

London Borough of Harrow

Short Breaks Service Statement

Guide for Parents and Carers

Introduction

The local authority has a duty to produce a Short Breaks Statement so that families, carers and young people understand the services that are available, the eligibility criteria, and how the breadth of services have been designed to meet the needs of the families in Harrow. It will also link to the local offer website.

This Statement provides parents and carers with information about:

- What is available
- Who can use the service
- How to access services
- How Short Breaks meet the needs of disabled children and young people and their families

What are Short Breaks?

Short Breaks form part of a range of services provided by the Children and Young People with Disabilities (CYAD) Service. The team work with children up to 25 years old.

Short Breaks provide your child or young person with the opportunity to take part in fun and exciting activities; and for you (their parent/carer) to also have a break from care giving so that you can spend more time with other family members, pursue your own interests either educationally or socially or just take time to relax.

Short Breaks can take place within or away from your home, after school, at the weekend, during school holidays or overnight. Regular Short Breaks can contribute to building resilience in families.

What is available?

There are a range of Short Breaks available ranging from a few hours, evenings, overnight, weekend, and school holiday daytime activities.

- Holiday play schemes
- After school clubs and sessions
- Adventure play
- Disability specific services (for the visually, hearing and mobility impaired)
- Support to access inclusive mainstream services: Most services are inclusive for disabled children and young people, but to get the most out of their time there some children/young people may need additional support.
- Specialist group play and leisure activities e.g. play schemes, after school clubs
- Community outreach e.g. one to one support to access the community, care in the home

Services and activities available on the Short Breaks framework can be found at:

www.harrow.gov.uk/shortbreaks

How to Access Services?

There are two different ways to access short breaks:

1. Core Offer Short Breaks

If a child or young person with a disability (up to the age of 18) living in Harrow receives Disability Living Allowance or a Personal Independence Payment (PIP), at Medium or High Rate they may be eligible for Core Offer Short Breaks.

The Core Offer provides you with a Direct Payment (an annual budget) that you can use to purchase short breaks from a wide range of providers either within or outside of the Borough. Feedback from parents/carers during the Short Breaks consultation showed that some of the types of activities they used the budgets for were horse riding, swimming lessons, yoga and martial arts.

In circumstances where you are unable to manage a direct payment, the CYAD team can arrange for your child to access school holiday play schemes or outreach services that are provided by one of the organisations on the Short Breaks Framework.

2. With a CYAD Assessment of Need and agreed Care Plan

If your child meets the CYAD criteria, a full assessment of their and your needs will be carried out. Please click on the link below to see the CYAD criteria and types of support available

www.harrow.gov.uk/localoffer

If Short Breaks are recommended as a result of the assessment they will be constructed to achieve agreed outcomes.

These can be delivered by either a Direct Payment which will provide you with the opportunity to manage a budget to access a wide range of providers within and outside the Borough. In circumstances where you are unable to manage a direct payment the CYAD team can arrange for your child to access activities delivered by the providers on the Short Breaks Framework.

How to apply for a Short Break

If you do not already receive a service from Harrow Council, please contact the MASH team on 020 8901 2690. If your child is already known to CYADS you can apply for a social work assessment or review by applying on-line:

www.harrow.gov.uk/cyads

Consultation and Review

Harrow recognises the need for children with a disability to be included in mainstream activities and actively encourages parents/carers with Direct Payments to utilise mainstream activities where appropriate. Harrow Council also runs a variety of activities via its Early Help Service that children and young people with disabilities can access.

This statement was originally developed from information provided by parents/carers as part of the Short Breaks consultation in 2022. Harrow Parents 4 Disabled Children (HP4DC) and other key stakeholders contributed.

This statement will be formally reviewed again in November 2025. In addition, it will be annually reviewed for accuracy. We will keep parents, carers, children, young people and professionals advised and involved with this process.

This statement can be made available in community languages and accessible formats upon request by contacting the Children and Young People with Disabilities Service on 0208 966 6481