



One Minute Guide



What are short breaks?

Short breaks is a term used to describe a break from caring for families with young people who have special education needs and disabilities (SEND). Short breaks are fun activities for young people with SEND to spend time with their friends, build up confidence and skills in a safe environment. Young people can access short breaks without their parents or carers which in turn will allow them to have a break in their caring role.

What does the law say?

The Children and Families Act 1989 requires Local Authorities to provide services which assist carers of children and young people with SEND by providing breaks from caring. Each Local Authority has a duty to provide a range of short breaks for disabled children and young people, from birth up to their 18th birthday.

The Children Act 2014 introduced a number of changes for children and young people with SEND, including a single, graduated SEN Response Pathway and integrated Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), and requirements for each Local Authority to have a Local Offer which details up to date services and support, and to ensure the voice of children, young people, parents and carers (and their families) is at the heart of what we do.

What kind of short breaks are available?

Short breaks are categorised in three different ways

1. Universal services (US): Universal services are opportunities for all young people within Wakefield, whether or not they have SEND. The groups are community based and can be accessed through the 'Wakefield Families Together' website. They can access youth clubs, leisure centres and sport clubs.

2. Targeted short breaks (TSB): Targeted short breaks are specifically designed to meet the needs of young people with SEND. These can be accessed via the 'Wakefield Local Offer'

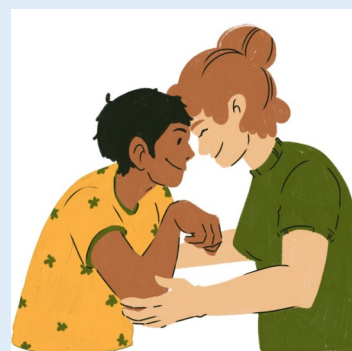
3. Specialist short breaks (SSB): SSB are services for children with complex needs where they are unable to access universal services or targeted short breaks due to their additional needs. This can be offered through a personal budget, care agency support, specialist groups and overnight respite.

What is the short break assessment team (SBAT)?

The Short Break Assessment Team (SBAT) sit within the Complex Care Needs Team and are managed by an enhanced social worker. The short breaks assessors within the team work directly with young people and their families where the young person who has complex health needs is unable to access universal or targeted short breaks to ensure they have opportunities to have their social care needs met.

The SBAT worker will complete an assessment of need of the family to determine what level of intervention is required. The assessment is completed either in person or via telephone.

n.b. Only qualified social workers are only able to assess the need for an overnight residential stay. Please refer to the one-minute guide for the Complex Care Needs Team for more information.





One Minute Guide



How to refer for a short break assessment?

Referrals to SBAT are made by parents, carers and professionals through the integrated front door (IFD). IFD will discuss referrals with whoever is making the referral to obtain further information about the young person and their family. They will often seek consent from parents / carers to share and obtain information from other professionals supporting the family.

If the Integrated Front Door do not feel that the young person's needs can be met through universal or targeted services due to their complex health needs, they will refer the case to the short break assessment team where it will be allocated to a worker in a timely manner. SBAT aim to make contact within 10 days.

Where a child is already open to a service, either Early Help or Social Care, that worker can assess and recommend a short breaks package of support if they feel this is met and eligibility criteria fulfilled. Referrals for an additional assessment solely for short breaks is not necessary. We firmly believe that parents should not have to provide the same information to multiple professionals and is in line with the "tell it once" approach.

Should an assessment result in a recommendation for a short break service this will be presented at the Short Breaks Panel. This is a multi-agency panel to determine if they are appropriate, proportionate to the needs as assessed and in line with the child's additional needs or disabilities. This package of support would be reviewed regularly to ensure the needs of the child or young person are being met.

What are the different types of specialist short breaks available?

Direct payment: The family (or a Third Party Supported Account (Agency)) will become the employer and a person (this can be a professional, friend or family member (who does not live in the same home)) to be paid to support a young person either in the family home or to access community resources.

Managed account: The local authority will identify an agency to provide a care worker to support a young person either in the family home or to access community resources. The local authority will pay the care agency directly, parents are not the employer.

Waking nights: The local authority will identify an agency to provide a care worker to provide care to the child through the night in the family home. The local authority will pay the care agency directly, parents are not the employer.

Specialist groups: the local authority will provide a place at a holiday group specialising in supporting children with SEND.

Overnight respite: The young person will spend time in a local authority residential unit cared for by local authority care staff.

Transport is not offered as part of the short break; in exceptional circumstances the local authority will consider providing transport, but parents and carers must evidence that they are unable to do this. Transport will be reviewed regularly within the Short Breaks Panel.