



Short Break Service Statement

For families and practitioners who support or care for a child or young person
who is aged 0 to their 18th birthday, who has a disability
and lives in Shropshire



Welcome to Shropshire's Short Breaks Service Statement.

This statement is for families and practitioners who support or care for a disabled child, aged 0 to 18th birthday, living in the local authority area of Shropshire.

It explains

- What Short Breaks for disabled children and young people are,
- What kind of breaks are available,
- Who can have this type of Short Break and
- How to access a Short Break.

The statement is part of our SEND Local Offer. The SEND Local Offer describes all the support available for Shropshire families who have a child with special educational needs and / or a disability. There is more information about our SEND Local Offer on page 16 and at <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/>

A copy of this statement can be found at

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

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

Contact and further information

- Shropshire Local Offer 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

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Why might a family need support?

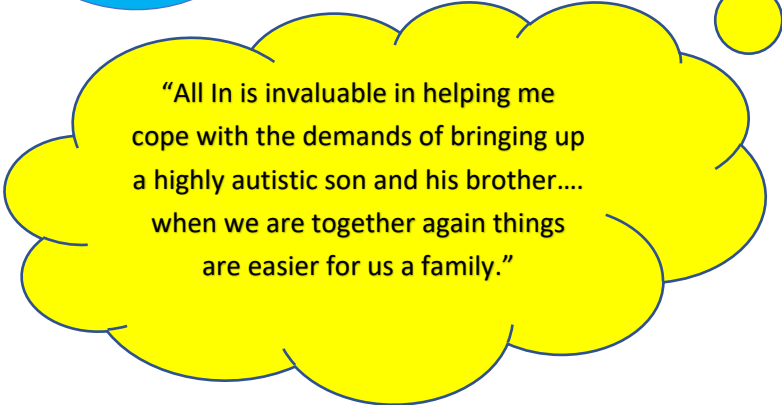
Many families may need support at some time in their life. Having a child with a disability can bring challenges and difficulties other families do not face particularly at times of transition, such as when a child is starting or changing school, or when a young person is preparing for adult life.

We know asking for help or advice can sometimes be difficult. Whatever you are feeling or experiencing, the chances are that someone else has been through it, too.

We want to offer the right service at the right time. This means we want to offer parent carers, carers or those with parental responsibility help when they need it. We are keen to understand the needs of a family and help them to get the right support or advice for the whole family. This could be through Short Breaks or a range of other services and support.



"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."



"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 a family."

Contact and further information

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What are Short Breaks for disabled children?

Short breaks are a range of opportunities, for children aged from 0 to their 18th birthday who have a disability.

We understand all families are different and need different levels of support and different types of Short Breaks dependent on their child's disability, age and family circumstances. We aim to have a range of Short Breaks ensuring something is available for all ages and available across the county.

Some Short Breaks might involve a child or young person joining a group activity whilst others might be providing support on a 1 to 1 basis – like a personal assistant.

Short breaks can take place after school, at the weekend, during school holidays or overnight. They can provide activities such as after school clubs, weekend activities, sports, youth groups, drama groups, holiday clubs and overnight stays with a short break foster carer or in a residential home.

Some Short Breaks might also involve assistance in the home in the evening, at weekends or during the school holidays.



"Residential and community short breaks are essential to enable me to continue in my caring role"

"Allow my child with a disability to develop relationships outside of family"

"Time out for us all"

"Not having your mom holding your hand all the time – especially as you get older"

Short Breaks aim to give:

- Parent Carers a break from caring;
- Children and young people the chance to try new activities, socialise, make friends;
- A chance to take part in activities that help the child's development;
- A choice and a range of activities;
- Parents, carers and siblings, quality time to spend together that they would not otherwise have;
- Opportunities for siblings to be able to participate together in some short break activities;
- A positive experience for every member of the family.

Contact and further information

- Shropshire Local Offer shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/
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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) The Short Breaks Regulations 2011, 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 wants to offer the right service at the right time.

Not all children and families will need the same level of short breaks: some will need more than others because of the impact of their child’s disability; some families may need more support because of their individual family circumstances.



For all children: Activities in local communities and neighbourhoods, such as Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, youth clubs, leisure centres, sports clubs, after school clubs etc.

Universal Activities

(Open to all children)

Targeted support specifically designed for disabled children.

Early Help & Targeted Early Help Activities

(*All-in* Short Breaks for all disabled children)

For some children, who have the most complex needs that cannot be met through Universal and Early Help /Targeted services.

