**Rotherham Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People Short Breaks Statement**- 2018 *Extending and improving short breaks services*

**How did we prepare this statement?**

The Short Breaks Duty requires every council keep to keep their short breaks statement under review. We have done this by gathering the views of children, young people, parents, carers and professionals about Rotherham’s short breaks service to help us to understand what currently works well and what needs to improve.

**What are short breaks?**

Short breaks can give enjoyable experiences for disabled children and young people with or without their primary carers, or a break for parents and families from their caring responsibilities.

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| Rotherham Local Authority | Summary  | Access  |
| Universal services   | Universal services are available for all and have a duty to make reasonable adjustments and not to treat a disabled person less favourably.  | Open access, further information is available at: [www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk)  |
| Commissioned short breaks |
| Voluntary Action Rotherham small grants fund  | Development and administration of a small grants fund for voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to increase access to “mainstream” activities. | 01709 829821[www.varotherham.org.uk](http://www.varotherham.org.uk)  |
| Elephants in Steps Club | Monthly themed activity club for young disabled people aged 13 – 25.  | Email:bhupinder.manku@rotherham.gov.uk or ring 07920285572 |
| Tumbi Club | The junior Elephants in Steps Club. Each month there is a themed activity night for disabled children under 13 year of age.  | Email:bhupinder.manku@rotherham.gov.uk or ring 07920285572 |
| Rotherham Parent Carer Forum | A registered charity run by and for families of children and young people (aged 0-25) who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) providing regular family activates. | Email: info@rpcf.co.ukPhone: 01709 296262 The range of family activities can be found at [www.rpcf.co.uk](http://www.rpcf.co.uk)  |
| Nexus Multi Academy Trust Extended Services | Weekly after school and monthly Saturdays clubs to meet the needs of children and young people 2 – 19 with Severe Learning Difficulties, specifically Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) and Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC).  | Nexus MAT Extended Services coordinator by emailing ESC@Nexusmat.org or your child’s school, social worker or family support worker for details of how to access Nexus MAT short breaks. |
| Specialist short breaks |
| Liberty House (Day time or overnight residential stays) | Provides a warm, homely and safe environment for young people between the ages of 8 – 18 who experience a severe physical or learning disability and/or sensory impairment.  | Accessed following a referral to and assessment by social care.(Contact Multi Agency Support Hub on 01709336080) |
| Families Together Service (Day time or overnight fostering) | Specialist foster carers who are recruited, assessed, trained, and supported to look after children with disabilities aged between 0-19 years for ‘short’ periods of time, usually in the carer’s home.  | Accessed following a referral to and assessment by social care.(Contact Multi Agency Support Hub on 01709336080)  |
| Direct Payment | Cash payments made by the LA to parents of disabled children and young people which can be taken in place of an assessed short break service. It enables parents to choose their short break. | Accessed following a referral to and assessment by social care.(Contact Multi Agency Support Hub on 01709336080) |
| Triple P Parenting Programme  | Small group sessions that offer practical advice for tackling specific problem behaviour. | Accessed following a referral to and assessment by social care.(Contact Multi Agency Support Hub on 01709336080) |
| Specialist short breaks which are not commissioned or delivered by RMBC |
| Amy's House | Caters for children aged 5-18 and provides Saturday and school holiday sessions, family support, sensory room sessions, support in the home and inclusive activities in a safe and secure environment | The service is accessed by direct payments, personal budgets and self-referralContact: 0114 2422294 www.amyshouse.org.uk |
| Rainbow House | Provides respite care; life skills and organisational support to young people aged 10 to 25, with additional needs and learning disabilities.  | Contact: 01709 252810www.rainbowshouse.co.uk |
| Additional specialist short break |
| Complex Nursing Team  | Provide short breaks for 0 – 19 year olds with complex health needs. Services are offered throughout the week, day and night, and in a variety of settings.  | Contact: 01302 566366 |
| Community Nursing Team | Short breaks at a level of 6 hours a week, this can be in any form that suit the family some younger children do 2 x 3 hours sessions. This is available to any child with a technical nursing need e.g. PEG, NG tube, tracheostomy and oxygen to child up to the age of 8 | Referrals for this service can be from families themselves or any other professional supporting the family. Contact: 01709 422717 |
| Bluebell Wood Children’s Hospice  | Provided care and support to families who have a child or young person who has life limiting conditions.  | Phone: 01909 517360www.blubbellwood.org  |

Criteria for short breaks that have a referral to and assessment by social care can be found at: <http://rotherhamcsyp.proceduresonline.com/p_child_dis_service.html>

**How do we help to develop the skills of people working with disabled children young people and their families?**

All commissioned short breaks providers are quality assured. The quality assurance visit observes short breaks service delivery, checks policies and procedures and discusses good practice with practitioners. Each service receives a report following the visit which identifies good practice and any areas for development.

**What do you think about short breaks now and what improvements could we make in the future?**

Children, Young People and family views of short breaks where obtained through a number of methods, which included survey monkey, observations, conversations and analysis.

****Below are 2 children’s responses, one child attended the elephants in steps clubs and drew a picture of batman to show they loved drawing. The other child was attending a Nexus Multi Academy Trust Extended Services short break for the first time which was based at a different school to where they attend.

**Below is a table of key findings of what people though were going well and what would make the short breaks better.**

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| **What is working well?**  | **What would make it better?** |
| Social –promote peer relationships | More activities for physically disabled children  |
| Simplicity of direct payments | More sessions evenings/weekend |
| Established teams that ensure continuity and help children and young people feel settled.  | Better information sharing around what is available  |
| Varied activities | Activities for older children |

A detailed response analysis with a summary of findings can be found in the Rotherham Short Breaks for Disabled Children Needs Analysis 2018. The 2018 needs analysis is currently under review, it will be published on the Short Breaks section of the Rotherham’s SEND Local Offer soon. <http://rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk>