

Short Break Statement
Croydon Council
Children with Disabilities Service



Contents

- Introduction
- What is a Short Break?
- Who are Short Breaks for?
- What levels of Short Break are available?
 - a. Universal Services
 - b. Targeted Short Break
 - c. Specialist Provision
- What happens when a Child and Family Assessment is carried out?
- How to access to Croydon's Short Break offer
- How are Short Breaks Funded?
- How do we ensure Short Breaks are safe?
- What are Croydon's Disability register and Access Cards?
- Useful Contacts
- Appendix
 - a. Universal Services
 - b. Targeted Short Breaks
 - c. Specialist Provision

Introduction

This Short Break statement is for families living within the London Borough of Croydon who have a child or young person aged 0 -18 with a disability. It is to inform them of Croydon's Short Breaks offer and how services can be accessed.

Short Breaks are just one of the key services offered to families so parents/carers can have a break from their caring responsibilities whilst children and young people engage in fun and positive activities.

A Short Break provides an opportunity for children and young people with a disability to access mainstream or universal services including after-school clubs, activity groups and day care settings. They may also include specialist sessions for children and young people with more complex needs which can include both day and overnight provision.

Croydon works in partnership with several local providers who are included on the Care Providers Register, as well as other voluntary sector organisations and schools to deliver a diverse Short Break offer. We also work closely with the NHS to ensure that children and young people with complex health needs can access local services.

What is a Short Break?

Short Breaks are activities for children and young people with a disability. They allow children and young people with disabilities to have an enjoyable break away from their main carer and give their carer a break from their caring responsibilities.

A Short Break provides an opportunity for children and young people with a disability to have enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers. Its purpose is to:

- Allow the child or young person to benefit from different experiences and activities.
- Enable parents and carers to have a break from caring responsibilities (have respite from looking after the children).

- Informally educate (or enable) children and young people with special needs and disabilities through their leisure time to develop their own capabilities or enhance their personal and social development and confidence.

A Short Break can take place during the day, evening, weekend or overnight, and can happen in the child's home, carer's home, or in a residential or community setting. Short Breaks can be in both specialist and universal settings. Croydon offers currently including the following:

- Out of school clubs
- Saturday clubs
- Sports activities
- Youth activities (mainstream with support or specialist)
- Holiday clubs
- Specialist provision, including one to one support and overnight stays with a carer or in a residential unit.
- Direct payments

Who are Short Breaks for?

Short Breaks are available for all Children and young people living in Croydon who:

- Have a Special Educational Need and / or Disability. This may include a physical disability, learning disability or a significant hearing or visual impairment. It includes children with autism or autistic spectrum condition with communication disorder and developmental delay, and children who have challenging behaviour because of their learning disability. It also includes children with complex medical needs, some of whom may have life limiting conditions.
- Are 0 -18 years old.

What are the levels of Short Break support available?

a) Universal Services (Direct access and inclusion)

The London Borough of Croydon is committed to ensuring children and young people with a disability can, where possible, access mainstream, universal provision, preferably within their local area.

Equality and inclusion are promoted where services are designed, equipped and staff trained, to enable children with a disability to enjoy the same activities as their peers. For all Short Breaks within universal provision, parent and carers need to check details with the provider directly.

b) Targeted Short Breaks

For some children and young people with a disability, it is not always possible for them to only access universal provision. They may need targeted provision to specifically cater for more complex needs which mean universal provision is difficult to attend. Where a child or a young person's needs, or their family's situation is more complex; Short Break arrangements may need to be designed as an individual package. This will require an assessment by a professional.

Some targeted services are funded by the London Borough of Croydon while others are provided by voluntary groups and charities. To access these activities, we advise parents and carers to contact providers direct for more information. Please note that some services may charge a nominal fee.

c) Specialist Provision

Specialist Short Breaks support children and young people where their disability has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

To access a Specialist Short Break, the child or young person will require a Child and Family Assessment from the London Borough of Croydon. The Assessment is usually carried out by a Social Worker from the Children with Disabilities Team

Eligibility decisions are based on individual need, including to what extent a child or young person's disability or impairment affects their lives and the lives of those who live with and care for them. However, it is likely that if a child/young person is eligible for Short Break support their disability and/or special educational needs could be described in one or more of the following ways:

- A significant, permanent, and enduring physical disability
- A significant global learning disability
- A severe and enduring communication disorder
- Autism with a significant global development delay and/or challenging behaviour
- A significant sensory impairment

To request a child and family assessment to access specialist Short Breaks parents/carers should contact Croydon's, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on **0208 726 6400**

This team takes calls from parents, carers and professionals who are requesting support from Children Social Care. They will ask a few questions about the child's needs and family circumstances, to direct people to the correct service to meet their needs.

What happens when a Child and Family Assessment is carried out?

Croydon Children's Services would undertake an assessment of needs for children who live in the area and where required, offers services from the most relevant team or service, some assessments might be undertaken by the Family Assessment Service and where it is established that children, young people are likely to have a severe or profound disabilities, assessments and consideration of provision of service would be undertaken by the Children with Disabilities Service.

To be offered a service by the specialist Children with Disabilities (CWD) the child or young person must have a disability that has been formally diagnosed, and be permanent or long term and meets at least one of the following criteria:

Children with Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy and other physical disabilities that significantly impact on the child's well-being.

Children and young people with severe learning disabilities.

Children and young people with a diagnosis of Autism with associated learning disability which has a significant impact on their communication needs, social and behavioural development.

Children and young people with multiple or severe disability.

Children and young people with severe global development delay.

Children and young people with severe sensory impairment; and

Children and young people with complex physical disability and health needs.

In situations where it is not clear whether a child/young person meets the above eligibility criteria there will be a discussion between a manager of the CWD Service and a manager of other teams within Children's Social Care Service to establish if any joint or co-working is required.

Children who do not meet the eligibility criteria for a service from the CWD Service may be entitled to services as Children in Need and may be referred to other teams within Children's Social Care Service, including our targeted Early Help Family Solutions Services.

If a child has been referred for an assessment, the family will be contacted by a Social Worker. The Social Worker will discuss with the family the key information that has been provided through the referral and will then make arrangements to visit the family and begin a Child and Family Assessment. This is an assessment that looks in detail at the needs of the child or young person with a disability and those caring for them. The assessment also takes account of all aspects of family life that may be impacting on the needs of the disabled child, siblings, anyone living in the family home and parents/ carer's ability to care. This may include a Parent Carer Assessment which considers the day-to-day impact of the caring role. It will also consider any caring responsibilities that may be placed on siblings that are children.

The Social Worker, with consent from the parent/carer would talk and request information from all those involved with the child to gain a detailed view of the needs and support already provided to meet needs.

The Social Worker would work closely with the child and family to ensure that assessments are thorough and reflect the views of all involved. Assessments can take up to a maximum of 45 days, but Social Workers aim to complete assessments without any unnecessary delay whilst still ensuring that they capture the necessary level of detail.

If the Child and Family Assessment identifies a need the Social Worker would discuss with the child/parent or carer the best way to meet this need, including making recommendations for Universal, Targeted or Specialist Short Breaks.

If the identified need requires a provision that involves funding, then the recommendations of the Social Worker are presented to the Access to Resource Panel (ARP) who meets weekly to consider information and evidence that has been gathered alongside the views of the children and their families. The panel is facilitated by the Head of Service and/or Service Manager for CWD and consists of , Registered Manager of Calleydown Shortbreak Unit, Continuing Care Representatives, Direct Payments Advisor Representative, SEND Representative , Commissioned Services Short Breaks.

The Panel agree the exact level and type of support to be provided and if a Specialist Short Break is appropriate. Once the panel has made its decision, the family would be informed of the level and type of support that has been agreed and the rationale behind the decision. This is to ensure an open and transparent process.

Decisions made by the panel regarding the services and funding to be provided will be reviewed at least once a year to determine if the support still meets the identified needs and outcomes of the child. It also recognises that children may move between levels of service at different stages in their life or when circumstances change. An assessment can be carried out to establish if the level or type of support needs to be

changed. This assessment can be completed by the Lead Professional involved with the family.

Children and Young People provided with a Specialist Short Break will be supported by a Child in Need Plan.

