



# Short Break Service Statement

This statement is for families and practitioners who support or care for children and young people with disabilities, from birth to their 18th birthday, who live in Shropshire.



## Welcome to Shropshire's Short Breaks Service Statement.

Shropshire Council is committed to supporting disabled children and young people and their families to lead fulfilling lives and to achieve the outcomes that matter most to them. Short Breaks play a vital role in supporting children and young people to enjoy positive experiences, build independence and friendships, and participate in their local communities, while also providing families and carers with valuable support. This Short Breaks Statement sets out how Shropshire Council works within its local context to develop and deliver Short Breaks that respond to the needs, strengths and aspirations of children and young people, informed by local need, engagement with families, and our wider SEND strategy.

This statement is for families and practitioners who support or care for a disabled child or young person, from birth up to their 18th birthday, who lives in the local authority area of Shropshire.

It explains:

- what Short Breaks for disabled children and young people are,
- the types of Short Breaks that are available,
- who can receive a Short Break, and
- how to access a Short Break.

This statement forms part of Shropshire Council's SEND Local Offer. The SEND Local Offer provides information about the services and support available to families in Shropshire who have a child or young person with special educational needs and/or a disability.

More information about Shropshire's SEND Local Offer can be found on page 17 of this statement and at:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/>

### **Legal framework used in this statement:**

Breaks For Carers of Disabled Children Regulations  
2011

Care Act 2014

Children Act 2004

Children and Young Persons Act 2008

Children and Families Act 2014

Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970

Equality Act 2010

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## Why might a family need support?

Many families will need additional support at different times in their lives. Families of disabled children and young people may experience particular challenges, especially at key transition points, such as starting or changing schools, or when a young person is preparing for adulthood.

Shropshire Council recognises that families may seek information, advice or support at different points, and that circumstances and needs can change over time. We aim to ensure that parents, carers and those with parental responsibility are able to access clear information and appropriate support when it is needed.

Our aim is to provide the right support at the right time. This means working with families to understand their individual needs and circumstances, and helping them to access appropriate information, advice and services. Support may be provided through Short Breaks or through a wider range of services and support available to disabled children, young people and their families in Shropshire.

*“It helps everyone. The disabled child and the whole family unit, without being judged. It’s also nice to meet other families in a similar situation. The programme gives my child access to activities like other children, but in a more suitable environment where my child can enjoy, learn new skills and develop at their pace.”* – Parent Quote



*“All In is invaluable in helping me cope with the demands of bringing up a highly autistic son and his brother... when we are together again things are easier for us as a family.”*

– Parent Quote



### Contact and further information

- Shropshire Local Offer [shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/](https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/)
- Short Breaks <https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/social-care/short-breaks/>
- Telephone 0345 678 9063

## What are Short Breaks for disabled children?

Short Breaks are a statutory service provided by Shropshire Council under the [Children's Act 1989](#) and [Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011](#). They are designed to support disabled children and young people, from birth up to their 18th birthday, and their families.

Shropshire Council recognises that all families are different and that children and young people may require different types and levels of support depending on their disability, age and family circumstances. In response, we aim to provide a range of Short Breaks that are flexible and responsive to local need, ensuring provision is available for children and young people of all ages and, wherever possible, across the county.

Short Breaks may take a variety of forms. Some involve children and young people attending group-based activities, while others provide one-to-one support, such as assistance from a personal assistant.

Short Breaks can take place after school, at weekends, during school holidays or overnight. Provision may include activities such as after-school clubs, weekend and holiday activities, sports and leisure opportunities, youth and drama groups, and holiday clubs.

Where assessed as suitable to meet a child or young person's needs, Short Breaks may be delivered through home-based support, including care provided in the family home or support delivered to the child or young person in the community. This may take place during the evening, at weekends or during school holidays, and may include overnight home-based care where appropriate. Short Breaks may also include planned residential overnight stays, such as provision at Bradbury House, Shropshire Council's short breaks residential service. Residential Short Breaks aim to provide safe, supportive and positive experiences for children and young people, while offering families planned time away from their caring responsibilities.

### **Short Breaks aim to give:**

- provide parent carers with planned breaks from their caring responsibilities
- offer children and young people opportunities to take part in enjoyable activities, build confidence, socialise and develop friendships
- support children and young people to participate in activities that promote their development, independence and wellbeing
- provide a choice of different types of Short Breaks to reflect varying needs, interests and circumstances
- enable parents, carers and siblings to spend quality time together that may not otherwise be possible
- offer opportunities for siblings to participate together in some Short Break activities, where appropriate; and
- ensure positive and meaningful experiences for the whole family.

