

Welcome to Short Breaks

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Welcome to the Short Breaks Team

This presentation aims to:

- Provide you with an understanding about Barnet's Short Breaks
- Inform you how we have been responding to COVID
- Provide you with information about some of our plans for the future

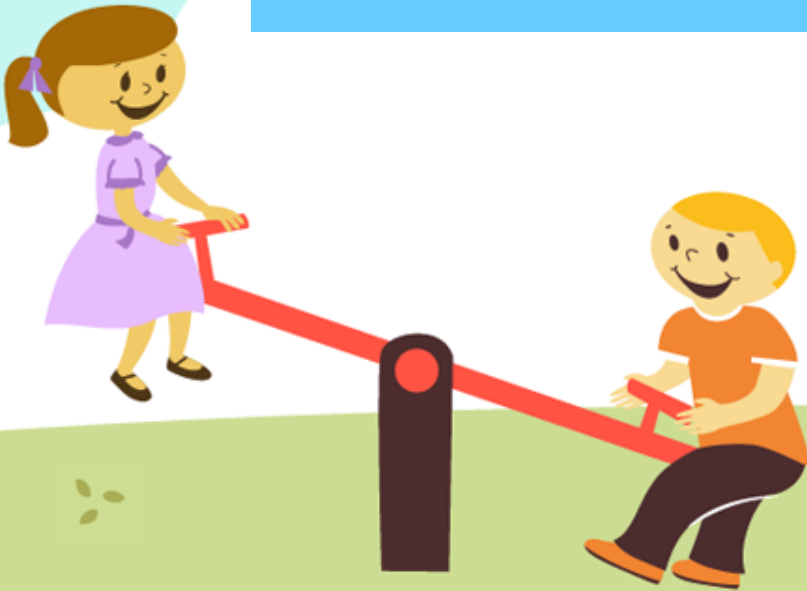


What is Short Break?

Short Breaks is any service or assistance provided to enable parents & carers to have a break from caring

It also gives children/young people the opportunity to have fun outside of their home life and develop independence

The aim of Short Breaks is to provide a support package which takes into consideration the needs of the child, parent, carers and their families



What is the eligibility criteria for Barnet's Short Breaks?

- Children and young people up until their 19th Birthday who have a disability
- Children who have a Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- Be in receipt of Disability Allowance: Middle or High Rate

Children must also fall under one of the following Groups

- A .** Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Condition
- B .** Children and Young people who have complex health needs i.e. cognitive and sensory impairments or life limiting conditions resulting in a disability



Our Short Break Offer

- 15 days Short Break or 90 hours to be used with a Barnet approved provider

OR

- £1200 Personal Budget (offering the families flexibility via a prepaid card to choose their service providers)
- Currently we have **606** children in Barnet who receive a service from the Short Breaks team

2020-2021	In receipt of Short Break	In receipt Personal Budget
No of Children	253	353



During March 2020 – Many of our service providers ceased providing Face to Face services as a result to Government guidance to COVID

Our response to Covid was to;

- Try to support families, particularly those who were isolating at home through telephone calls
- Update our website as to what services remained open or were offering virtual support where possible
- Updates sent to parents and communication passed to some families who have social workers, as well as the Parent Carer Forum
- Accept requests to change from Short Breaks to Personal Budgets so that parents had more flexibility
- Offer families the flexibility of using £150 from their Personal budget to purchase leisure, play or educational toys or equipment due to the challenges some families faced during lock down



Personal Budgets – Update

Transfer from Wire Card to Prepaid Finance System

- At the end of June a communication was sent via email to all families advising them that on Friday 26th June, Family Services were notified that all services under Wire card Card Solutions Limited had been suspended
- The suspension was part of restrictions placed on Wire card by the Financial Conduct Authority. The suspension lasted one week
- Families were also advised in December 2019 that Family Services were already in the process of moving to a new provider. The new PFS card service was piloted with Adults Social Care at the end of last year and has been working very well
- We sent a further communication to advise that any families requesting funds will get those loaded onto their current Wire card, which they can access until **30th December 2020**
- The cut of date for loading the current Wire card was 21st October
- Families have been advised to use the money already loaded onto your cards, otherwise it will be a lengthy process getting the money back which will be the families responsibility



Moving Forward

- We have ordered PFS Cards for Children who have a personal budget
- Please activate your PFS cards as soon as it is received or else you won't be able to use it
- After 31st December 2020 we have been advised that that your access to Wire Card will cease
- As from 1st January we will be using PFS. Our aim will be to send you these cards by 21st December 2020, so that you can begin using them in January 2021
- Any funds you are still entitled to under your allocated personal budget will be loaded onto your new PFS card



Short Breaks Update

- October 2020 Short Break Support

Over the last 9 months all of our providers have worked really hard and in partnership with us to deliver Short Break services

The following providers were able to deliver short break services in the October Half term :

- **Community Focus**
 - Noah's Ark
 - Action for Kids
- **Resource for Autism**
 - IPOP
- **Barnet Mencap**
- **Comfort Zone**



Thank You!
You have made my
day!

Thank You!
This will be a huge
support to our son
and family!

Some of our feedback from Families:

I'm really grateful for
this flexibility!

I'm not sure you
realise just how much
this will help!



On behalf of the Short Breaks Team

Carla Visone, Marina Castellano and I, would like to thank you
all for your patience over the last 9 months

We hope you all continue to enjoy the services provided
through short breaks and continue to stay safe

Thank You



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