



Short Break Service Statement

Information on short breaks for children and young
people with disabilities or additional needs in
Kingston and Richmond

Contents

Introduction	1
1. What is a short break?	2
2. Our Local Offer	3
3. Eligibility criteria	4
4. Programme of short breaks	6
5. How we listen to the views of children and young people with disabilities	11
6. Getting involved	12
7. What children and young people have told us	13
8. How we listen to the views of parents and carers	14
9. How we ensure the short breaks are safe	15
10. How we review AfC short breaks	16
Appendix A: Eligibility criteria for Integrated Service for Children with Disabilities social care teams	17
Appendix B: Questions and answers about direct payments	23
Glossary of Terms	27

Introduction

Since 1 April 2011, local authorities have a duty to provide a short break service for children and young people with disabilities. Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with young people with disabilities.

Short breaks are designed to improve and promote better outcomes for children and young people with disabilities and their families.

Consultation and feedback with children and young people, parents and carers helps to guide the development and commissioning of short break activities.

We aim to continue to provide a range of short break services for children and young people with disabilities, between the ages of 0 and 17 years (up to the young person's 18th birthday), who live in Kingston and Richmond boroughs.



1. What is a short break?

A short break provides opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to access mainstream and specialist activities such as after school clubs, a few hours at a leisure or sports activity group, holiday groups or an overnight stay. Short breaks may also include specialist sessions for children and young people with more complex needs and can include both day and overnight provision.

Short breaks give children and young people the chance to develop new friendships, take part in new experiences, learn new skills and have fun whilst achieving positive outcomes. Also they provide parents, carers and siblings with a short break from caring responsibilities, however short breaks are not designed to replace childcare arrangements. Achieving for Children offers short breaks that are tailored to suit the needs of all children and young people with disabilities according to the eligibility criteria explained in section 3.



2. Our Local Offer

Achieving for Children (AfC) understands that it is important to have a variety of short break services that meet the varying needs of children and young people with disabilities and their families.

It is our aim that children and young people with disabilities are provided with the opportunity to access any suitable short break activity that they choose in specialist or mainstream settings within the Kingston and Richmond boroughs. Priority is given to short break activities that take place in these boroughs, but out-of-borough short break activities are considered.

Our Local Offer is made up of a variety of short break activities for children and young people with disabilities from mainstream activities to the more specialist short breaks. Information on all services can be found on the Local Offer website

www.kr.afcinfo.org.uk/local_offer

Our local offer consists of:

- **Assessed need short breaks:** provide activities for children and young people who require specialist support
- **Aiming High short breaks**
- **Mainstream short break activities:** an activity that takes place in a universal setting



3. Eligibility criteria

We have designed our eligibility criteria, to reflect that service provision at Achieving for Children is transparent and fair. Our guiding principles are:

- Transparency and openness
- Fairness, different pathways targeting different groups
- Equality, balancing the needs of those most in need with those who are not, giving special consideration to those eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium Grant
- Quality and diverse provision, reaching more children than previously
- Equitable access for children and young people. We will take into account access to other support or overnight care and prioritise children and young people who have less access to support and services

Aiming High short breaks funding

Following on from the Government's 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' programme, Achieving for Children is committed to continue providing short breaks for all children and young people with disabilities who live in Kingston and Richmond boroughs. **This is referred to as an 'Aiming High short break'.**



Eligibility criteria for Aiming High short breaks

To access short break services funded by Aiming High, the child or young person must:

- Have a diagnosed disability
- Be aged 0 to 17 years old
- Live in the boroughs of Kingston or Richmond

Eligibility criteria for the Children with Disabilities Team short breaks

To access short break services allocated by the Children with Disabilities Team, the child or young person must:

- Have a diagnosed disability
- Be aged 0 to 17 years old
- Live in the boroughs of Kingston or Richmond
- Have a permanent and substantial, severe or profound disability and meet the eligibility criteria for the Children with Disabilities Team. This is referred to as having an 'assessed need'

In order to establish whether a child or young person has an assessed need, a social worker or family support worker will carry out an assessment. An assessment can be requested via the Single Point of Access by a parent or carer, or by a professional.