Specialist Activities

(*Specialist* Short Breaks for assessed disabled children)



Universal Services

(Open to all children)

Universal activities (sometimes also called 'mainstream activities') are community-based activities that are open to everyone and may be able to support children with disabilities. For example, youth clubs, leisure centres, after school clubs, dance, drama, arts, brownies, cubs etc. Many families with a disabled child access these types of activities successfully once the provider has understood from parent carers, carers or those with parental responsibility how to meet their child's needs.

All universal services have a duty to respond to the Equality Act 2010 by ensuring their services are accessible to disabled children and young people.

Some universal services may offer concessions to disabled children and their carers. To find out whether the service you would like to access offers concessions you should ask the service directly.

There are some situations where a child's needs are such that the service may not be suitable for their needs or able to accommodate them. If your family is in this situation then you may be able to access our Early Help and Targeted Early Help 'All In' Short Breaks service described below.

For activities in your community: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/things-to-do/>

Support may also be available with equipment and adaptations at home through the Occupational Therapy Team. Children's occupational therapists assess children and their parent carers, carers or those with parental responsibility for equipment and occasionally adaptations. For further information <https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/social-care/>.



The positive effect on us as a family is almost incalculable

Contact and further information

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Early Help and Targeted Early Help Services

(**All-in Short Breaks** – open to all disabled children)



All-in Short Breaks are part of our Early Help services. They are available to families when universal services are not able to meet the needs of their disabled children.

All-in Short Breaks are different from universal services because they are specifically designed to enable children and young people with disabilities to participate in activities and opportunities. These may include sports clubs, social clubs, arts activities that take place after school, at weekends or during school holidays. What's on offer can change throughout the year.

Eligibility criteria for All-in Short Breaks

- Children and young people up to their 18th 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-breaks/all-in-programme/>

Management of the All-In Programme



From April 2021 the All-In activity programme is managed and commissioned on behalf of Shropshire Council by the Actio Partnership. The council and the partnership are co-founders of the All-In programme. (The council remains responsible for the All-In registration process).

The Actio Partnership consists of Energize Shropshire Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Parent and Carer Council (PACC)



The Actio Partnership aims to deliver a joined-up programme of quality activity and support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families, building a sense of community and achievement. Actio is also responsible for promoting and monitoring the quality of All-In activities. They work with children, young people and their families to ensure the programme responds positively to feedback and comment.

Actio will be actively supporting providers to become more sustainable and to also explore possible expansion of their opportunities.

For more information on Actio please visit <https://actioconsortium.wixsite.com/website> or contact info@actio.org.uk.

Contact and further information

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Specialist Services

(Specialist Short Breaks for some disabled children)

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](#)



The rope bridge - it was scary and hard at first but i did it!

I loved getting to light the campfire

Providers of Short Break services

Funding is awarded through an application process that ensures that the providers offer services and activities that meet current demand, have the necessary skills and experience and provide value for money. They are all required to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

These requirements are reflected in the contracts with providers and ensure they are met through ongoing contract monitoring.

Transport

Parent carers, 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.

Parent carers in Shropshire are clear that short breaks should play an important role in supporting their children towards independence and adulthood. They want these services to provide opportunities for their children to spend time away from the family network, to develop new skills and confidence. (PACC, 2016)

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, 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

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.

During the summer of 2019 a comprehensive consultation was undertaken to review the current All In programme which included current providers, children, young people, parents and carers. The consultation included events for providers and parent carers, surveys and a short film showcasing the All-In programme. This consultation has informed our approach to commissioning and management of the 'All In programme from April 2022 in response to the key messages outlined below.

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 shortbreaks@shropshire.gov.uk.

Feedback

The Actio Partnership is responsible for commissioning and managing the All-In programme on behalf of Shropshire Council from 1st April 2021.

Feedback about the All-In programme should send to Info@actio.org.uk

For more information on Actio please visit <https://actioconsortium.wixsite.com/website> or contact info@actio.org.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) provides families with the information and resources they need to help their family life run a little smoother. They can help with anything and everything to do with family life, whether that's something for parents or something for children and young people. The service is a free, universal service so anyone can use it. If you have a question, we're likely to be able to help find out information on services of support or resources, and we have some great tools for practitioners to be able to provide families with information themselves. Follow this link <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/family-help-services/family-information-service/> where there is a video and further information about the service.

Contact and further information

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