## Types of Short Breaks, eligibility and access

Short Breaks are available for children and young people with a disability, or where their additional needs may be due to a disability. Disabilities can vary widely in terms of their nature and severity. Our definition for disability is guided by legislation.

1) [Children's Act 1989](#), refer to "A child who is disabled (defined by the regulations as 'blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from mental disorder of any kind or is substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disability as may be prescribed').

2) [The Equality Act 2010](#), refers to disability as having a "physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities."

This may include a physical or learning disability, a hearing or visual impairment. It includes children who have moderately to severely challenging behaviour as a result of their learning disability or autism. It also includes children who have complex needs and who may have palliative, life-limiting or a life-threatening condition.

### Universal, Targeted (including All-in Short Breaks) and Specialist Activities

Shropshire Council is committed to providing the right support at the right time for children, parent carers and families. We recognise that short breaks are not 'one size fits all'. The level and type of support offered will reflect the impact of a child's disability and the individual needs of parent carers and families, ensuring support is proportionate, flexible and responsive.

By offering a range of community-based, home-based and overnight options, short breaks aim to promote family resilience, choice and stability, while ensuring children and young people are safe, supported and able to access positive experiences outside the home.





## Universal Activities

(Open to all children)



## Early Help & Targeted Early Help Activities

(All-In Short Breaks  
for all children with disabilities  
and additional needs)



## Specialist Activities

(Specialist Short Breaks  
for assessed disabled children)



## Specialist Activities

(Specialist Short Breaks  
for assessed disabled children)

## Universal Services (Open to all children)

Universal activities (sometimes referred to as *mainstream activities*) are community-based activities that are open to all children and young people. Many of these activities can successfully support disabled children and young people when providers understand their individual needs.

Examples of universal activities include youth clubs, leisure centres, after-school clubs, dance, drama and arts activities, and uniformed groups such as Brownies and Cubs. Many families with a disabled child access these activities successfully once providers have worked with parent carers, carers or those with parental responsibility to understand how best to support their child.

All universal services have a legal duty under the [Equality Act 2010](#) to ensure they are accessible to disabled children and young people and to make reasonable adjustments where required.

Some universal services may also offer concessions for disabled children and their carers. Families are encouraged to contact the individual service directly to ask whether concessions are available.

There may be circumstances where a child or young person's needs are such that a universal activity is not able to meet those needs or make the necessary adjustments. Where this is the case, families may be eligible for support through our Early Help and Targeted Early Help 'All In' Short Breaks service, which is described further below.

Information about activities available in your local community can be found via the SEND Local Offer: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/things-to-do/>



The positive effect on us as a family is almost incalculable

### Contact and further information

- Shropshire Local Offer [shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/](https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/)
- Short Breaks <https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/social-care/short-breaks/>
- Telephone **0345 678 9063**

## Early Help and Targeted Early Help Services

**(All-in Short Breaks – open to all children who have a disability or additional needs)**



All-in Short Breaks are part of our Early Help services. They are available to families when universal services cannot meet the needs of their children who have a disability or additional needs that are unable to participate in mainstream activities.

All-In Short Breaks are different from universal services because they are specifically designed to remove barriers and enable children and young people with disabilities and additional needs to access, participate in and enjoy activities and opportunities that may not otherwise be available to them.

These short breaks provide additional support, adaptations and flexibility to ensure activities are inclusive and accessible. They may include sports clubs, social groups, arts and creative activities, delivered after school, at weekends or during school holidays.

The All-In offer is responsive to the needs and interests of children and young people and may change throughout the year to reflect demand, feedback from families, and the development of new opportunities. The aim is to support positive experiences, social interaction and inclusion, while giving parent carers confidence that their child can take part safely and successfully.

### Eligibility criteria for All-in Short Breaks

- Children and young people up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday,
- Living in the Shropshire Council area,
- With a disability, or additional need related to a disability, that prevents them from accessing universal services without additional support.

### Access to All-in Short Breaks

Accessing All-in Short Breaks **does not** require an Early Help or social worker assessment but does require that;

- A child meets the eligibility criteria defined above,
- A child registers to become a member of All-in.

By becoming a member of All-in, we can ensure that our Short Breaks reach the right families, children and young people.

When someone becomes a member of All-In we will add this information to our disability register (with consent).

We use this register to get in touch with families, to monitor take up, plan future short breaks and inform other commissioning activity within Shropshire.

**For more information and to register as a member of the All-In programme**

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/social-care/short-b>

### Management of the All-In Programme

From April 2026, the All-In activity programme is managed and commissioned on behalf of Shrewsbury Town FC Foundation, with Shropshire Council retaining responsibility for the All-In registration process.



