

# Information for Parents and Carers

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**achieving  
for children**

# Short Breaks

## Assessed Need Support 'Aiming High Support'

Geraldine Burgess



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# What is a Short Break?

- **A time of fun and enjoyment for the child or young person**
- Time to meet and socialise with friends
- Time to learn a new skill
- Time away from the main parents and carers
- Time for parents to have a break from caring



What short breaks are currently available?

Weekend  
Clubs

Going out with  
a befriender

Overnight  
support

Swimming

Holiday  
Club

Merlin Pass

Youth Club

Dance  
class

Scout  
Camp

After school  
club



Assessed Need Support

‘Aiming High’ Support

## Assessed Need Support

Overnights

Holiday Groups

Individual Support

Direct Payments

Weekend or After school club sessions

# Direct Payments

Funds given to a family for assessed need support.

## **Positives**

The family have the flexibility to arrange the support when required

The family chose and employ a worker they know

The funds are regular (no gaps if the worker is off sick)

## **Barriers**

Parents are the employers

It is hard to find workers

Quarterly returns are required to account for the funds

Cannot be used to fund other services funded by Achieving for Children

\*Please note these funds are for the support worker, not the activity costs



# Aiming High Support

Additional Support Funding

Activity Support Funding

Holiday Activity Groups

Weekend Activity Groups

After School Clubs

# Short breaks Kingston and Richmond.

In August we provided 1332 hours of support in assessed needs groups in Richmond and 1890 hours of support in Kingston

Approximately 4,000 hours of support was delivered by commissioned services and Additional Support Funding over the summer

Close to 300 children have been supported over the summer to access short break support in a variety of settings, both specialist and universal services

# Local Offer



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**The Local Offer for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Kingston and Richmond**

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**SEND Local Area Inspection re-visit announced in Kingston**

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Short Breaks



Activities and clubs for children and young people



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## About Short Breaks



More details



## The role of Inclusion Officers



More details



## Aiming High Short Breaks



More details



## Assessed Need Short Breaks (Complex Needs)



More details



# Meeting the Criteria for Assessed need Support

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Sophie Jones



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# Disabled Children's Team

All short breaks are needs assessed by the Disabled Children's Team (also known as the Children with Disabilities team)

The Disabled Children's Team comprises of the following staff:

Head of Service

Social Work Team Leaders x 2

Social Workers x6

Senior Social workers x 4

Family Support Team Leader

Senior Family Support Worker

Family Support workers x 6

Social Care Occupational Therapist Lead

Social Care Occupational therapists x 2

# Assessment for short breaks

In order to be eligible for an assessed need short break, the child or young person must first meet specific eligibility criteria which is designed to capture those children and young people who have severe and profound permanent disabilities.

Whether or not the child or young person requires such specialist intervention will be determined by an assessment of need.

The eligibility criteria can be found on the local offer here -

<https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/social-care/disabled-children-s-team/eligibility-criteria-for-integrated-service-for-children-with-disabilities-social-care-teams> - and is quite detailed. This will be applied throughout the assessment process through observations of the child or young person, discussions with parents and carers and professional feedback.

All initial assessments will be completed by a social worker in the team. Sometimes social workers will continue to work with children and young people and their families if there are particularly complex needs or safeguarding worries. Sometimes the child or young person will be moved to the Family support team who will offer oversight and support in a non statutory manner but still focus on short breaks support.

The outcome of the assessment, if the child or young person meets criteria for support, will make a recommendation on what short breaks the child or young person and their family might benefit from. This is then taken to 'Short Breaks Panel'.

Short breaks can be reviewed at any stage but if all is going well then ordinarily reviews will take place annually to ensure the needs are still being met.



# Assessment continued

The eligibility criteria will look at the following areas of a child or young person's life to ascertain whether they meet the criteria;

Health

Education

Communication

Mobility

Visual Impairment

Hearing impairment

Behaviour associated with the disability

Family and social relationships

Self care

Safety

If a child is under the age of 5 years old we also need to ascertain whether any factors are concurrent with their stage of development or are disability related.