Single Point of Access:

T: 020 8547 5008

Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm

To qualify for support from the Children with Disabilities Team, the child must meet the requirements in the profound or severe labelled columns in at least two of the sections, for example, in health and communication or self-care and safety.

There are factors that are outlined and defined in the eligibility criteria which are taken into consideration when making a decision regarding eligibility.

Eligibility for Children with Disabilities Team can also be found on the Achieving for Children Local Offer and **in Appendix A on page 18**

Referrals to Children with Disabilities Team specialist short breaks

Referrals to any of the specialist services provided by the Disabled Children's Team can only be made by the Disabled Children's Team or the Family Support Teams in Kingston and Richmond. The type and level of provision is agreed following an assessment and application to the Short Breaks Funding Panel. This is an assessed need.

4. Programme of short breaks

There is a range of short breaks available to support children and young people with disabilities and their families. Where possible we aim to offer short breaks both within mainstream and specialist settings, however some short breaks are particularly suitable for children with specific needs, e.g. autism. Others are inclusive with non-disabled children and/or siblings. Children and young people who have an assessed need are eligible for both assessed need short breaks and Aiming High short breaks. All short breaks are publicised widely through the Local Offer website, schools and the Disability Register.

Aiming High short breaks

Scheme	Description	When it runs	Age group (between the ages of)	Referral process	Accessibility
Easter and Summer Groups - Challengers	Offers group activities for children and young people with disabilities	School holidays	4 to 17 years	Contact Challengers directly. Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
Saturday Groups – Challengers	Offers group activities for children and young people with disabilities	Saturday	4 to 17 years	Contact Challengers directly. Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
AfC specialist water sports – Albany Outdoors	Offers fun water sports	2 terms (April to October)	12 to 17 years	Contact Albany Outdoors directly. Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	
Richmond and Kingston BuddyUp Scheme	Young person is matched with a buddy (volunteer) and they meet for two hours every fortnight for activities to enhance life skills, travel safety and build social skills	All year	14 to 17 years	Contact Richmond AID directly. Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible (changeable locations)

Aiming High Home and Community Support	Offers one-to-one support to enable children and young people to access mainstream activities	All year	0 to 17 years	Parent to complete application. Will be considered by a panel. Online application form can be found on the Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
Activity Fund	Families of children and young people with disabilities can apply for individual funding for activities and holidays up to £140 per financial year per eligible child	Annual	0 to 17 years	Parent or professional to complete application. Will be considered by a panel. Application form can be found on the Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
Additional Support Funding	Funding for additional support for young people with disabilities to attend mainstream activities	Annual	0 to 17 years	Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
Energise Kingston	Activities organised for specific age groups and where possible provider facilitates friendship groups	Half terms only (February, May, October)	5 to 8 years	Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
Energise+ Kingston	Activities organised for specific age groups and where possible provider facilitates friendship groups	Half terms only (February, May, October)	9 to 15 years	Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
Energise Richmond Mencap	Activities organised for children and young people with mild to moderate Learning Disabilities, Social Communication Conditions, ADHD and other additional needs.	Half terms only (February, May, October)	8 to 17 years	Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible

Enhanceable Kites	Activities organised for children and young people with Asperger's, Autism and other mild learning disabilities	Every other Tuesday	11 to 17 years	Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
Enhanceable Ribbons	Activities organised for children and young people with Asperger's, Autism and other mild learning disabilities	Monday	5 to 11 years	Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
Enhanceable Flyers	Activities organised for children and young people with complex disabilities and/ or complex health issues	Tuesday	5 to 11 years	Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
AfC after school club	Activities organised for children and young people with complex health and/or physical disabilities	Tuesday	8 to 17 years	Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible
AfC after school club	Activities organised for children and young people with moderate learning disabilities	Thursday	8 to 17 years	Further information can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer	Wheelchair accessible

