Derwen

Tîm Integredig Plant Anabl
Integrated Team for Disabled Children

Short Break Statement for Disabled Children and their Families in Gwynedd

CYNGOR GWYNEDD COUNCIL

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

BACKGROUND

Following the introduction of the Children and Young People Act 2008 local authorities are required to provide Short Breaks for disabled children. To this end relevant Regulations were introduced on 28 June 2012 noting that every authority in Wales should introduce a Short Break Statement by 27 September 2012 in order to provide families with information on the services that are available. The period between submitting the Regulations and the date of their publication was short and therefore it had not been possible to hold sufficient consultations with disabled children or their families. Firstly, we intend to submit this document and then follow up with a consultation with families and to review it as required.

WHAT IS THE PUPOSE OF A SHORT BREAK?

The purpose of a Short Break provision is to give families an opportunity to do what they would like to do without their disabled son or daughter. This could mean simple tasks such as grocery shopping or going out with the other children, a free weekend to enable families to catch up on their sleep, or to attend a special occasion.

As part of the Short Break the disabled child gains experiences such as taking part in leisure activities, attending groups or group activities or a night away from home.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A SHORT BREAK?

Children are eligible to receive a Short Break in Gwynedd if they reach the threshold of Derwen – Integrated Team for Disabled Children, and that the assessments of the children and their families identifies their need for service.

Derwen works with disabled children who have:	**Derwen does not offer a service to children:-**
Current needs where the team can be of assistance.	Where a disabled child's needs are currently being met.
Illness or a mental health condition in addition to a disability.	With illness or mental health condition but who are not disabled.
Several significant developmental delays or severe delay to assess further.	Where there is a mild delay in an area of development e.g. speech and language or toileting.
Behavioural problems as well as significant developmental delay.	With behavioural problems where there is no significant developmental delay.
Significant sensory impairment e.g. hearing/sight which affects the child's ability to experience a full life.	With sensory impairment e.g. hearing/sight which has been dealt with successfully.
A disability or significant developmental delay where mainstream services are unable to meet their specialist needs.	Who have developmental delay and/or disability but where mainstream services meet their needs.
ADHD as well as a disability or significant developmental delay.	With ADHD but who are not disabled or have significant developmental delay.
A professional from another team who needs specialist assistance from Derwen to jointly assess or offer intervention.	Where the work of another team (e.g. the child protection investigation) is the primary focus and there is no need for further disability specialist assessment/intervention.

HOW TO DETERMINE THE NEED?

Short Break provision can be addressed under different levels, such as level 1 which is a general or preventative provision, level 2 where a service has been targeted and level 3 where there are complex and intense needs.

LEVEL	ASSESSMENT / ACCESS TO SERVICE	EXAMPLE OF SERVICES
1	Self-referral services without a needs assessment.	Breakfast or after-school clubs, the Urdd, Leisure Centre clubs or activities.
2	An initial assessment is required for Derwen and then a referral for service through one of the team's staff members, based on the assessment.	Specialist groups for disabled children and young people, Summer Activities, Holiday Activities, support to attend general services, Family Celebration Days.
3	Core assessment required and possibly an inclusive Short Break assessment by a member of the Derwen Team. As a result an application by the professional worker to the resources panel.	1 to 1 services, Direct Payments, Continuing Care package, overnight Short Break with Foster Carers.

EXAMPLES OF SHORT BREAK SERVICES IN GWYNEDD

Overnight Short Break provisions away from home are currently scarce in Gwynedd but there is a joint plan with the Education Department to develop a new specialist school in the south of the County with a residential Short Break provision attached to the school in the future.

In order to seek to respond to this shortage, Support Services have been developed as the main Short Break service within the County.

TYPE OF SERVICE	EXAMPLES OF SHORT BREAKS
Support to attend mainstream services	Support Worker offering support to a disabled child / young person to attend the Urdd / Brownies / Youth Club as required.
Sports groups / clubs	Special groups arranged by a Disability Sport Development Officer or access to general sports clubs.
Certain Youth Clubs for children over 8 years of age	Clubs specifically for disabled children and young people aged between 8 and 18 years old to meet friends and have a variety of activities such as:- ➢ Art ➢ Cookery ➢ Sports ➢ Trampolining. Youth club for young people aged 14 to 18 years old in order to develop skills such as:- ➢ Handling Money ➢ Travelling independently ➢ Cookery ➢ Telling the time
Holiday Activities	Group Activities for children and young people over 8 in Arfon and Dwyfor/ Meirionnydd during the school holidays which offer a number of various activities and trips.

