

# Short Breaks Statement 2022

## Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



### Introduction

This Short Breaks Statement is a guide for parents and carers of disabled children and young people aged 0-18 with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND) and their families living in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.

It explains what a Short Break is and provides information about the range of Short Break Services available and how to access the service.

The statement also contains information about how parents and carers have been consulted about the statement and the Short Breaks Services. Also, what children and young people have told us about their experiences of Short Breaks is captured. Included are useful contact details of key organisations, and ways for parents/carers and young people to have their voices heard in any future service development.

### Legal Duties

Every Council has a legal duty to provide Short Breaks, the detail of which can be found in the following legislation:

- The Short Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011
- The Children's Act 1989, Chronically Sick and Disabled Person's Act 1970
- Children Act 2004
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010, NHS Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012)
- Care Act 2014 (in relation to transition to adult social care)

## What are Short Breaks?

Short Breaks mean different things to different families and children. For some children and young people, it can mean time away from their families and carers to do fun activities during the daytime, evening, overnight and on a weekend. This could be in a registered children's home, foster placement, or a community setting such as a youth club, sports activity or specialist activity for disabled children. This time away for children and young people gives families and carers a break from the caring role knowing that their child is occupied in an activity, exploring and having the opportunity to develop interests outside of the family home.

Short Break activities for children and young people can also take place at home, in a range of provisions or in the community with their family, with or without the support of a carer.

For some families, having access to financial support is the most appropriate way to gain access to an activity that provides a Short Break. These types of Short Breaks could be through providing subscriptions to on line activities or in the community. This type of Short Break could be as a result of an assessment and allocation of a direct payment. The need could simply be time and opportunity to occupy the child or young person at home and allow the parent and carer of the young person the time to give some attention to other children in the household, to read a book or simply to have a conversation without interruption.



## Our aims for Short Breaks for children and young people:

- To give good quality services which offer positive experiences for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND)
- To offer enjoyable experiences, to help young people with their personal, social and emotional development

- We aim to make sure parents can trust in the services we provide so they can enjoy the break
- We want to enable families to have the right support when they need it so they can access Short Breaks
- We want to enable families to be able to choose between a range of services which are suitable to meet the identified needs of their child, and the family's identified need for a break from caring
- We want families to feel we listen to their views about the Short Breaks they use and that in turn we use this to change and develop services available in Stockton-on-Tees.

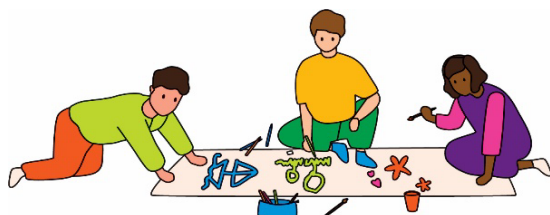


### The range of Short Breaks available from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and The Local Offer

You will find a wide range of information for families of children and young people living in Stockton-on-Tees in the 'Local Offer' [here](#). The Stockton Information Directory is a free online guide providing information and advice on a wide range of services for families in Stockton-on-Tees. Visit Stockton Information Directory by following the link [www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org](http://www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org) to find out more.



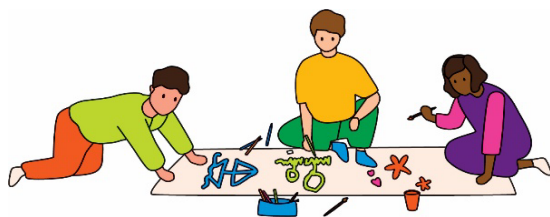
Read on for some further information about the range of Short Breaks and help available to access a Short Break.



## Universal Services

Not all services require an Assessment of Need to be carried out by a Social Worker in order to gain access and these services can be accessed directly by families. These are called 'Universal Services'. The following are some services that we think families and carers of children with disabilities and/or SEND with low level support needs may find helpful.