Access to Croydon's Short Breaks Offer

Short Break Service	How needs are identified	Through discussion with	Type of Provision
Universal Provision Available to all	Self-referral	Parent/Child	Clubs, sport and leisure, group activities, and family breaks
Targeted Services Available to those who need additional services above Universal Provision	An assessment by the provider	Parent/Child, designated co-ordinator for service	Targeted services such as specialist holiday, youth, and community clubs
Specialist Services Available to those who need additional services above Targeted. Services	Relevant social care and provider assessment	Parent/ Child, Lead Professional Keyworker (Social worker), Child Care Teams	Specialist school, home support, domiciliary care enablers, family based Short Breaks, direct payment, overnights, sessional support, various other

How are Short Breaks funded?

Families of a child or young person with a disability who have been assessed as eligible for a Short Break may be offered either access to a commissioned service arranged by the London Borough of Croydon or in the case of being eligible for a specialist service may be offered the opportunity to have a Direct Payment. If the Direct payment is for a Personal Assistant, this person can be a friend but must not live in the same house as you.

Once an assessment has been completed and the number of hours of support allocated, an amount is agreed to fund this support. Parents can use direct payments to employ their own personal assistant or directly purchase support.

The options available will be detailed in the child or young person's care plan and will take into consideration the holistic support the child or family receives from other agencies.

As the employer there are several responsibilities in managing the Short Break assistance. The Direct Payments Team will support and advise Direct Payments users with these activities. All services at this level are subject to a regular review and can be provided in addition to directly accessed services.

More information on Direct Payments can be found on the website by following this link <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/special-educational-needs/sen-money/direct-payments>

How do we ensure Short Breaks are safe?

We take the safety of children and young people with a disability seriously and ensure that any Short Break activity provided undergo the appropriate checks:

- All staff undergo Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and the safer recruitment protocols.
- Feedback is obtained from Short Break providers quarterly to evaluate the Short Breaks from the view of children and young people as well as parents and carers.
- All Short Breaks adhere to [London Borough of Croydon's safeguarding procedure](#).

- Every organisation providing a Short Break also has its own specific safeguarding guidelines which they adhere to.
- All data provided will be treated confidentially in accordance with Croydon's data protection policy and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- All commissioned providers must evidence robust governance is in place, specifically around health and safety, safeguarding, training records for staff, complaints procedure and inspection reports.

Disability Register and Access Card

The council has a statutory responsibility to maintain a register of children and young people with disabilities who live in the Borough. The register is used to provide support to children and young people with a disability and their carers. It also helps us manage our resources and target services where it is needed most. It is the personal choice of parents and carers to include their children in the register, and although we encourage everyone applicable to join the register, it is not compulsory.

Visit <http://www.accesscard.org.uk/> to see all the organisations which offer benefits to Access Card holders.

This card is widely accepted as proof of a person with disabilities needs and provides access to concessions such as free companion passes and tickets. The card has symbols which confirm a person's needs, to inform providers quickly and discreetly about the support that may be required.

For more information and to register please visit:

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-culture/children-and-young-people/croydon-disability-register-and-access-card?src=redirection-fix>

The access card is available across the UK for £15, but is provided free to Croydon residents as a benefit of joining the disability register.

Useful Contacts

Local Offer – www.localoffer.croydon.gov.uk

Parents In Partnership - <https://www.croydonmencap.org.uk/>

SENDIAS - www.kids.org.uk/croydon-sendias

Carers Centre - www.carersinfo.org.uk/

Access Card – <http://www.accesscard.org.uk/>

Version	Author	Name	Approved By	Date	Review Date
2	Head of Service – Children with Disabilities	Rodica Cobarzan	Director, Children's Social Care	09/05/2023	April 2025

Appendix - What Short Breaks are available?

*Please note this information is correct at time of publication for the most up to date information on provision please check Croydon's Local Offer at <https://localoffer.croydon.gov.uk/kb5/croydon/directory/home.page>

There are a range of services available to children with disabilities in Croydon. Many of these services can be accessed directly; others require an assessment and referral from the Children with Disabilities Service.

This list is not exhaustive, these are just examples. Please see local offer for further information and advice.