Assessed need short breaks

Croft Centre Groups	Fun activities for children and young people who are eligible for services from the Disabled Children's Social Care Team	Annual	5 to 17 years	Assessment and referral by social worker or specialist family support worker. Will be considered by Panel	Wheelchair accessible
Moor Lane Centre Groups	Fun activities for children and young people who are eligible for services from the Disabled Children's Social Care Team	Annual	5 to 17 years	Assessment and referral by social worker or specialist family support worker. Will be considered by Panel	Wheelchair accessible
Saturday Group	Fun activities for children and young people who are eligible for services from the Disabled Children's Social Care Team	Annual	8 to 17 years	Assessment and referral by social worker or specialist family support worker. Will be considered by Panel	Wheelchair accessible
Home & Community Support	One-to-one support in the home and in the community for children and young people who are eligible for services from the Disabled Children's Social Care Team	Annual	0 to 17 years	Assessment and referral by social worker or specialist family support worker. Will be considered by Panel	Wheelchair accessible
Family Link	Overnight short break in foster carers home for children and young people who are eligible for services from the Disabled Children's Social Care Team	Annual	0 to 17 years	Assessment and referral by Social Worker or specialist Family Support Worker. Will be considered by Panel	
Warren Park	Overnight short breaks for children and young people who are eligible for	Annual	8 to 17 years	Assessment and referral by social worker or specialist	Wheelchair accessible

	services from the Disabled Children's Social Care Team			family support worker. Will be considered by Panel	
High Ashurst	Weekend overnight short breaks for children and young people who are eligible for services from the Disabled Children's Social Care Team	Annual	8 to 17 years	Assessment and referral by social worker or specialist family support worker. Will be considered by Panel	Wheelchair accessible
Croft Cottage	Overnight short breaks for children and young people who are eligible for services from the Disabled Children's Social Care Team	Annual	5 to 17 years	Assessment and referral by social worker or specialist family support worker. Will be considered by Panel	Wheelchair accessible
Direct Payments	Children and young people who meet the eligibility criteria for services from the Disabled Children's Social Work Team can receive direct payments or personal budgets. This funding can be used to provide a short break.	Annual (monthly)	0 to 17 years	Assessment and referral by social worker or specialist family support worker. Will be considered by Panel See Appendix B on page 24 for frequently asked questions and answers.	Wheelchair accessible

The Local Offer provides information on additional universal activities which take place across the boroughs of Kingston, Richmond and surrounding areas. Further information on all short breaks can be found using the search tool on the AfC Local Offer:

www.kr.afcinfo.org.uk/local_offer

Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact Geraldine Burgess, Short Breaks Operations Manager

T: 020 8547 6212

E: geraldine.burgess@achievingforchildren.org.uk

5. How we listen to the views of children and young people with disabilities

Achieving for Children requires all organisations commissioned to provide short breaks, to consult regularly with children and young people with disabilities to ensure the services they are providing meet the very highest of standards.

The Participation and Engagement Team for children and young people with disabilities meets with children and young people on an ongoing basis and regularly consults with them about the short breaks they enjoy. The participation manager is also a representative on the Short Breaks Strategic Board.