What is available?	Description	Where to get further information
Biscuit Ninjas at Billingham Family Hub	Board Games for children aged 8-14 yrs. Groups run from 3pm – 6.30pm every Thursday.	Billingham - <b>01642 528977</b> <a href="#">Family Hub Information</a>
Biscuit Ninjas at Thornaby Family Hub	Board Games for children aged 8-14 yrs. Groups run from 3.30pm – 5pm every Thursday.	Thornaby – <b>01642 528947</b> <a href="#">Family Hub Information</a>
Youth Drop In at Stockton Family Hub	For ages 8-12 yrs at Stockton Family Hub every Thursday 3.30pm - 5pm.	Stockton – <b>01642 524731</b> <a href="#">Family Hub Information</a>
Relax Kids	For ages 3-15yrs. Runs weekly across all Family Hubs.	Stockton – <b>01642 524731</b> Thornaby – <b>01642 528947</b> Billingham - <b>01642 528977</b> Redhill – <b>01642 524314</b> <a href="#">Family Hub Information</a>
Youth Group at Billingham Family Hub	For children aged 8-19. Runs fortnightly on a Tuesday 5.30pm – 7.30pm. Corner House Youth Club.	Billingham - <b>01642 528977</b> or Call Corner House – <b>01642 868331</b> <a href="#">Family Hub Information</a>
Performing Arts at Redhill Family Hub	MH Academy of Performing Arts. Various evening and weekend dance sessions from 3 years of age including acrobatic gymnastics, ballet, tap, modern and acro. (chargeable activities).	Contact Mark on <b>07306244369</b> for more information or to book a place <a href="#">Family Hub Information</a>
Healthy Child Programme 0 – 19 Service	Growing Healthy, Stockton-on-Tees 0-19. A Universal Service for 0-19 years. Family outreach and volunteering service.	Contact – <b>033 3202 302</b> <a href="#">Growing Healthy Stockton on Tees Information</a>



## Help and Support Services

There are also some services that are targeted and are available to families and children with disabilities and/or SEND and/or low to moderate support needs, but do not need to meet the threshold for statutory social care intervention.

These are services that could provide a Short Break or could support families with getting access to a Short Break by helping the family find the right services. These services could also provide help and support in other areas of a family’s daily life. In some circumstances the family may have an Early Help Assessment that leads onto a plan that is drawn so everyone knows what is needed and what help will be provided. Look at our **Family Hub Information** to find out more about the Family Solutions Team. The team works directly with families, children and young people on single or multiple issues from housing, debt management, behaviour, routines, boundaries, relationship difficulties and much more.

As with Universal Services, families can gain access to services directly. A wide range of information and services is available for families of children and young people with SEND. Visit the free information and services directory via **SEND Local Offer** to find out more.

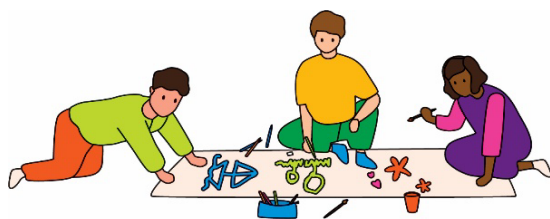
The following are some activities and offers that are more targeted to children with disabilities and/or SEND and families may find helpful.

What is available ?	Description	Where to get further information
SEND Youth Drop In	For ages 11–25 at Stockton Family Hub weekly. Wednesday 6-8pm	Stockton – <b>01642 524731</b> <a href="#">Family Hub Information</a>
The Corner House Youth Project	The Corner House Youth Project works to enable young people to have opportunities, get involved in communities, enjoy their lives and achieve their full potential.	Newtown Community Resource Centre, Stockton, TS19 0DE Tel: <b>01642 868331</b> <a href="#">The Corner House Youth Project Information</a>

