

April 2022

Short Breaks Service Statement



Coventry City Council

Introduction

Welcome to Coventry City Council's Short Breaks Service Statement. This information is for families living in Coventry who have a child or young person with a disability.

This statement includes information about:

- The current range of short breaks available in Coventry
- Eligibility criteria for short breaks in Coventry
- How to access short breaks

Why do we need a Short Breaks Service Statement?

Local Authorities are required by law to publish a statement about short break services for children and young people who have disabilities and their families. This is under the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011.

Coventry City Council's statement has been developed in line with the following legislation:

- Care Act 2014
- Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000
- Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children Act 2004
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
- Equality Act 2010
- The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011

What are Short Breaks?

Short breaks give children and young people who have a disability the opportunity to join in with an enjoyable activity away from their parents/carers. Short breaks allow children and young people to take part in activities, make friends, develop independence and have fun. Short breaks also provide parents/carers a break from caring responsibilities.

Short breaks can occur during the day or evening, overnight or at weekends. Short breaks can take place for a few hours or a number of days. They can take place in different settings such as clubs, leisure facilities, the family home or a residential setting.



Who can Access Short Breaks?

All children and young people who have a disability and live in Coventry are entitled to receive a short break. For the purposes of this statement, a disability is as defined in section 17 (11) of the Children Act 1989.

There are different types of short breaks available and eligibility criteria is applied to determine the type of service that children and young people are able to access based on their individual needs and circumstances.



Short Breaks

currently available in Coventry

There are different types of short breaks available in Coventry:

Universal Services

There are a wide range of activities provided by organisations in the community which all children and young people can access such as Scouts, Brownies, sporting clubs and various youth clubs. These clubs may set their own criteria, for example the age of the children that each club / activity is suitable for.

Children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs should be able to access these activities if they want to. The people who run these activities have a legal duty to make reasonable adjustments to make sure children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs can access them.

To access universal services, parents, carers and young people should contact the provider directly. A list of these activities and organisations can be found on **Coventry's SEND Local Offer**. The Local Offer has been designed to provide information and support for parents of children with disabilities and special educational needs.

You may also be able to find support from **Coventry's Family Hub service**.

Community Short Breaks

Community short breaks provide group activities for children and young people with disabilities to relax, have fun, make new friends and develop independence skills.

Activities last up to 2 hours during term time and school holidays. Our aim is to ensure that all children accessing the service have the support they need to engage in community-based activities. To see the latest term-time and school holiday activity timetables, go to our **What's On page**.

Targeted Short Breaks

Targeted short breaks are for children and young people who, based on an assessment of their needs, require additional support to access activities. Support is available through the provision of a support worker. In these circumstances, the relevant professional involved with the family (e.g. a social worker, early help worker or school representative) will complete an assessment to consider the child and family's needs and what package of support would meet these needs.



Specialist Short Breaks

There are three residential provisions for overnight short breaks in Coventry:

1 Broad Park House is 4-bed facility, owned and run by Coventry City Council. It is for children and young people with learning disabilities and additional needs.

2 The Birches is owned and run by the NHS, for children and young people with complex medical needs.

3 Bradbury House is run by the NHS, for children and young people with learning difficulties.



Eligibility Criteria and how to Access Short Breaks

| Type of short break | Eligibility criteria | How to access the service |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Universal provision | No assessment required, self-referral from parents, carers and young people. | Parents/carers & young people contact the service directly. Please see the Local Offer for services available. |
| Community short breaks | No assessment is required. Community Short Breaks are available for children and young people aged between 5 and 17 years of age (inclusive) who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Live in Coventry ○ Have a diagnosed disability | To register to access Community Short Breaks for the first time, you need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete a Short Breaks Passport ○ Submit a copy of a Disability Living Allowance (DLA) letter or evidence of a diagnosed disability either by letter from a relevant professional or by confirmation from your child's school <p>These documents can be emailed to CSCCDT@coventry.gov.uk</p> <p>Please put the initials of the child in the subject line of the email followed by 'community short breaks'.</p> |



| Type of short break | Eligibility criteria | How to access the service |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Targeted short breaks | <p>For children and young people who, based on an assessment of their needs, require additional support to access activities.</p> <p>An assessment of need is undertaken via an early help assessment / child and family assessment. The assessment of need will be considered at Coventry's short break panel & the services offered will reflect the assessed needs of the child and the family's situation.</p> | <p>Parents and carers request a child and family assessment or early help assessment from a professional involved with the family (i.e. a social worker, early help practitioner or school representative).</p> <p>A parent/carer can also contact Coventry Children's Services on 024 7678 8555 to request an assessment.</p> |
| Specialist short breaks (overnight) | <p>For children and young people who require a high level of support as their needs cannot be met by community or targeted short breaks.</p> <p>To access specialist short breaks an assessment of need is required. This is through a child and family assessment, undertaken by a social worker.</p> <p>The assessment of need will be considered at Coventry's short breaks panel & the services offered will reflect the assessed needs of the child and the family's situation.</p> | <p>If your child does not have an allocated social worker, you can talk to a professional involved with your child / family and ask them to make a referral to Coventry Children's Services on your behalf.</p> <p>A parent/carer can also contact Coventry Children's Services on 024 7678 8555 to request an assessment.</p> |

Developing our Short Breaks Offer

We are committed to continuing to develop Coventry's short breaks offer in partnership with children, young people, and their parents and carers.

Coventry City Council has an engagement platform, **Lets Talk**. We will use this to gather ongoing feedback from users of the short breaks service. We will do this through regular surveys, feedback opportunities and consultations.



Further Information and Useful Contacts

SEND Local Offer

Coventry's SEND Local Offer provides information about activities, services and support available to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities:

www.coventry.gov.uk/localoffer

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service

The SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provides impartial and accurate special educational needs and disability information, advice and support for parents / carers, children and young people up to 25 years of age:

www.coventry.gov.uk/iass

The Coventry Family Information Directory

The Coventry Family Information Directory also provides information on local childcare, activities and organisations for children and young people in Coventry:

<https://cid.coventry.gov.uk/kb5/coventry/directory/home.page>

Family Hub

Your local Family Hub provides a place where children, young people and their families can go when in need of help and support. The people working in the family hub will work in partnership with you and your community:

www.coventry.gov.uk/familyhubs

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

If you are unsure about the level of short break that you or your child or young person can access, you can contact Coventry's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The MASH brings key professionals together to make sure that a child or young person gets access to the help that would benefit them the most. The MASH is also known as the 'front door' to social care. You can contact the MASH to request help for yourself or your child or young person in relation to a specific special education needs and disability issue:

www.coventry.gov.uk/mash



Comments, compliments and complaints

If you are a young person and would like to make a social care complaint see this webpage:

www.coventry.gov.uk/info/37/childrens_social_care/625/young_peoples_guide_to_making_a_social_care_complaint

For other complaints see:

www.coventry.gov.uk/info/5/contact_the_council/545/comments_compliments_and_complaints/4

