

Short breaks in Milton Keynes for children with disabilities and additional needs

2011 - 2012



www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/childcare

Introduction

Milton Keynes Council offers a short break service for children and young people with disabilities and their families.

This leaflet provides information about the 2011-2013 Short Breaks offer. It sets out information about what short breaks are available, who can receive them and how to access them.

Short breaks enable children and young people with disabilities to spend time away from their primary carers. They allow children and young people the opportunity to experience new things and to develop relationships with other people. Short breaks also provide the opportunity for the carers to have some time out.

A short break can be anything from an after school activity, an outing at the weekend to an evening out or an overnight stay.

Sometimes they are an opportunity for the whole family to go on an outing together, where disabled children and young people and their siblings can enjoy the same activities.

Short breaks can take place in clubs, schools, play settings, theatres, in the family home or in a residential setting.

The following are just some of the activities available:

- Children's centres
- Play centres
- Activity centres
- Leisure centres
- Outdoor centres
- Sports clubs
- Arts clubs
- Theatres
- Evening youth clubs
- Weekend play schemes
- Parks and play areas

The Short Breaks offer is provided on a staged basis so that those children and young people with higher levels of need have access to a higher level of service. We have tried as far as possible to avoid the need for an assessment or an application process for short breaks.

Level 1

At the first level there is provision for all children who may have some level of disability or additional need. This is delivered through our flexible Voucher Scheme which has a value of £40 per child or young person for 2011-2012. These have been sent to all children and young people with a Statement of Educational Need.

Vouchers should be used before 31 March 2012. New vouchers for use in 2012-2013 will be issued as soon as possible after 1 April 2012.

Vouchers are sent to new families once a Statement of Educational Need has been issued.

Vouchers are also available to children and young people who do not have a Statement of Educational Need but have a complex and potentially life threatening condition.

The vouchers enable access to a wide range of sport, arts, leisure and play activities and can be used to pay for some of the short breaks activities listed on the previous page. We estimate approximately 1,200 children and young people will be entitled to receive vouchers.

If you think that your child is entitled to vouchers but have not received them please contact the Families Information Service, contact details at the end of this leaflet.

Level 2

In addition to vouchers, children and young people attending special schools have access to the following as a minimum:

- 1 x after-school club activity per week for a minimum of 1 hour for 35 weeks per annum
- 12 hours school holiday provision across the year.

Children and young people not in a special school are still entitled to 47 hours of after school and school holiday activity if they:

- Receive 20 hours or more per week of educational support arising from a disability
- Are in alternative education unit arising from a disability or medical need
- Have a complex and potentially life threatening condition
- Receive medical support medium and long term

We estimate approximately 800 children and young people are entitled to Level 2 short breaks.

Level 3

Short breaks are also available for children and young people with the highest level of need; these are called Specialist Short Breaks.

Specialist Short Breaks may include day and overnight care in the family home or in a residential setting (social care and/or health care) and may also include one to one support to enable a child or young person to access a short break in a community setting either on their own or with the family.

Specialist Short Breaks are provided after a formal assessment of need and are available to those children and young people who meet levels 3 and 4 of the Milton Keynes Model of Need (page 6 and 7, Effective Support for Children and Families in Milton Keynes).

After an assessment any assessed needs will be discussed with you and a Specialist Short Break may be arranged by Milton Keynes Council and/or NHS Milton Keynes.

Some families will receive a Direct Payment to arrange and pay for Specialist Short Break services themselves.

We estimate approximately 200 children and young people are entitled to receive the Level 3 offer.

If you consider that your child is entitled to Specialist Short Breaks please contact the Families Information Service (contact details below) who will advise on how you can request an assessment from the Children with Disabilities Social Work Team or Milton Keynes Community Health Services - Children with Complex Needs Team.

If you would like more information, please contact:

Families Information Service
Galley Hill Education Centre
Galley Hill, Milton Keynes MK11 1PA

T: 0800 035 0335

E: childcare@milton-keynes.gov.uk

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/childcare



Milton Keynes Council

Families Information Service

Galley Hill Education Centre

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