Short Break Grant	The Council provides a Short Breaks Grant from a limited budget. This is provided to eligible families to spend on activities. The grant criteria has been co-produced with Stockton Parent Carer Forum (SPCF) and is reviewed with the SPCF after each grant period ends.	Admin, Short Breaks - <b>01642 526745</b> or follow the link for more information about the most up-to-date grant. <a href="#">Short Breaks Grant</a>  The grant offer has been co-produced with SPCF, you can contact them on <b>07985 245 668</b> or email: <a href="mailto:info@stocktonparentcarerforum.co.uk">info@stocktonparentcarerforum.co.uk</a>
Max Card	This is a discount card available for families and carers of children with additional needs. Families can use the Max Card at venues across the UK.	Families of disabled children and young people can purchase a Max Card from SPCF on <b>07985245668</b> or email: <a href="mailto:info@stocktonparentcarerforum.co.uk">info@stocktonparentcarerforum.co.uk</a>
Daisy Chain	Daisy Chain offers a wide range of person-centred services for neurodiverse individuals, who may identify as autistic, aged 3-18 and into adulthood.	Contact Daisy Chain on <b>01642 531248</b> or email: <a href="mailto:info@daisychainproject.co.uk">info@daisychainproject.co.uk</a>
MAIN	MAIN offers advice and services for individuals with disabilities and their families.	Contact MAIN on <b>01642 608012</b> or email: <a href="mailto:info@iammain.org.uk">info@iammain.org.uk</a>
SNAPS Goals	Fun with football between 10am – 11am, Saturdays at the Northfield Sports Drome Billingham.	Contact Ruth – <b>07745969049</b> Or <a href="#">Contact SNAPS</a>
SNAPPERS	For 0-5 yrs, 1pm – 3pm on Tuesdays at the Innovation Hub, Newtown	Contact Ruth – <b>07745969049</b> Or <a href="#">Contact SNAPS</a>
SNAPS Swimming	Exclusive Monthly Swim 4pm – 5pm at Splash, Church Road, Stockton	Contact Ruth – <b>07745969049</b> Or <a href="#">Contact SNAPS</a>
SNAPS Fuzzy Ed's	Soft Play, 6pm – 8pm at Fuzzy Eds	Contact Ruth – <b>07745969049</b> Or <a href="#">Contact SNAPS</a>
SNAPS 18+	18 plus activities.	Contact SNAPS Directly  <a href="#">Contact SNAPS</a>
The Newman Holiday Trust	UK Holidays for Children with Special Needs aged between 5–6 years.	Contact Olivia 07827916449 <a href="mailto:northeast@newmantrust.org">northeast@newmantrust.org</a>
Eastern Ravens	Short Break and respite service for young carers, supporting children, young people and carers.	Contact: <b>01642 678454</b> <a href="mailto:info@easternravenstrust.org">info@easternravenstrust.org</a> <a href="#">Eastern Ravens Information</a>

There are times when children, young people, families and carers need more specialised support and interventions. In such circumstances, children and young people with disabilities and SEND can expect to have their needs and family's needs identified by a Social Worker through a statutory assessment. This is called a Child in Need assessment as detailed in section 17 of the Children Act. Families and carers may be offered this assessment at times of acute stress or they can request an assessment themselves. Not all families want or need this type of assessment and may feel that their needs can be identified and supported through and Help and Support Assessment. If you want to find out more about which is the best route for your child and family, follow this link: [Providing the right support to meet children's needs in Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees.](#)

Not all assessments lead to services, however, and in some circumstances, families may be advised to make a request to health or education for help and in some circumstances signposted back to the Local Offer for Universal Services and Targeted Services.



## Specialist

The Local Authority Children's Services provides highly specialist or bespoke Short Break packages for those children with an identified significant need that prevents the young person accessing universal or targeted help and support. These packages can be a combination of services from one service, i.e. Health or Social Care, or can be a combined service offer from Health and Social Care and will be dependent on the identified needs of your child.

Access can only be gained once a need has been identified from the relevant service area and for Social Care this is following a Child in Need (CIN) Assessment which can only be carried out by a Children's Social Worker. This assessment could be through the Assessment Team or the Disabled Children's Team. Where there is an assessed need, the Local Authority has a duty to either provide or signpost to the most appropriate service to meet that need.