Two of the above areas or more need to be met for a child or young person to meet eligibility criteria for Disabled Children's Team support.

# Assessment continued

Children who are not included in the Eligibility Criteria:

A disability or disabilities that are not permanent and substantial.

Social, emotional and behavioural difficulties due to social or environmental factors i.e. the behaviour is not associated with a disability

If children or young people aren't seen to meet criteria for specialist Disabled Children's Team support, an assessment can be undertaken by the mainstream Referral and Assessment team.


Similarly, if an assessment is undertaken by the Disabled Children's Team and it's ascertained that the child or young person doesn't meet eligibility for support from their service, but there are needs to be met and supported, they will ensure that the child or young person and their family are transferred to a more appropriate team to support them.




Personal Budgets, Personal Health Budgets and Direct Payments




## Key Successes



We have supported over 200 families and young people with SEND across Kingston and Richmond. We have improved our response times and are working more closely across education, health and social care. We have delivered training to staff at AfC and attended community network events.




## The SEND Team





The team are a hard-working bunch, they are knowledgeable, creative and kind. We work with families and have good links with AfC and NHS to be able to find positive solutions. We have supported families and PA's to access essential basic healthcare training. We have named contacts at Pay Packet and Mark Bates to support families with payroll and insurance.

## KCIL SEND Website



We are excited to have a new SEND area of our KCIL Website. The pages detail the Personal Budget Pathway that has been developed to help coordinators and families to navigate requesting and running a personal budget for SEND.

<https://kcil.org.uk/send/personal-budgets-pathway/>





2021 - 2022

115

families supported  
with  
Direct Payments  
for social care  
support



Education Personal  
Budgets

referrals rose from

65 in 2021

to

79 in 2022



Personal Health  
Budget family

support increased

from

12 in 2021

to

18 in 2022



Overall

SEND Service Users increased by  
13.8% in 2021-2022



## SEND Code of Practice



### Right to Request

A young person or child's parents have the right to request a Personal Budget connected to their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

## Direct Payment Legislation



### When to Request

A Personal Budget can be requested when an EHCP needs assessment has been completed and an EHCP is prepared.

It can also be requested during a statutory review of an existing EHCP.

## Local Policy and Practice



### Choice

Personal Budgets are optional for the child's parent or the young person, but local authorities are under a duty to prepare a budget when requested.



### Working Together

As an impartial advisor, KCIL work with families, coordinators and schools to develop a person-centred Personal Budget Support Plan (Section J) to deliver the outcomes and provision as identified in the EHCP (Section E and F).



Personal Budget Pathway...

## Part one: Referral, advice and preparation



### Referral

Families can request that their EHCP Coordinator makes a referral to KCIL.



### Consent form

This is important for GDPR and it provides transparency for families and accurate communication between KCIL, AfC, Schools, Healthcare and other stakeholders.



### Contact and advice

KCIL SEND Support Team will contact families to explain our role in providing expert advice on personal budgets and direct payments as well as what can and cannot be considered for a personal budget and the process.

## Personal Budget Support Plan



A Personal Budget Support Plan (Section J) is drafted and co-produced with CYP (Children and Young People) and their families.

Providers of the agreed provision such as therapist, tutors or personal assistants are explored and costed.

This research and the Personal Budget Support Plan supports a structured discussion and an evidence-based decision making at panel.

### Section J. Personal budget - including arrangements for direct payments

Provision and outcomes	Provider	Type	Annual amount



## Part two: Evidence based decision making



The Multidisciplinary SEND Panel can agree or decline the personal budget request. It can also ask for further information to be provided.

Once the outcome is ratified and officially confirmed, it will be shared with the young person and their family by EHCP Coordinator.



### Direct Payment Agreement

The Direct Payment Agreement is drafted and signed. This is the contract between the Local Authority / AfC and the parents. It details the terms and conditions, obligations, payment schedules and responsibilities of all parties.





## Part three: Set up and monitoring

Separate Bank Account

Termly Monitoring

Annual Review

KCIL SEND Support Team will continue to act as a **point of contact for support** with Personal Budgets, Personal Health Budgets and Direct Payment.

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