Short Breaks

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Short Breaks for Doncaster families

We're here to help

Please visit the website:
www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/short-breaks
for further details of our Short Break offer, including our Short Breaks Offer Statement and other helpful information.

You can also contact the Short Breaks team direct on:
shortbreaksteam@doncaster.gov.uk / 01302 736250

Doncaster Council



What is the Short Breaks service?

The Short Breaks service provides children and young people with a diagnosed disability opportunities to:

- ✔ take part in family or community-based activities
- ✔ make new friends
- ✔ gain independence
- ✔ broaden their horizons

The service also provides a valuable support to families, by either providing a break from caring whilst being reassured that their child is safe and enjoying new and positive experiences, or by facilitating activities/opportunities for families and their children to enjoy together.

Short Breaks can last from a few hours to a few days – during the day or evening; overnight or at weekends. They can take place in the home, a carer's home, residential setting or elsewhere in the community.

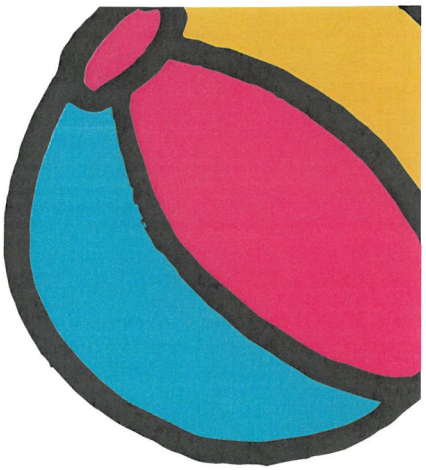
Short Breaks may be used to fund and/or support learning and/or leisure activities, and services to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.

The level of service we are able to offer will depend on the individual needs of each child or young person. We organise Short Breaks into our 'Local Offer' (services available for all disabled children and young people) and our more targeted and specialist offer for those disabled children and young people who have additional needs which can't be met through the Local Offer alone.

Our services were developed in partnership with children and young people, parents and carers, and local service providers, and we will continue to grow and shape our offer with local communities.







The Local Offer

There are services available to support all children and young people with complex needs in Doncaster. This is known as the 'Local Offer'.

To access the Local Offer, families do not need to have an assessment, but must be registered with 'Together Information Exchange' (TIE), which is Doncaster's voluntary register of children and young people with a disability. Families who register with TIE receive:

- ✔ Access to afterschool and weekend clubs
- ✔ The school holiday activity timetable and the ability to book places
- ✔ A free TIE membership card to receive discounts at various places including Yorkshire Wildlife Park, The Dome Leisure Centre, Vue Cinema and many more
- ✔ Regular information and updates about events and activities taking place

Please visit **www.doncaster.gov.uk/TIE** for further information or contact **TIE@doncaster.gov.uk** or call 01302 735237

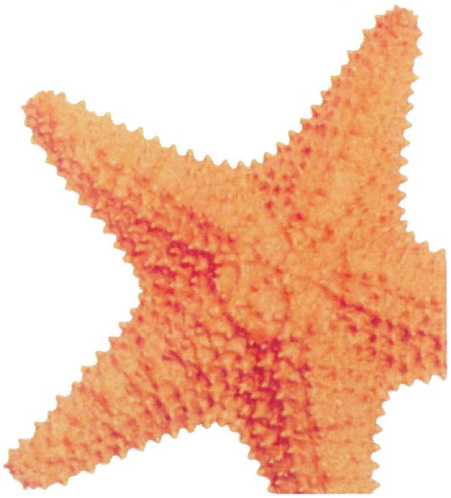
Short Breaks Criteria

Our Short Breaks service is for children and young people from 0-18 years old who:

- ✔ Have a diagnosed disability or SEN needs
- ✔ Have SEN support
- ✔ Has needs that can't be met by the Local Offer alone
- ✔ Receive middle or high rate Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
- ✔ Has an unmet need identified through an Early Help Assessment (EHA) or Social Care Child and Family Assessment (C&F), as in need of Short Break support

Please note that all of the above criteria must be met. A child who is in foster care, under special guardianship, or residing full-time in a residential school is not eligible for Short Breaks.