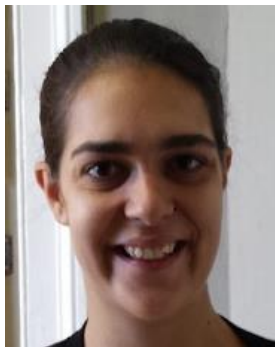


6. Getting involved

Achieving for children values the participation and involvement of children, young people and families who are in receipt of short breaks in shaping the future of service for the future. If you would like more information regarding how to get involved please contact our Participation and Engagement team. www.kr.afcinfo.org.uk/local_offer



Grace Over



Annabel Asole



The Moor Lane Centre
Moor Lane
Chessington
KT9 2AA



participationiscd@achievingforchildren.org.uk



T: 020 8547 6521
M: 07990 620707

7. What children and young people have told us

Whilst updating the Short Break Service Statement, the Participation Team for children and young people with disabilities provided us with feedback from children and young people about the activities they enjoy and activities they would like to do in the future. They told us that short breaks they enjoy included drama and dance, youth clubs, activities in the community such as visiting parks and taking part in sports.

The Participation and Engagement Team also provided us with children and young people's suggestions for improvements to the short breaks that children and young people attend. The suggestions included installing wireless internet at the Moor Lane Centre, more swimming and horse riding opportunities across Kingston and Richmond.



8. How we listen to the views of parents and carers

Achieving for Children values the views and opinions of parents and carers to help shape services for children and young people with disabilities. Parent and carers are consulted regularly about the types of short breaks their children enjoy. Feedback from parents and carers is also requested on a quarterly basis from commissioned short breaks which is presented to the Short Break Strategic Board for review.

Parent panels and support groups across Kingston and Richmond have provided valuable feedback from parents and carers with varied experiences that help to inform how we can best meet their children's and young people's requirements. We will continue to request feedback in this way in the future. In line with data protection and privacy laws, we have also developed a contact list of our service users. We will request feedback directly from our service users as well as from parent panels and support groups. We welcome feedback from all would like to provide it.

Parents and carers have provided us with feedback on a range of short breaks including specialist groups, youth clubs, holiday clubs and activities in mainstream settings.



9. How we ensure the short breaks are safe

We take the safety of children and young people with disabilities seriously and ensure that any short break activity provided undergo the appropriate checks.

- All staff undergo Disclosure and Barring Service 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 Kingston and Richmond boroughs' and Achieving for Children's safeguarding procedure
- Home and Community Support is registered as a Domiciliary Care Agency with the Care Quality Commission and has to comply with the National Minimum Standards for Domiciliary Care published by the Secretary of State under the Care Standards Act 2000. The service is inspected regularly by the Care Quality Commission
- 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 the Kingston and Richmond boroughs' and Achieving for Children's Data Protection Policy
- Training is offered and advised to all providers and there is an opportunity for more specialist training to meet the needs of the children and young person with varying disabilities. Providers also have access to the workforce development training supplied by Achieving for Children. This can be applied for online via www.afccpdonline.co.uk/cpd/portal.asp



10. How we review AfC short breaks

The Short Breaks Services Statement is reviewed as required. However, we monitor the services during the course of the year which informs the review itself:

- The Inclusion Officers personally visit the mainstream settings where AfC have funded one-to-one support workers to ensure inclusion of children and young people with disabilities
- Consultation with parents, carers, children and young people, the participation officer for children and young people with disabilities
- Quarterly feedback from families accessing the commissioned short break services
- Quarterly feedback from the commissioned providers



Appendix A: Eligibility criteria for Integrated Service for Children with Disabilities social care teams

Introduction

The Children's Act 1989 places a duty on children's services to provide or coordinate the provision of services to all disabled children. The overall provision of these services is a responsibility across children's services, and associated health and voluntary sector services. All the Disabled Children's Teams provide specialist services to a defined group and at times this may include support to access, care or short breaks provisions if needed.

This document details the eligibility of a child or young person for support and services from the Integrated Service for Children with Disabilities Social Care Teams. The framework for the assessment of children will be used to gather information to determine if the threshold for the teams are met or not, and will identify the level and type of resource provision needed. For some children these resources will fall outside the criteria of the teams. This includes children without permanent and substantial disabilities at a severe to profound level.

The definitions of permanent and substantial are as follows.