Summer Holiday Activities for children and young people over 8 years of age with profound health needs	Activities in Ysgol Pendalar that are provided jointly with the staff of the Health Board.
Family Celebration Days	Days for all the family to enjoy many activities with other families. This is valuable in terms of meeting other brothers/sisters and parents of disabled children.
1 to 1 service	Specified hours of 1 to 1 or 2 to 1 service in some circumstances to give a disabled child of all ages the opportunity to enjoy specified activities and for their families to be given the opportunity to take part in activities that cannot be fulfilled with the disabled child / young person.
Direct Payments	The same as the 1 to 1 service but that this is a way for families to arrange and manage their own service within the specific budget.
Continuing Care Package	Care packages that are provided by the Health Board staff for children with profound medical needs in their home but are funded jointly between Derwen and the Health Board.
Overnight Short Break in the home	In some circumstances an overnight support service can be provided in a child's home to enable parents to get a night's sleep away from the home.
Short Break with foster carers	This provision is scarce in Gwynedd but around 48 hours are provided every 7-8 weeks with carers employed by 'Amser Ni' through a service level agreement with Barnardo's Cymru. A service is also provided by local authority foster carers.

Hospice	Hope House – a hospice that offers a Short Break for children with a terminal illness across North Wales.

TRANSPORT TO ANY PROVISION

Parents / carers will usually transport their children to any activity or overnight Short Break. Where parents have a real difficulty to do this they can contact Derwen to discuss how to overcome this.

INFORMATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A CD of digital stories is available to borrow for disabled children and young people who are referred to the Support Services for the first time with examples of the experiences of other children included for them to see and hear.

There is also a booklet of pictures on the 'Amser Ni' scheme available.

For every child that stays overnight with foster carers the review procedure for children in accommodation is implemented with statutory reviews every six months which includes the foster carer and the parent, and the child or young person if they wish.

A service level agreement with Carers Outreach also provides an opportunity to feed any observations back for the service to act upon where possible.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Every effort is made to ensure the quality of our provision and we invite observations from disabled children or young people and their parents / carers at any time.

Questionnaires are always provided to ask for opinions on the holiday activities and the Family Celebration Days.

COMMENTS FROM PARENTS / CARERS AND STAFF

Short Break

"It's an absolute life-saver for me and the family. I would have had a breakdown without it. It's made a big, big difference to us".

"Nes i ymweld â ---------- ddoe ac o'n i'n holi sut roedd pethau'n mynd o ran Gwasanaethau Cefnogol. Dywedodd ei bod yn hapus iawn efo'r gwasanaeth a'i bod yn gwerthfawrogi'r ffaith eu bod wedi derbyn rhaglen am ddarpariaeth y gwyliau, galwadau ffôn yn achlysurol er mwyn holi sut mae'r gwasanaeth yn mynd, a'ch bod yn darparu 'cover' os nad yw'r Gweithiwr Cefnogol arferol ar gael. 'Dwi'n gwbod pa mor ddibynnol ar y ddarpariaeth mae'r teulu yma a dwi erioed wedi clywed hi'n siarad mor bositif am y gwasanaeth." (Comment by a Social Worker).

Celebrating Families Days

"Bore ardderchog, wedi mwynhau cwrdd â phawb."
"Seeing my daughter enjoying bouncy castle, bubbles and face painting."
"Y wybodaeth a'r trefniadaeth wedi bod yn ardderchog."
"I don't think it needs improving."
"Staff yn gyfeillgar a chefnogol drwy'r bore.".
"We currently receive no services by choice. But feel it's important that these activity fun days are held to allow children and parents the opportunity to meet and socialise".
"Diolch am y gwahoddiad a'r gweithgareddau".

Groups

"Diolch yn fawr iawn am waith caled gwasanaethau cefnogol trwy'r flwyddyn, a bod -------- yn cael mwynhad o'r grwpiau".
"We would like more group activities in Meirionnydd."

Support Services

"The support workers do a fantastic job."
"Gormod o newid gweithwyr cefnogol – angen mwy o gysondeb."
"Sessions cancelled at short notice due to staff being unavailable."
"Pawb yn cydweithio fel tîm."

Comments By Children about the Summer Groups

"My favourite activity over the summer was dancing, playing guitar and seeing all my friends and staff."

"Rwyf wedi mwynhau yn fawr, fy hoff weithgareddau oedd Llandudno a Haven, dwi wedi mwynhau y tripiau i gyd ac roedd y staff yn neis."

"My favourite activities over the summer was going on the water slides in Haven, going tobogganing and snow tubing in Llandudno, Go-Karting in Glasfryn and painting nails in Hendre. I enjoyed the groups a lot."

"The groups were OK. I enjoyed the football it was better than school. Next time I'd like to go to Liverpool or more trips to Llandudno."

Should you wish to further discuss any aspect of this statement please contact:-
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