Local Offer: <https://localoffer.croydon.gov.uk>

Name	Service	Age range	What days	Address
Developmental Play Group – At Winterbourne Children's Centre <i>Contact:</i> T: 020 8689 0978 E: office@winterbourneinf.croydon.sch.uk W: http://winterbournenurseries.co.uk/childrenscentre/	<p>The playgroup is a small drop-in play session, for children & their families, who have additional needs or are experiencing challenging behaviour.</p> <p>Developmental play is run with different sensory and educational activities, using sand, water, puzzles, paints, foam, outdoor play equipment etc</p> <p>As well as supporting children's development, we can provide support & advice around tantrums &</p>	0-5 years	Tuesday morning 10:00am -11:30am	Winterbourne Children's Centre Winterbourne Road Thornton Heath CR7 7QT

	<p>challenging behaviour, social skills, communication and interaction, play skills, sharing and turn taking, eating and Sleep routines and advice on other groups that could be beneficial to your child. We work alongside other professionals like, Parents in Partnership, Speech and Language Therapists, Family support and more.</p>			
<p>Grange Park Playground</p> <p><i>Contact:</i> T: 020 8726 6900</p> <p>E: parks@croydon.gov.uk</p>	<p>This children's playground is PiPA accredited.</p> <p>PiPA is the government endorsed accreditation of an inclusive playground.</p> <p>For more details on PiPA and inclusive play please visit the website for more information on Grange Park.</p>	All ages	Open everyday	Grange Park Canon's hill Old Coulsdon CR5 1HB

<p>Palace for Life (Crystal Palace FC)</p> <p><i>Contact:</i> T: 020 8768 6047</p> <p>E: admin@palaceforlife.org</p> <p>W: www.palaceforlife.org</p> <p>Ben Perryman BenPerryman@palaceforlife.org</p> <p>Michael Harrington MichaelHarrington@palaceforlife.org</p>	<p>Palace for Life Foundation run a wide and diverse disability programme that plans to give every person living with a disability the opportunity to participate in sport, improving their motor skills, physical fitness, and giving people the opportunity to develop self-esteem, confidence and gain vital interaction with new friends and the wider community.</p> <p>The Foundation is fully committed to reaching out to areas of the community that don't have access to sports and physical activity. Palace for Life run sessions for males and females aged 5 and over living with a disability. These take place in a variety of venues across Croydon, Bromley and Sutton.</p> <p>Some of the activities available are targeted and specialist.</p>	<p>5 years and over</p>	<p>A range of activities giving the opportunity to participate in sport</p>	<p>Selhurst Park Stadium Holmesdale Road London SE25 6PU</p>
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<p>Phab</p> <p><i>Contact:</i> T: 020 8667 9443</p> <p>E:info@phab.org.uk</p> <p>W:https://www.phab.org.uk/holidays-holiday-projects</p>	<p>Phab inspires and supports children, young people and adults with and without disabilities to make more of life together - breaking down community barriers, reducing social isolation, and creating opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy the same activities and challenges as, and alongside, those without a disability.</p> <p>Phab run Local Phab Clubs Fully accessible Holiday Projects Wheelchair accessible holiday homes</p> <p>All information is available on the Phab website.</p>	<p>8-25 years</p>	<p>Various days and times throughout the week</p>	<p>P H A B, Summit House 50 Wandle Road Croydon Postcode CR0 1DF</p>
<p>National Autistic Society (NAS)</p> <p><i>Contact</i> T: 0203 005 4335</p> <p>E:Croydon.FamilySupport@nas.org.uk</p>	<p>The National Autistic Society support families where a family has a diagnosis of autism.</p> <p>‘Try It Out’ and Family Fun Days. Lego therapy, trampolining and Football skills,</p>	<p>0-25 years 25+ years for Parents and carers</p>	<p>Programmes during half terms, summer holidays and Short Breaks</p>	<p>The National Autistic Society Croydon Services, Coney Hall 40a Croydon Road</p>

W: www.autism.org.uk	<p>afterschool clubs and workshops.</p> <p>For more information, please contact our Family Support Coordinators using the details provided.</p>			<p>West Wickham</p> <p>Kent</p> <p>BR4 9HT</p>
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Targeted Short Breaks

Name	Service	Age range	What days	Address
<p>Knots Arts Youth Club</p> <p><i>Contact:</i></p> <p>T: 07947 212485</p> <p>E: hello@knotsarts.com</p> <p>W: www.knotsarts.com</p>	<p>Friday night Youth Club in Croydon takes place at the Samuel Coleridge Taylor Centre near Norwood Junction station and is for young people with a social communication difficulty.</p> <p>Sessions are designed to empower young people to try new experiences and suggest what they would like to be doing whilst at the club.</p>	13 – 25 years	See website for details	<p>Samuel Coleridge Taylor Centre</p> <p>194 Selhurst Road</p> <p>South Norwood</p> <p>SE25 6XX</p>
		5 – 25 years	Not currently running due to COVID 19	<p>Norbury park</p> <p>London</p> <p>SW16 3LY</p>