Not all assessments lead to specialist services or continued Social Worker intervention. In some circumstances, families may be advised to make a request to health or education for help. Other children and families may be signposted back to the Local Offer for Universal Services and Targeted Services, or they may be provided with support for their child to access those services by helping to remove barriers where this is possible.

Some children and young people may have very complex health needs. These may be the result of congenital conditions, long-term or life-limiting or life-threatening conditions, disability, or the after-effects of serious illness or injury.

These needs may be so complex, that they cannot be met by the services which are routinely available from GP practices, hospitals or in the community commissioned by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) or NHS England.

Continuing Care is not needed by children or young people whose needs can be met appropriately through existing universal or specialist services through a case management approach.

Once the need has been identified the Short Break provision can be offered in a variety of ways and dependant on eligibility and need, could include the implementation of personal health budgets (PHB), notional PHBs, commissioned packages from complex health care providers and jointly commissioned packages with Local Authorities or from the Local Authority internal provision or commissioned.

Allocation of a specialist Short Break or the release of funding to access a specialist jointly funded Short Break will only be made available following the appropriate internal approvals and will be subject to regular review. This is to gain assurances that the service remains appropriate and continues to meet identified need and continued eligibility for access to provision. Need changes over time and services change, evolve and develop over time. This is why it is important to regularly review.

The following are specialist activities and Short Break offers available:

What is available?	Description	Where to get further information
After school care	<p><b>Hartburn Lodge, Short Break Centre (Local Authority provision)</b>                      Hartburn Lodge is located in Stockton-on-Tees and is a registered children’s home and specialised centre providing a range of Short Break services for children and young people of either gender, who have physical and/or learning disabilities, complex needs, and are aged from 4 to 17 years of age.</p> <p>The centre provides after school and day care support, which takes place in either the main house, the Annex building or at times the children and staff may access the local community.</p>	<p>Hartburn Lodge Main Office- <b>01642 527994</b></p> <p>Email:  <a href="mailto:Hartburn.Lodge@stockton.gov.uk">Hartburn.Lodge@stockton.gov.uk</a></p> <p>or contact your Social Worker or the <a href="#">The Children’s Hub</a> to request an assessment</p>



What is available?	Description	Where to get further information
Overnight respite	<p><b>Hartburn Lodge, Short Break Centre (Local Authority provision)</b></p> <p>The centre can provide overnight Short Breaks for up to 6 young people per night. The service has one specialist bed which is used for children who have a physical disability.</p>	<p>Hartburn Lodge Main Office- <b>01642 527994</b></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:Hartburn.Lodge@stockton.gov.uk">Hartburn.Lodge@stockton.gov.uk</a></p> <p>or contact your Social Worker or the <a href="#">The Children's Hub</a> to request an assessment</p>
Overnight respite	<p><b>Huntercombe House Residential Home (private provision)</b></p> <p>Is located in Stockton on Tees and can provide overnight respite for children with Learning Difficulties and Complex Needs.</p>	<p><a href="#">Huntercombe House Information</a></p> <p>or contact your Social Worker</p> <p>or the <a href="#">The Children's Hub</a> to request an assessment</p>
Overnight respite	<p><b>Granville Lodge Residential Home (private provision)</b></p> <p>Can provide long term and short term accommodation for children.</p>	<p><a href="#">Granville Lodge Information</a></p> <p>or contact your Social Worker or the <a href="#">The Children's Hub</a> to request an assessment</p>
Overnight respite	<p><b>Foster Care</b></p> <p>We can provide a Short Break foster care placement and respite from SBC foster carers or Independent Fostering Agency carers</p>	<p><a href="mailto:child.placement@stockton.gov.uk">child.placement@stockton.gov.uk</a></p> <p>or contact your Social Worker or the <a href="#">The Children's Hub</a> to request an assessment</p>
Overnight respite	<p><b>Baysdale Short Breaks Service (Tees, Esk &amp; Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust)</b></p> <p>Baysdale is located in Middlesbrough and provides short break respite care to children and young people with learning disabilities and associated healthcare needs and covers NHS Tees Valley locality.</p> <p>Treatment and therapies are offered on an individual person-centred basis, if directed by a consultant.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.tevv.nhs.uk/services/baysdale-short-break-services-for-children-and-young-people-with-learning-disabilities/">www.tevv.nhs.uk/services/baysdale-short-break-services-for-children-and-young-people-with-learning-disabilities/</a></p> <p><a href="#">Baysdale Information</a></p> <p>Talk to your GP or other health professional about a referral</p> <p>or contact your Social Worker or the <a href="#">The Children's Hub</a> to request an assessment</p>