- **Substantial** means considerable or significant factors that are life changing or limiting, and might include issues to do with risk and dependency.
- **Permanent** means existing indefinitely and not expected to improve. However there must be sufficient flexibility to take account of intermittent or episodic conditions.

The Disabled Children's Teams comprise of social workers, family support workers, transition workers and social care occupational therapists. This eligibility criteria applies to children who have social care and/or occupational therapy needs relating to their permanent and substantial disability.

Eligibility criteria for the Children with Disabilities Teams

Children from birth to 18 years of age who have a permanent and substantial severe or profound disability (Levels 3 and 4) who live in the Kingston or Richmond boroughs meet the eligibility criteria for the Disabled Children's Teams. The following table outlines and defines the factors taken into consideration when making a decision regarding eligibility.

To qualify for support from the Integrated Children with Disabilities Team, the child must meet the requirements in the profound or severe labelled columns in at least two of the dimensions, for example, in health and communication or self-care and safety.

Disability	Meets criteria for specialist provision		Meets criteria for inclusive provision (Inclusive provision)	
	Profound	Severe	Moderate	Mild
Health	<p>Complex health needs prevents participation in social and educational activities without constant 24 hour minimum of one-to-one specialist support</p> <p>Condition is unable to be controlled by medication</p>	<p>Requires daily specialist medical or nursing care</p> <p>Regular admissions to hospital for treatment</p> <p>Daily use of specialist equipment that needs operational assistance</p> <p>Life limiting condition</p> <p>Requires intensive therapy programme</p> <p>Health needs have a significant impact on development and learning</p>	<p>Regular nursing care and support (more than once or twice weekly)</p> <p>Uses specialist equipment that needs operational assistance</p> <p>A planned programme of therapy required with the disability</p> <p>Complex daily medication</p> <p>Unstable health which impacts adversely on child and/or family</p> <p>Health needs limit ability to perform everyday tasks</p>	<p>Requires no or minimal nursing care or support</p> <p>Routine medical checks only</p> <p>Nil or minimal treatment or medication</p> <p>No or little therapy involved with disability</p> <p>Uses specialist equipment that does not require operational assistance</p> <p>Known health condition which is under control and only occasionally interfering with everyday activities in a minor way</p>
Education	<p>Child has profound learning difficulties</p> <p>Attends educational provision for children with Profound Learning Difficulties</p> <p>Follows P levels of the curriculum</p>	<p>Child has a severe learning difficulties</p> <p>Attends educational provision for children with severe learning difficulties</p> <p>Follows P levels of the curriculum</p>	<p>Attends educational provision with one-to-one support some of the time or a specialist provision not for profound or severe learning difficulties</p> <p>Assessment shows abilities will achieve less than 70% of the expected attainment for age</p>	<p>Attends mainstream school or pre-school with or without support</p> <p>Assessment shows abilities will achieve within 70 to 80% of the expected attainment for age</p>

Communication	<p>No verbal communication</p> <p>Unable to communicate needs using any method</p> <p>Unable to use communication aid</p> <p>Severely delayed processing skills</p>	<p>None or very little communication used but can communicate at least basic needs using any method</p> <p>Significantly delayed processing skills</p>	<p>Delayed or disorder communication including language disorders causing significant difficulty in communicating outside the home.</p> <p>Reduced ability to understand and process information in comparison to peers</p>	<p>Marked delay in language development</p> <p>Requires minimal support to communicate</p> <p>Able to use signing or other communication method consistently</p>
Behaviour associated with the disability	<p>Profound challenging behaviour which impacts on all aspects of the child functioning and child poses a severe risk to self or others</p> <p>Requires constant monitoring, supervision and a structured programme for managing behaviour overseen by specialist services</p> <p>Frequent behaviour that may be of risk to the child or carers</p> <p>No awareness of impact of behaviour on others</p>	<p>Behaviour demonstrates significant risk to self or others</p> <p>Requires monitoring, supervision and a structured programme for managing behaviour overseen by specialist services</p> <p>Challenging behaviour which impact significantly on community life and requires specialist provision to function socially or educationally</p>	<p>Behaviour demonstrates moderate risk to self or others</p> <p>Requires monitoring or supervision in some circumstances</p> <p>Input required to manage behaviour</p> <p>Has difficulties in relating to peers</p> <p>Behavioural or management difficulties which may require specialist advice</p>	<p>Behaviour does not demonstrate risk to self or others</p> <p>Need for monitoring or supervision appropriate for age</p> <p>Minor difficulties in relationships with parents, peers or others</p> <p>Behaviour that be difficult to manage at times</p> <p>And can be managed without special provision</p>

