additional support from the local authority. These include open-access play schemes, which are able to meet the needs of a wide range of children; relaxed sessions at the cinema, which are suitable for children with autism; and local youth clubs and Manchester music hubs, which make provision for young people with SEND.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SHORT BREAK?

Once you have looked at the local offer, if you think your child may need additional support to access a short break and your child has never had one before, you can self-refer by calling the Contact Centre on 0161 234 5001.

You will then be contacted by a member of the specialist resource team, who will usually arrange an Early Help Assessment. This is a strength-based assessment used to determine the support needed.

“Knowing James looks forward to the session so much gives me real peace of mind and time to catch up or switch off.”

Kelly, a parent.

If your child is already in receipt of a targeted short break and you would like to change or review your offer, you can attend a Short Break Review Session. However, if your child has a specialist package that has been agreed with a social worker and you would like to review your support package, or if you need extra help, you should discuss this with your social worker.

For further information or an informal chat about applying for a short break, contact the Specialist Resource Team on 0161 219 2125.

WHAT IF I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A SHORT-BREAK ACTIVITY?

If you have a problem with a short-break activity, 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 the Special Resource Team on 0161 219 2125 or email shortbreaks@manchester.gov.uk



OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

PARENT VOICE

The current model for parent participation in Manchester has been developed with parents and carers, and is based on local research and learning from previous models. A Participation Register has been developed, which provides an opportunity for parents and carers to express an interest in:

- Sharing their skills and knowledge with other parents and carers
- Taking part in consultations
- Becoming a parent representative on council boards
- Other ways of making sure the voices of parent/carer are heard.

You can join the [register](#) without any commitment. The register is designed to capture information about how parents and carers would like to be involved, areas of interest, skills, availability etc. The register is currently managed by the Information, Advice and Support (IAS) team, which is used to ensure that participation is more representative and that opportunities are available to a wider group of parents and carers. The Manchester Participation Register is available through the Getting Involved section of the local offer.

We also have the Manchester Parent Carer Forum, which represents the voice of parents and carers. We are working very closely with this group to inform service development across Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services.

[Parent Champions](#) also contribute to channelling the voice of parents into service developments. Parent Champions are parents who have experienced and/or know about the range of services and support available through a short training programme we offer. They are well placed to tell other parents about the local offer and the help and support that's out there.

Parent Champions, along with other parent representatives attend the Local Offer Review Board, which is co-chaired by the Manchester Parent Carer Forum. Feedback from parents is collated and reported to the board. This board ensures that parents are able to influence strategic developments. You can view this year's summary of what parents have said and what we have done in response on the 'You Said We Did' map on the local offer.

If you are interested in any of the above, contact our Engagement Team by email: parents@manchester.gov.uk or call 0161 234 1941.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE VOICE

We have a [Participation Register](#) for young people so that we can keep you up to date with what's going on across the city. We also have the Youth Council which is a forum that represents the views of young people. It's run by young people, for young people. It gives a voice to young people and enables them to make their views heard and be involved in decision-making. Manchester Youth Council runs campaigns that promote a range of issues important to young people, such as mental health, youth employment and bullying. For more information, visit the Youth Council [website](#).

CHILDCARE

All childcare services are listed on the local offer. Where a suitable service cannot be found, you can access support from The Child Care Brokerage Service, which can assist in looking for suitable provision.

TRANSPORT

Wherever possible, we want to encourage use of [public transport](#) to promote greater degrees of independence.

Transport for short breaks is not provided (other than in exceptional circumstances, when it is identified as an essential part of the support package and, usually, as part of a social work assessment). We have a dedicated section on the local offer that gives information about transport.

TRANSITION TO ADULthood

To determine eligibility for short breaks for over-18s, an assessment will need to be carried out against national eligibility criteria. If the criteria are met, we'll work with the young adult and family to decide which services would be most beneficial, including working out how much these services will cost. If the criteria are not met, we can give information, advice and help to find services in the community, some of which may be free.

Referrals to the service can be made via the Contact Centre on 0161 234 5001, or through an existing social worker, who can refer the case via the Transition Panel.

Parents are represented on the Transition Board through the Manchester Parent Carers Forum. The purpose of the Transition Board is to develop a fit-for-purpose transition offer for the people of Manchester.



HOW HAVE SHORT BREAKS BEEN DEVELOPED?

1989

The Children Act 1989 provides a clear definition of a disabled child and the roles of their parents and carers. It also recognises the pressures placed upon carers and the need for regular breaks to enable them to continue caring.

2006

Parents inform Parliamentary hearings that the biggest cause of unhappiness is the lack of short-break provision.

2008

Consultations with parents and carers reveal that children and young people with disabilities and additional needs want greater choice in their short breaks and to be able to access local leisure facilities. Parents and carers just want a break from caring and to feel confident that services are meeting their family's needs. Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act requires local authorities to offer short-break provision, giving guidance on the types of services that should be offered. 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' is launched, focusing upon increasing and improving short-break provision.

2011

The Aiming High programme ends (March) and the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations come into effect, making it a legal duty for local authorities to provide short breaks (April). On 1 October 2011, a short-breaks service statement must be published, which includes the range of services available, any eligibility criteria, and how these services have been developed to meet the needs of parents and carers. It is recognised that these statements will need to be reviewed regularly in order to ensure that services are meeting the needs of the people they are being provided for. This should be done through consultation and collaboration with local parents.

2014

The Children and Families Act. The SEN Code of Practice is the biggest shake-up to the system in over thirty years. Instead of having an SEN Statement after assessment, they now receive an EHCP, which can run from birth to age 25. Parents are given greater say in how money is spent on their child's SEN support. Young people also have the right to be consulted about their support. The legislation places a duty on local authorities to publish information and advice for parents to help them understand what services they and their family can expect from a range of local agencies, including statutory entitlements such as short breaks.

2015

The Care Act 2015 makes some of the biggest changes to Health and Adult Social Care in England in more than sixty years. The legislation puts people and carers in control of their care and support.

HOW HAS THE SERVICE STATEMENT BEEN PREPARED?

The Short-Break Statement will be reviewed each year with consultation from members of Manchester Parent Carer Forum, the Participation Register and other partner agencies.

PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE REVIEWS

This statement will be checked annually 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 opportunities and how to get involved via the Participation Register, the Parent Champions and children and young people.

We will be reviewing how we involve children and young people and making a plan on how to improve on this. The Engagement Team would like to hear from children and young people about their short-break experiences, to include in future statements. If you have anything you would like to include, please email the Engagement Team: parents@manchester.gov.uk or call 0161 234 1941.

“The staff we’ve had for Joe have been fantastic – skilful and sensitive while being ambitious about what our child can achieve.”

Laura, a parent talking about Time Specialist Support