	<p>Staff are trained to care for children with complex physical health needs such as enteral feeding, epilepsy as well as providing a stable and predictable environment for young people with autism and those with ADHD.</p> <p>Some staff are trained in Sleep Scotland methods and the team has seen success with numerous young people referred for disturbed sleep patterns.</p> <p>Referrals to the service can come from professionals involved with children not currently using the service, carers, GPs, or advocates.</p> <p>Children and young people are encouraged to participate in recreational activities according to their preferences and needs. Examples of activities include hair and beauty sessions, ball games, musical interactive games, social outings in the unit vehicle or walks to the local amenities.</p>	
<p>Overnight respite</p>	<p><b>Zoë's Place Baby Hospice (registered Charity)</b>                  Is located in Middlesbrough and serves the Tees Valley, providing palliative, respite and end of life care to babies and infants aged from birth to five years with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. Most of the support provided at Zoë's Place is respite care. The hospice also supports the whole family through the challenges that they face. The trusts nurses provide counselling, support &amp; advice to families at any time (even in the middle of the night). The hospice also provides bereavement support.</p>	<p><b><u>Zoe's Place</u></b>   <a href="http://www.zoes-place.org.uk/middlesbrough/default.aspx">www.zoes-place.org.uk/middlesbrough/default.aspx</a>                   talk to your GP or other health professional about a referral                   or contact your Social Worker or the <b><u>The Children's Hub</u></b> to request an assessment</p>

What is available?	Description	Where to get further information
<p>Overnight respite</p>	<p><b>Butterwick House Hospice</b></p> <p>Butterwick House is a registered charity providing palliative, respite and end of life care to children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.</p> <p>It is based in Stockton-on-Tees and accepts referrals from those living in the Tees Valley, County Durham, and North Yorkshire regions.</p> <p>Butterwick are able to care for those aged 0-25. An additional part of the service is able to meet the needs of those aged 16-25 in a separate part of the children's hospice, this allows for age-appropriate activities and social interaction.</p> <p>Most of the children and young people accessing the service attend the respite care service regularly, for those requiring end of life support a separate annex with facilities for parents, family members and siblings is available should it be required.</p> <p>Children usually access respite for a number of nights at a time allowing their parents and carers a break from their caring role. Children and young people are cared for by a team of nurses, healthcare technicians and activity coordinators.</p> <p>Butterwick hospice are able to provide counselling sessions and facilitate support group activities for parents/carers and siblings.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Butterwick Hospice Information</u></a></p> <p>talk to your GP or other health professional about a referral</p> <p>or contact your Social Worker</p> <p>or the <a href="#"><u>The Children's Hub</u></a> to request an assessment</p>

What is available?	Description	Where to get further information
Direct payments	If you or someone you care for get help and have been assessed by Social Care as needing care and support services, you can apply for direct payments. This will let you choose and buy the services you need yourself instead of getting them from your Council.	<a href="#">Apply for Direct Payments - Gov.uk</a> or contact your Social Worker or the <a href="#">The Children's Hub</a> to request an assessment
Domiciliary care	Reach out care can provide quality home care.	Contact your Social Worker or <a href="#">The Children's Hub</a> to request an assessment

## Child in Need Social Care Assessment

If you think you and your child are eligible for a Social Care Assessment and you wish to have your needs as a carer and your child's support needs identified you can request an assessment through the Children's Hub (Chub). **The Children's Hub 01642 130080**. The Chub provides information, advice and guidance on services and support for families and young people.