Family and Social Relationships	Inability to build and maintain friendships and relationships without constant support with all aspects	Limited ability to build and maintain friendships without significant support with all aspects Total dependence on carer for social integration Very limited awareness of impact of behaviour upon others	Difficulty building and maintaining friendships and relationships without support	Able to sustain limited peer relationships and social integration with support
Self-care	Fully dependent on others for all personal care (eating, drinking, toileting and washing) Needs physical support with all personal care Requires specialist equipment to support all their care needs	Needs physical assistance with personal care Needs a high level of supervision with all personal care (eating, drinking, toileting and washing)	Requires some prompts and supervision greater than that expected for developmental age	Independent in majority of personal care activities Requires occasional supervision beyond that expected for that age
Safety	Needs constant supervision both during the day and night Doesn't have any awareness of danger to self or others	Needs constant supervision during the day Would place themselves or others at risk without supervision No awareness of danger to self or others	Needs some supervision at times Limited perception of danger to self or others	Occasionally requires more supervision than children of the same age Some awareness of danger to self or others
Mobility	Unable to walk Uses a wheelchair Totally dependent upon carer for mobility	Unable to walk May be able to stand or transfer with support Able to manoeuvre self at least some of the time	Walks, but only with aids or assistance May use wheelchair for intermittent use	Able to walk and function independently but with some limitation of function

Children under the age of 5 years	<p>Child requires significantly greater care and attention because of the profound nature of health or learning condition</p> <p>Significant failure to reach developmental milestones</p>	Child is functioning around half the level expected for age	Child is functioning around two thirds the level expected for age	Child is functioning slightly behind the level expected for the age
Visual Impairment	<p>Mobility restricted without special provision</p> <p>Requires education by non-sighted method</p> <p>Eligible for registration as blind</p>	<p>Mobility restricted without special provision</p> <p>Unable to read large print without intensive educational assistance or aids</p> <p>Severe visual field defect with impaired visual acuity</p> <p>Eligible for registration as blind or partially sighted</p>	<p>Able to read print with simple aids or assistance</p> <p>Defect of at least half visual field</p> <p>May be eligible for registration as partially sighted</p>	<p>Severe or profound problem with one eye</p> <p>Less than half visual field loss</p> <p>Able to function independently</p>
Hearing Impairment	Total or near total loss of hearing (>95dB)	Severe hearing loss (71-95Db)	<p>Significant hearing loss but able to function with a hearing aid</p> <p>Hearing loss 41-70dB</p>	<p>Severe or profound hearing loss in one ear</p> <p>Moderate hearing loss (20-40dB)</p>

Children who are not included in the eligibility criteria

- A disability or disabilities that is not permanent and substantial.
- Social, emotional and behavioural difficulties due to social or environmental factors such as the behaviour is not associated with a disability.
- A diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) unless in conjunction with an additional severe to profound learning, physical or communication disability.
- Children with mental health disorders unless in conjunction with a severe to profound level of learning, physical or communication disability.
- Children who have a health condition unless in conjunction with a severe to profound level of learning, physical or communication disability.

Case responsibility and management

Taking into consideration all available information a decision would be made by the Integrated Children with Disabilities Team Manager in conjunction with the Single Point of Access Manager as to whether the child meets the eligibility criteria.