# FOUNDATION

THE CLUB'S OFFICIAL CHARITY

The Foundation delivers a joined-up programme of inclusive, high-quality activities for children and young people with SEND and disabilities and their families. It is responsible for promoting and monitoring the quality of All-In activities and works closely with families and parent carers to ensure the programme responds to feedback and local need.

Shrewsbury Town FC Foundation also brings valuable experience as an established provider that has previously delivered activities as part of the All-In Short Breaks programme. This practical delivery experience gives the Foundation a strong understanding of what works well in practice, the challenges providers may face, and the support children, young people and parent carers need to fully benefit from All-In activities. This insight helps to inform commissioning, quality assurance and provider support, ensuring activities are inclusive, well-run and focused on positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The Foundation also supports providers to strengthen sustainability and explore opportunities to expand the All-In offer over time.

For more information, any feedback and a full list of activities that are available on the All-In programme, visit [All In Short Breaks - Shrewsbury Town Foundation](#) or contact [admin@foundationstfc.co.uk](mailto:admin@foundationstfc.co.uk).

## Examples of activities

- Football sessions including match day tickets for Shrewsbury Town Football Club
- Horse/Pony riding
- SEND Cycling Sessions
- Swimming lessons
- Farm Visits
- Equine Assisted Learning
- Multi racket SEND Sessions
- Paddle sports/Canoeing
- Rock School Sessions
- And more

## Specialist Services

Some children's needs cannot be met by universal activities or by targeted All-in Short Breaks. They may need more support. This could be because the child has:

- A severe learning disability
- A severe physical disability
- Profound multiple disabilities
- Severe sensory impairment
- Complex and severe health problems

We may sometimes support children with less severe disabilities if:

- A parent carer, carer or those with parental responsibility has a disability or chronic illness,
- The impact on the family is severe,
- A sibling also has moderate or severe disabilities.

A range of Specialist Short Breaks are available such as specialist after school clubs, outreach, childminding, overnight care or Direct Payments\*.

\* Direct Payments are a type of personal budget, where a family purchase services themselves. For further information about Personal Budgets and Direct Payments, click on [Personal budgets and direct payments | Shropshire Council](#) / or telephone: 0345 678 9063.

### Eligibility criteria and access to Specialist Short Breaks

Eligibility is determined through an assessment by a social worker. The assessment involves gathering information from the family and sometimes other professionals that the family is involved with. It takes into account and considers;

- The complexity and severity of the disability,
- Family circumstances,
- Other issues affecting the whole family,

The assessment takes account of all this information using a person-centred approach as each family's circumstances and needs are unique.

The time it takes to complete an assessment can vary depending on the family circumstances, whether other professionals need to be involved and the complexity and range of information that must be gathered to support the assessment.

If assessed as eligible, the assessment leads to an allocation of individually tailored support to meet the assessed needs. The support will be designed to improve specific outcomes for the child and family.

If a child is not eligible for Specialist Short Breaks, we will contact the family and advise them of our decision. Where appropriate, the family may be referred to universal activities or All-in Short Breaks.

Shropshire's social care threshold criteria is a tool for practitioners working with children to ensure that the needs of all children, young people and families are being recognised and met [childrens-threshold-document.pdf](#)

## Management of the Specialist Services (Community based & Overnight short breaks)



As of April 2026, the short breaks specialist services programme is managed and commissioned on behalf of Action for Children, which will include community based and overnight short breaks.

The specialist overnight short breaks provision in Shropshire is delivered by Action for Children and forms a key part of the council's short breaks offer for children and young people with disabilities. The service provides both community-based support and overnight short breaks, designed to meet a range of complex needs and to offer planned breaks for families. Provision operates during term time and is

extended to include weekends and school holiday periods, ensuring continuity of support throughout the year. Overnight short breaks are delivered in a safe, supportive environment with appropriately trained staff, enabling children and young people to build independence, develop social skills and access meaningful activities while giving parents and carers a regular and reliable break from caring responsibilities

*"My son has developed so much.  
He has become an independent sociable little boy.  
I wouldn't have believed this was possible  
at the start and the support and help  
we've had has been excellent."*

*— Parent of an Action for Children service user*



## Providers of Short Break services

Funding is awarded through a transparent application process designed to ensure that providers deliver services and activities that respond to current demand, demonstrate the appropriate skills, experience and capacity, and provide value for money. All funded providers are required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

These requirements are clearly set out within provider contracts and are monitored through ongoing contract management and quality assurance processes, helping to ensure services remain safe, effective and responsive to the needs of children, young people and families.

## Transport

Parent carers, or those with parental responsibility are responsible for transporting their children to Short Break activities, unless agreed as part of a child's Social Care plan.

Where transport is provided for 'All-In' activities this will be made clear by the provider when opportunities are advertised.

Shropshire Council provide a concessionary travel scheme offering free or reduced travel.