Your request will be triaged and screened for further advice and support and to determine the most appropriate social care team to carry out an assessment. Not all assessments are carried out by a Social Worker from the Disabled Children's Team, some are carried out by the Assessment Team.

**The Disabled Children's Social Work Team** focus their work with the following children and will provide Child in Need assessments and access to services for:

- Children / young people with severe learning disabilities
- Children / young people with complex physical disabilities
- Children / young people with a life limiting / life threatening condition
- Children / young people with multiple disability (combinations of the above)

The allocated Social Worker will visit you and your child to get to know you and your child's circumstances. The Social Worker will listen to you, so that they can understand your views and feelings about the support that might be needed.

Also available from this team is the **Key Working Service**. This Service will signpost the parent/carer to the appropriate support and will help families navigate the services. They will co-ordinate professionals from outside agencies that would be of the most benefit to their child.

Not all referrals for assessment will come to the Disabled Children's Team via the Children's Hub (Chub). Occasionally the referrals come from an **internal transfer** from another children's Social Worker who may be already working with the child or family.



**The Assessment and Children's Social Work Teams** work with children and families from a range of backgrounds and diverse needs. The Social Workers in these teams carry out a Child In Need assessment.

Not all assessments lead to the provision of services and the outcome and recommendations from any assessments will be discussed with you.

**Parents can contact the Children's Hub on 01429 284284. When the Children's Hub is contacted the child's needs will be assessed against the threshold document: [Providing the right support to meet children's needs in Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees.](#)**

### Children's Continuing Care (CCC)

Some children and young people may have very complex health needs. These may be the result of congenital conditions, long-term or life-limiting or life-threatening conditions, disability, or the after-effects of serious illness or injury.

These needs may be so complex, that they cannot be met by the services which are routinely available from GP practices, hospitals or in the community and are commissioned by **Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) or NHS England.**

A team of specialist health assessors and children's continuing care nurse specialists will assess a child's eligibility for Children's Continuing Care (CCC) funding and implement a package of care if required to meet the complex health needs of the child.

Continuing care should be part of a wider package of care, agreed and delivered jointly between health, education, and social care. The package can support the child or young person to achieve outcomes that may be identified in their Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The package provision can also provide parents and carers with a break from their caring role whilst ensuring the needs of the child are met.

The functions of the Children's Continuing Care team are to implement:

- Initial screening of referrals
- Co-ordinate assessment and information gathering
- Co-ordinate and chair Decision Support Tool (DST) meeting
- Complete DST paperwork to determine eligibility or not and to feedback to referrer and family
- Promote PHB's and facilitate as required (specific to locality area)
- Support the family to secure a package of care to meet the child's assessed needs
- Present proposed package in a forum to seek funding approval by the LA and CCG
- Review new packages of care after 3 months
- Review eligibility for CCC annually
- Monitor and alter a care package if appropriate and to re-present in the forum for agreement

- Provide Fast Track support for Children and Young People at the end of their lives and to agree a supportive package with CCG outside of panel arrangements

In Stockton-on-Tees this service is provided by NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) on behalf of Tees Valley CCG. Further details can be found by emailing [necsu.childrenscontinuingcare@nhs.net](mailto:necsu.childrenscontinuingcare@nhs.net) or at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-and-young-peoples-continuing-care-national-framework](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-and-young-peoples-continuing-care-national-framework)

## Transition to Adult Services

The transition from Children's Services to Adult Services should be a smooth process with the disabled young person and their family at the centre of the decision making. Your child's Social Worker will talk to you and your child about the process and what services are available. These discussions usually start to take place during your child's 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> year in reviews and planning meetings.

The following links provide more information about transition:

[Transition](#)  
[Preparing for Adulthood](#)

## Service Development and Design

### What you have told us and what we have done

It is important to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council that its services are of a good quality, meet the needs of children and young people who have SEND and are best value.