Specialist Provision

Name	Service	Age range	What days	Address
Calleydown Shortbreak Children's Home <i>Contact:</i> T: 01689 842 464 07899 060 948	Calleydown is a residential home providing day care and overnight stays for children and young people who have severe learning difficulties. Some children have associated physical disabilities, challenging behaviour and medical needs, Calleydown cannot provide nursing care.	5-18 years	4 – 24 hours a day plus overnight stay	Calleydown Shortbreak children's home 47a Calleydown Crescent New Addington Croydon CR0 0EP
Croydon Youth Disability Project <i>CYDP@croydon.gov.uk for referrals and bookings (inbox monitored Monday- Wednesday)</i> <i>Paul Funnell</i> T: 07990 790 183 E: Paul.Funnell@croydon.gov.uk	The Youth Project is for children and young people with disabilities, autism, and additional needs. Offering term time clubs and holiday projects for children and young people including Art and sensory activities, sports, games, life skills, advice and support and offsite trips. Further information is available on the Leisure activities page and within the “what’s on” calendar. This service might be	8-25 years	Various days and times throughout the week and during holiday periods	Waddon Youth Centre 85 Waddon Way Croydon CR0 4HY Bensham Manor School Ecclesbourne Road Thornton Heath CR7 7BN

<p>Wayne Stevens T: 07732 074 288 E: Wayne.Stevens@croydon.gov.uk</p> <p>Marianne DiClemente T:07587656437 E: Marianne.DiClemente@croydon.gov.uk</p> <p>Anne Marie Abalo (part time Mon-Wed evenings only) T: 07961983996 E: Anne-Marie.Abalo@croydon.gov.uk</p> <p>Luke Stevens (part time Mon-Wed evenings only) T: 07701 398 442 E: Luke.Stevens@croydon.gov.uk</p>	<p>available to children as a targeted service.</p> <p>Provided and funded by Croydon 0-25 SEND Service and Croydon's Short Breaks.</p>			
<p>T: 020 8760 5592 E: SDO@croydon.gov.uk</p>	<p>These courses are for children and young people aged 5 – 25 years, with disabilities and additional needs.</p>	<p>5 – 25 years</p>	<p>Various days and times throughout</p>	<p>Sport and Leisure Team Floor 6, Zone D</p>

<p>W:</p> <p>https://www.croydon.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-culture/sports-and-physical-activity/inclusive-sports-programme</p>	<p>For further information you can download the 'RAP sports courses brochure' on the right of this page or from the website.</p> <p>Activities for Children and Young People with disabilities or additional needs, run from various locations throughout the Borough:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAP Half Term MultiSports Courses • Weekend Club High Support Needs • Weekend Club Low Support Needs • Swimming (3 groups - beginners, intermediate, advanced) • Trampolining & Games • Badminton, Tennis & Table Tennis • Inclusive Zone Basketball • Powerchair Football 		ut the week	<p>Bernard Weatherill House</p> <p>Mint Walk</p> <p>Croydon</p>
<p>Rutherford School</p> <p><i>Contact:</i></p> <p>T: 02086887560</p>	<p>This is a specialist school and provides commissioned play scheme for children with</p>	0-18	Programmes during half	<p>Rutherford school</p> <p>1a Melville Avenue,</p>

Email: rutherford@garwoodfoundation.org https://rutherschool.org.uk	severe and profound needs. Referrals are made through the children with disabilities social work team Croydon.		terms, summer holidays and Short Breaks	South Croydon, CR2 7HZ
Holiday Play scheme at Redgates <i>Contact:</i> T: 0208651 6540 E: admin@redgates.croydon.sch.uk https://redgates.croydon.sch.uk	Special school commissioned by the Croydon children with disabilities team. They offer play schemes during holidays and half terms. Referrals are made through the children with disabilities social work team		Programmes during half terms, summer holidays and Short Breaks	Redgates school Farnborough Avenue South Croydon CR2 8HD