**Further information** <https://shropshire.gov.uk/concessionary-travel/>

## Preparation for Adulthood

All children need to be prepared for adult life and Short Breaks can play an essential role in developing young people's independence and confidence.

Support for transition arrangements starts at an early age. Some of the short break activities are specifically designed to give disabled young people the opportunity to develop skills for future independence. These may contribute to the 'preparing for adulthood' outcomes of independent living, inclusion in the community and maintaining health.

**Further information**

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/preparing-for-transition-into-adulthood/>

## Cost of Short Breaks

Shropshire Council funds Early Help and Specialist Short Break activities in Shropshire. This funding, along with a providers own fundraising activities, enables subsidised places to be offered to disabled children and young people so that parent carers, or those with parental responsibility do not pay more than a non-disabled child accessing a similar type of service.

Providers will make families aware of any charge to take part in their activities.

## How we plan and review Short Break services

Part of our planning process involves understanding how many children in our area have a disability, the nature of their disability and where they live. We also want to find out what types of activities are popular with families. We get this information from a number of sources such as:

- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or Statements of Educational Need
- Information about *SEND Support* in schools
- Our register for disabled children
- Social worker assessments
- Feedback from children, young people and their families
- Feedback from Short Breaks providers, service reviews and information events
- Regional and national research reports.
- Statistical information from Census data ([Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#))

We also need to consider the resources we have and the requirements of local and national government strategies.

Parent representatives, such as Shropshire's Parent and Carer Council (PACC) and other organisations are also involved in continuous development of our Short Break services.

### **Key Messages from the consultation:**

- *Parent Carers, children and young people accessing the current 'All In' provision expressed a great deal of satisfaction with the scheme*
- *Families stated that distance from provision in a largely rural County is the biggest barrier to participation.*
- *Not all eligible families are registered with 'All In'*
- *Many families who are registered are not currently actively accessing 'All In' provision*
- *Parent Carers told us that under-fives and over 16s were not adequately provided for in the current scheme*
- *Parent Carers requested more provision in school holidays*
- *Children and Young people requested more variety within the 'All In' programme e.g. arts and cultural activities*
- *Parent Carers told us that a series of 'taster sessions' would be good so that young people could experience the activities before they accessed 'All In'*



## The SEND Local Offer

Our SEND Local Offer is a website which provides information about support and services in Shropshire, relevant to parent carers, carers or those with parental responsibility of children/young people with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) and to young people with SEND.

**It includes information about our Short Break activities and providers.**

It also includes information about pre-school settings, health, education and social care services.

Knowing what services are available and how to access them gives children, young people and their families more choice and therefore more control over what support is right for them.

The SEND Local Offer also describes the processes and pathways families may come across to help inform them when making decisions about their child's future.



**Further information is available at <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/>**



'We really appreciate the effort your staff make and the love and commitment they show to our children.'

'All In supports my child to socialise and try new things'



### Getting involved

We welcome feedback about our Short Breaks offer.

When we plan Short Breaks, we value the involvement of parents, carers, children, young people and professionals. Our aim is to work together to find ways to better meet the needs and improve outcomes for children and young people with disabilities.

We have already used this approach in developing our Short Break programme and this will continue to be important to us.

**If you would be interested in participating in any consultation groups or by offering to give specific feedback on our services please contact us at [Commissioning@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Commissioning@shropshire.gov.uk) .**

## Reviewing our Short Breaks Statement

Our Short Breaks statement is reviewed annually or more often if required.



We can choose what we like to do

I feel safe and welcome

**If you spot any mistakes or have suggestions for improvements to the statement, please contact us via our Local Offer website.**

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/>

## The Family Information Service

The Family Information Service (FIS) supports families by providing clear, up-to-date information, advice and resources to help family life run a little more smoothly. The service can help with a wide range of queries relating to family life, whether support is needed for parents and carers, or for children and young people.

FIS is a free, universal service available to all families in Shropshire, regardless of need or circumstances. If you have a question, the service can help you find information about local services, sources of support and practical resources to meet your needs.

The Family Information Service also provides tools and resources for practitioners, enabling them to easily share accurate and consistent information with families and support them to access the help available locally.

For more information about the Family Information Service, including a short video explaining how the service works, please visit:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/family-help-services/family-information-service/>

### Contact and further information

- Shropshire Local Offer [shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/](https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/)
- Short Breaks [https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/social-care/short-breaks/](https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/social-care/short-breaks/Shortbreaks@shropshire.gov.uk)
- [Shortbreaks@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Shortbreaks@shropshire.gov.uk)
- Family Information Service [Family Information Service | Shropshire Council](#)  
Telephone 01743 254400
- First Point of Contact Telephone 0345 678 9021