If you think your child may be eligible for a Short Breaks Assessment, contact our Early Help Hub on 01302 734110.



Eligibility for Short Breaks

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1. If you think your child may be eligible for a Short Breaks Assessment, contact the Early Help Hub on 01302 743110. They will ask you some initial questions to understand yours and your family's current situation. This is called an "Early Help Assessment". This may lead to a referral to the Short Breaks team.

2. You will be invited to meet with a Short Breaks Assessment Officer (usually at your home) to discuss your child's needs further, and for a "Short Breaks Needs Based Assessment" to take place. You will have the opportunity to put your views forward on what support your child needs and this will be taken into account at all stages in the decision making process.

3. The information gathered from the assessment will be shared with the SEND Short Breaks Panel, who will look at your child's individual circumstances and determine what support can be offered.

You will be notified of the decision in writing after the panel meeting, and what options you have next.

If you ARE granted Short Breaks support:

Details of what we are able to offer, based on the needs of your child, will be explained to you by a Short Breaks Assessment Officer. There are two options for you to consider:

1. Taking a direct payment to enable you to purchase appropriate services for your child directly
2. Instructing the Doncaster Council to appoint a provider of suitable services for your child on your behalf

If you are NOT granted Short Breaks support:

We understand that this can be a disappointment and we will give you a reason for why Short Breaks support wasn't offered on this occasion.

If you disagree with the decision made, you can write to the Short Breaks Lead who will present your views to the panel. If you disagree with the panel decision you may make a complaint through the Doncaster Council complaints procedure.





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Short Breaks Funding Information for Families

What is Short Breaks Funding?

Short Breaks funding is available to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and their families, where additional support has been identified as necessary.

Approval is based on specific eligibility criteria and evidence that other available services have been explored first.

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for Short Breaks support, the following requirements must be met:

1. Special Educational Needs and/or Disability

The child or young person must have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

This applies whether or not they have:

- A SEN Support Plan, or
- An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

In addition, Local Offer activities should have been explored and considered. Short Breaks funding is intended for children and young people whose needs cannot be adequately met through available Local Offer activities or where those activities are not easily accessible due to their individual needs.

2. Accessing Local Offer and TIE Activities

Before a Short Breaks application can be progressed, there is an expectation that families will have accessed:

- Local Offer activities, and
- TIE (Together Inclusive Everyone) activities.

These activities are funded by the Council and provide a range of opportunities that many children and young people may enjoy and benefit from.

https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/local-offer-things-to-do-places-to-go

https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/together-information-exchange

Short Breaks produces an activity timetable for every school holiday to offer extra support to parents and carers. The timetable includes a variety of activities such as arts and crafts and sports sessions as well as family activities such as ice skating. The timetable is published on the TIE webpage and shared on the Local Offer Facebook page. It is also emailed to all TIE members (where an email address is available).

Short Breaks also fund a weekly 'Shine Club' which currently takes place on a Wednesday. This is a safe place to meet friends, learn new skills and have fun! Find out more on our Local Offer Activities page.

3. Disability Benefits

The child or young person should be in receipt of:

- Middle Rate or High Rate Disability Living Allowance (DLA), or
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for at least one component (either Daily Living/Care or Mobility).

4. Assessment of Family Needs

The needs of the child or young person and their family must have been assessed by a named Lead Professional through either:

- A Family Help Assessment, or
- A Social Care Child and Family Assessment (C&F).

The assessment must identify a need for targeted Short Breaks support.

Important Information

Applications submitted without the evidence outlined above are unlikely to be approved and may be returned for further information.

Families are encouraged to ensure all eligibility requirements have been met before applying.

How to Apply

If you would like further information regarding Short Breaks, please contact:

Cheryl Wallace - Short Breaks Lead

- **Tel:** 01302 737448
- **Email:** CWB@doncaster.gov.uk
- Parents can self-refer by calling 01302 734110

If you are unsure whether you meet the criteria, please speak with your Lead Professional, Family Help Worker or Social Worker for advice before submitting an application.

Please note: Meeting the eligibility criteria does not automatically guarantee approval. All applications are considered individually based on assessed need and available supporting evidence.