In order to achieve this and to understand what should be changed and refreshed or developed, key people in the organisation seek the views and feedback about the experiences of those who access services. In addition, key people in the organisation are linked in and work closely with Stockton Parent Carer Forum (SPCF) on reviews of services and future service design as well as recruitment of staff in the Local Authority's internal residential Short Breaks service, Hartburn Lodge.

The SPCF is made up of parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND), aged 0-25 years. This message is from the chair of the SPCF:

*"We meet up on a regular basis, this gives us the opportunity to hear and respond to the voice of the family, child or young person. This close working relationship is a real opportunity to co-design services and to ensure the Local Authority hear the voice of those in our community whose needs we are aiming to meet."*

Parents, carers and young people's views and comments are important to us and what you tell us helps shape our services and lets us know if we are getting it right. These are some comments about the **Short Breaks Grant**:

- *"We really are so grateful for the grant towards the toys. My child has had so much fun with them today and the goal arrived tonight and has been the best part yet! We always struggle to get him to leave the house so it is so lovely to see. Thank you once again. We're a very grateful family."*
- *"The items we have chosen and been able to purchase with the money have really helped my child to relax and get some much-needed sensory input during a very stressful and confusing time for him"*
- *"This Short Break grant has been amazing, thank you and everyone who has made this possible at this time"*
- *"Thank you so much, this has been an invaluable support at this time"*

In partnership with SPCF, we consult with parents and carers about the Short Breaks Grant.

During 2020 and 2021, the Short Breaks Grant has become even more popular and approx. 409 families per year benefit from funds from the grant. In 2021 an additional 50k has been allocated to the overall budget in recognition of the benefits to the families and young people of Stockton-on-Tees. During the pandemic, the Council acted swiftly to review the grant criteria and funds were made available for equipment and subscriptions to internet and Disney channels and online activities. This was well received by children and families alike.

This is some of the feedback and comments we have had about the service from **Hartburn Lodge, Short Breaks Centre**:

- In a thank you card, one parent said: *"Thank you for all the support and kindness you've shown me over the past, nearly a year!"*, this young person was turning 18 and was transitioning to adult provision
- *"My son goes to Hartburn Lodge and they are the most wonderful people/staff, worked all through lockdown trying their best to provide Short Breaks for children"*
- *"I am over the moon with Hartburn Lodge"* This was a comment from a parent during a review of their needs and service provision
- *"Thank you so much for doing this for my son it brought a tear to my eyes. He's had a super day and thanks to all of you for being so good with him he is one lucky boy xxx"* - a text message received from a young person's mother thanking staff for a birthday celebration during his Short Break at Hartburn Lodge.

Historically, the Local Authority had two Short Breaks Services, Hartburn Lodge and Oasis. Both provided a Short Breaks Services for children and young people aged between 4 to 17 years of age, who had physical and/or learning disabilities, often for the same children. In 2019 the services were co-located and this went well. In 2020, a review of the staffing and structure

took place and the two provisions merged together under one manager and staff team and formed Hartburn Lodge, Short Break Centre.

By delivering a range of services from one Short Breaks Centre, the service can be fully holistic and provide greater fluidity, variety and flexibility to meet the needs of children, their families or carers. Benefits include the ability to provide a seamless and smoother transitioning for children from one type of Short Break to another with familiar staff working across the range of Short Breaks, i.e. overnight care, tea time or day care.

For further information on Hartburn Lodge [click here](#).

We asked for your views about the new revised **Short Breaks Statement** – you told us you would like it to be kept simple, so we changed the format and hope it is now easier to read. You told us to change the photograph and we changed it. [Click here](#) to see what else you said and what we have done.

### What's next and how to get involved

We will continue to talk to Stockton Parent Carer Forum to ensure that parents are given choice and control to support them. We want to be open and accessible, so the range of Short Breaks on offer is available to young people with a range of disabilities and needs.

We will co-produce and review our services with you, and key professionals from Children's Services will involve you. In October 2021 we started a dialog with a group of parents through SPCF to consider gaps in services and the experiences of families accessing them. This has led onto plans to work together and we are on a journey together with the aim of making improvements to our offer to you.