If the eligibility criteria is met or likely to be met, then an assessment will be undertaken by the Integrated Children with Disabilities Team. Once the child's needs have been assessed by a social worker, a decision will be made as to the most appropriate team to support the child and their family, such as the Children with Disabilities Social Care Team, the disability specialist Transition and Family Support Team or the Occupational Therapy Team. If eligibility is not met and there is an identified need for support, the child will be transferred via a transfer meeting to a non-disability specialist team.

A child will remain open to the statutory Children with Disabilities Social Care Teams if there are safeguarding concerns, complex needs or they receive a package of support that includes more than two nights a month of short break care.

The Disabled Children's Teams will provide a fully integrated service and undertake all statutory and/or safeguarding responsibilities including Section 47 child protection procedures.

When the assessment identifies the need for services from the Disabled Children's Team, these services will be put in place and a review will be undertaken every six months to determine if the eligibility criteria continue to be met and if services are meeting assessed needs.

Children who have an allocated social worker will be visited every six weeks and more frequently if this is deemed necessary by the social worker and team manager. These visits will be undertaken at home and in other settings which the child attends.

Appendix B: Questions and answers about direct payments

What are direct payments (DPs)?

A direct payment is a payment given to a parent or carer by Achieving for Children (AfC) so that they can arrange and pay for support for a child or young person who is eligible for a service from the Disabled Children's Social Care Team or Family Support Team.

How can I apply for DPs?

The need, level of support and the number of hours support each week, will be assessed by a social worker or family support worker and presented to the Short Breaks Funding Panel. If agreed, the Short Breaks Team contact Kingston Centre for Independent living (KCIL) who will help parents set up the direct payments (DPs).

What can KCIL help me with?

- Employment of a personal assistant (PA)
- Providing and signposting to training for employers and PAs
- Contracts of employment
- Setting up a bank account
- Insurance
- Payroll
- Pension, if relevant
- Support with completion of the monitoring form for AfC
- Timesheets for the PA
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

What do I need to do set up DPs?

- Sign a direct payment agreement between Achieving for Children, KCIL and yourself
- Set up a designated bank account for the money to go into
- Employ a PA to support your child
- Comply with current employment, health and safety and equal opportunities legislation which KCIL will help you with
- Ensure the PA has a DBS check that contains no information that would prohibit them working with children and young people
- Record the hours worked by the PA each week
- Facilitate the payment to the PA for hours worked. The parent or carer should discuss with the PA how often the PA will be paid and an agreement reached on whether you will pay weekly or monthly
- Regularly (either monthly but no longer than quarterly) complete the monitoring forms and submit them to KCIL

Does AfC review my DPs?

The level of support will be reviewed annually to assess if the care package continues to meet your child's needs. If your child's needs alter before the review takes place, please contact your child's social worker or family support worker.

Why do I need a separate bank account?

When monitoring the direct payment, KCIL will need to see the transactions in and out of the account. If they are looking at a personal account, there will be other transactions not linked to the support of your child.

How do I find a PA for my child?

Some people have a friend of the family in mind before they ask for DPs. KCIL will inform you about the PA Finder, or contact your child's school as many teaching assistants are happy to work with the children out of school hours. There are voluntary sector organisations that may also be able to help find a suitable PA for you such as RUILS, Kingston and Richmond Crossroads Care.

Does the person I want to employ as my child's PA need previous experience with working with children with disability?

No, they don't. However, it is helpful for the PA to have had some experience.

I have known my PA for years. Why do I need a DBS?

To safeguard yourself and your child we ask that anyone working with children have a DBS check carried out.

Training for your PA

There is training available from the Kingston and Richmond Local Children's Safeguarding Board: www.kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk as well as from AfC Workforce Development Team: www.afccpdonline.co.uk. A charge may be requested for some courses

As an employer, do I need to pay for a pension for my child's PA?