If you want to get involved contact SPCF:

By phone: **07985 245 668**

By email: [\*\*info@stocktonparentcarerforum.co.uk\*\*](mailto:info@stocktonparentcarerforum.co.uk)

On line: [\*\*Stockton Parent Carer Forum\*\*](#)

### How the Council is developing the workforce

We recognise that it is important that we have a workforce with the skills to assess the needs and to deliver safe and appropriate Short Breaks for disabled children.

Our Short Breaks provision have in place a Statement of Purpose that outlines the qualifications, skills and experiences of those employed there. The manager devises a work force strategy and individual training plan for each staff member to ensure the staff have the skills needed. There is a



wider workforce strategy and practice forums within Children’s Social Care that is constantly striving to drive practice and skill base up.

We are working with parents and carers through SPCF to identify any training gaps in our workforce that will inform the review and refreshing of the workforce strategies.

## Advocacy

If your child or you require support from another person to help express your views and wishes and help you stand up for your rights and to speak up for **YOU**, please contact **NYAS (The National Youth Advocacy Service)**. NYAS is a rights-based charity which operates across England and Wales for children, young people and adults.

## Review of this Short Breaks Statement

We will regularly review our Short Breaks Services Statement and where necessary revise and update the statement. We work alongside SPCF to identify new activities and services, these will be added to the Short Break Statement as and when they become available.

## Useful Contacts

Name	Reason for contact	Contact details
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	For signposting and general enquires	<a href="#">Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council</a>  <b>01642 393939</b>
SEND and Inclusion Services	For signposting and general enquires	<a href="mailto:sensection@stockton.gov.uk">sensection@stockton.gov.uk</a>  <b>01642 527145</b>
SBC Complaints and Comments	Complaints and Commendations	<a href="mailto:foiandcomplaints@stockton.gov.uk">foiandcomplaints@stockton.gov.uk</a>  <b>01642 527521</b>
Chub	Requests for assessments, information, advice and guidance on services and support for families and young people	<a href="#">The Children’s Hub</a>  <b>01642 130080</b>
Stockton Parent Carer Forum	SPCF is made up of parents and carers of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years living in Stockton-on-Tees. They represent the parent carer community and hold coffee mornings and events where everyone is welcome to attend.	<b>07985 245 668</b>  <a href="mailto:info@stocktonparentcarerforum.co.uk">info@stocktonparentcarerforum.co.uk</a>  <a href="#">Stockton Parent Carer Forum</a>

Name	Reason for contact	Contact details
Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service.	<b>(SEND IASS)</b> is a free, impartial and confidential service. It provides advice, information and support on all matters relating to special educational needs and or disabilities (SEND).	<b>01642 527158</b>
Tees Valley CCG	NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) on behalf of Tees Valley CCG.	<a href="mailto:necsu.childrenscontinuingcare@nhs.net">necsu.childrenscontinuingcare@nhs.net</a>  <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-and-young-peoples-continuing-care-national-framework">www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-and-young-peoples-continuing-care-national-framework</a>
Daisy Chain Family Support	The Family Support Team, based at Daisy Chain is there to support neurodiverse young people aged 0-18 years and their families, no matter where they are on their diagnostic journey. The Daisy Chain Family Support Team is there to listen to your concerns and hear your voice.	<b>01642 531248</b>  <a href="mailto:info@daisychainproject.co.uk">info@daisychainproject.co.uk</a>  <a href="#">Contact Daisy Chain</a>
Local Offer Website	For resources and information about the Local Offer.	<a href="http://www.stockton.gov.uk/localoffer">www.stockton.gov.uk/localoffer</a>
SNAPS	SNAPS is a parent-led support group. Who provide support to families and young people with various disabilities and additional needs.	<b>01642 530292</b> <a href="mailto:info@snapsteesvalley.co.uk">info@snapsteesvalley.co.uk</a> <a href="#">Contact SNAPS</a>