If your child's PA will earn over £10,000 a year you, as their employer, need to register on the Pensions Regulatory website: www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk. If the PA does not want a pension, you are still required to register on the website to notify them that your employee does not want a pension.

If your PA would like a pension, KCIL will support you through the process. They are recommending the Government's pension scheme called National Employers Savings Trust (NEST), but you can choose another pension scheme if you wish.

Who cannot be employed to care and support my child?

The Care and Support Regulations 2014 states the direct payment cannot be used to employ any person living in the same household as the person, who is the person's:

- parent
- brother or sister
- stepbrother or stepsister
- aunt or uncle
- grandparent

When will I get the money?

The payments are made each month and will be in your bank account on or before the first of the month. The money is paid in advance for the coming month. Payments are calculated over a 12 month period. If additional funds are agreed for school holidays these will be averaged throughout the year.

How much is the direct payment?

The value of the DP will be no more than it would cost AfC to deliver the same level of support. Parents or carers will be expected to cover all the costs of the support with the DP including the employer costs. AfC will pay for the public liability insurance and if you decide to use KCIL's payroll to pay your PA, a monthly payroll fee too. This is on top of the hourly DP rate. Achieving for Children will also help by carrying out a DBS check for the proposed PA.

Please note that if your PA leaves your employment within 12 months, you will be responsible for paying the DBS check for the new PA as AfC will only pay for one DBS check a year.

What if the hourly rate for the PA is more than the DP hourly rate?

You can still employ the PA, but you will need to top up the hourly rate yourself.

What can I use the DP for?

The DPs are for a short break for your child.

- They can be used to employ a PA to take your child into the community, or for support within the home as assessed by the social worker or family support worker
- In exceptional circumstances, the Short Break Funding Panel may consider agreeing for DPs to be used for sessions at non AfC run after school clubs or holiday groups.

What can't DPs be used to pay for?

- You cannot use the DPs to purchase services from Achieving for Children, such as Moor Lane Centre or Crofters after school club or holiday groups.
- You cannot use DPs towards permanent residential care.

- You cannot use DPs for health care services such as speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy

What happens if I don't use some or all of the DP money?

When monitoring your account, KCIL will inform AfC of any excess money in the account. The social worker or family support worker will contact you to discuss this and a plan will be put in place which may include putting your payments on hold for a set amount of time or for the excess money to be returned.

What happens if I forget to send the monitoring forms to KCIL?

KCIL will inform AfC if they have not received any completed forms from you at the end of the quarter (every three months). AfC will contact you to find out the reason why and to offer support if needed. If the forms continue not to be completed and returned, AfC may put your payments on hold until the monitoring forms have been received.

Glossary of Terms

Commissioned – ordered and purchased for service users.

Complex needs – multiple additional needs and/ or disabilities.

Consultation – formal discussion to obtain views and ideas of relevant people.

Direct payments – payments made in lieu of services being provided. Direct Payments may be available for health care, social care and for the special educational provision in an EHC plan.

Disclosure and barring service check – criminal record check.

Eligibility – being able to obtain services by meeting the appropriate conditions.

Engagement – participation in an activity, community or process.

Equitable access – fair and impartial opportunities.

Inclusion – being included and valued within an activity, community or process.

Local authority – A local authority in England.

Local Offer - the local authority's publication of all the provision “they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have special educational needs and/ or disabilities.

Mainstream activities – social or leisure activities designed to be accessed by all children and young people.

One-to-one support – support from another person at a ratio of one person to another person.

Participation – engagement with children and young people ensuring their thoughts and views are heard and seen.

Quarterly – every three months of the year, beginning with 1 April.

Short break – social or leisure activity, either mainstream activities or specialist activities.

Specialist activities – social or leisure activities designed to be accessed by children and young people who have more complex needs which may not be able to be met in a mainstream setting.