

Lambeth Short Breaks Service Statement Updated March 2018

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the range of short breaks services available for families with disabled children and young people in Lambeth aged 0-18, and the eligibility criteria for accessing these services.

Lambeth has undergone some changes over the course of the last year in the way that its short breaks services are commissioned and this will also be explained clearly below.

What are short breaks?

Short breaks, formerly referred to as *respite*, provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend time away from their families and have fun; they also provide families with a break from their caring responsibilities.

Short breaks have many benefits to families. Disabled children benefit from new interests, relationships and activities, and develop their independence skills while parents can catch up with everyday activities (sleep, cleaning, shopping), attend to their physical and psychological wellbeing, and maintain and develop social networks.

They can be part of a regular and supported package of care for them and their family.

Short breaks also benefit the siblings in the family so they are able to spend some quality time with their parents or to do things which ordinarily can be difficult to do.

Why does Lambeth have to publish its short breaks statement?

On 1st April 2011, the Carers of Disabled Children Regulations came into force, which required Local Authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children.

The regulations also required the Council to publish a Short Breaks Statement so that families:

- know what services are available across the Borough
- know clearly the eligibility criteria to access these services
- know how the services are designed to meet the needs of disabled children and young people locally

Who is eligible for a short breaks in Lambeth?

Disabled children and young people are eligible for short breaks in Lambeth if they:

- Reside in Lambeth

- Are between the ages of 0-18
- Have a physical or mental impairment which is likely to have a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities
- This could include children with a sensory impairment, a learning disability, or an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) with challenging behaviour as a result of their learning disability.
- It also includes children with complex health needs and those with palliative, life limiting or life threatening conditions.

What is available in Lambeth?

There are a range of different short breaks available in Lambeth. Not all disabled children and their families will need the same level of support; some will need more than others because of the nature of their child's disability and their individual family circumstances.

Many disabled children will be able to access universal services with their non disabled peers whilst others may need more targeted or specialist support, for example some disabled children may require transport to get to and from their short break, others may need two carers to take them safely into the community.

For other families, the level of need will be such that occasional short breaks will not be enough for them. They may need support with their child's personal care every day, for example, and so would need specialist intervention from the Children with Disabilities Team (CWD).

These different levels of need may be categorized as follows:

Universal

Many disabled children and their families will not require targeted or specialist short breaks support because they will be able to access universal services locally, which may include sport and leisure centres, outdoor adventure playgrounds or youth clubs.

Information about universal services that may be suitable for disabled children can be found on the Local Offer: [Things to do in Lambeth](#)

Targeted

For disabled children and their families who are unable to access mainstream or universal services and who are looking to access some short breaks activities, which may include after school clubs, Saturday clubs or holiday clubs, they can apply directly via our newly appointed Short Breaks Co-ordinator, a role that has been created in 2017.

The short breaks co-ordinator can be contacted on 020 7 926 1513 or via lambethshortbreaks@lambeth.gov.uk

There has been a change in the way targeted short breaks are provided in Lambeth. They were formerly part of block contracts (sum of money paid directly to provider) and parents could contact the providers directly who would offer places to families.

Places on these different schemes are now managed by the Short Breaks Co-ordinator in the Children with Disabilities Service. Families can still contact the provider directly but it is now the CWD Service that decides whether places can be offered. The purpose of this was to ensure more families with disabled children in Lambeth could access targeted short breaks services.

No social work assessment is required.

Currently there are 7 providers on the framework for targeted short breaks and information on these can be found via the following link (hyperlink). Alternatively, you may contact the Lambeth Short Breaks Co-ordinator on the details above.

These targeted short breaks are aimed at all disabled children and young people in Lambeth *who have a physical or mental impairment which is likely to have a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.*

Parents and carers were consulted during 2016 and in early 2017 when the plan to move from block contracts to spot purchasing took place and the re-tendering of the 7 providers on the framework took place.

This led in the summer of 2017 to many more families in Lambeth being able to access short breaks activities.

Typically, the offer will be for 10 days' holiday play scheme during the Easter and Summer holiday period and/or attending an after school club during term time. This will be subject to availability.

Specialist

These are services aimed at the most severe and complex disabled children and young people where more support is needed than may be available through the targeted short breaks offer.

If you feel that this applies to you, then you need to request an assessment from the Children with Disabilities Service. You may do this by contacting the Integrated Referral Hub (IRH) on 020 7926 5555.

Professionals may also call the same number. If you are a professional, please also follow up your referral in writing by filling in the [Multi-agency referral form](#) and send it to helpandprotection@lambeth.gov.uk

If you want to look at the referral criteria for Children with Disabilities and to read further about how they carry out assessments and what information they may require, then you can refer to the [Lambeth Children with Disabilities Eligibility Criteria](#) under Criteria for getting an assessment.

Specialist support which may be available to your disabled child and to your family, subject to the outcome of a *Child & Family Assessment* include:

- Direct payments
- Domiciliary care and community outreach workers
- A range of short breaks including after school clubs, Saturday clubs and holiday activities
- A combination of the above

How children and families can contribute to planning and review of short breaks services.

We will continue to ask disabled children and young people and their families what they think of services through parent support groups and forums, short breaks youth sessions as well as other events for disabled children and their families. Our aim is to continue to work together to find ways to better meet the needs and improve outcomes for this group of children and young people.

[Feedback on the Lambeth Local Offer](#)

Parent Engagement Strategy
(Currently under review)

Comments and complaints

Feedback is always welcome. Please let us know what you think about our short breaks services or, if you feel we could do things better, contact our short breaks co-ordinator on 020 7926 1513.

You can also comment via the [Local Offer](#)

If you have a complaint about a short breaks service or a member of the disabled children's team, please ask to speak to one of the managers in the Children with Disabilities Service on 020 7926 6916. You may also make a formal complaint via the Lambeth Complaints Service on 020 7926 9694 or complaints@lambeth.gov.uk

Useful contact and resources

Contact (formerly *Contact a Family*)

Website: [Contact - Lambeth division](#)

Telephone: 020 7326 5270

Email: lambeth.office@contact.org.uk

Address: Weare336, 336 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7AA

Lambeth Families Information Service

Website: [FIS](#)

Telephone: 020 7926 9558

Email: fis@lambeth.gov.uk

Short breaks co-ordinator

Website: [Lambeth Short Breaks Service](#)

Email: lambethshortbreaksservice@lambeth.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7926 1513

Lambeth Children with Disabilities Service

Email: CWDTeam@lambeth.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7926 6916

Lambeth Parent/Carer Forum

Email: info@lambethparentforum.com

Local Offer website

[Lambeth Local Offer](#)

Transitions

[Young adults 14 - 25](#)

Common questions

Where to get help for an under 5 child?

Please see the 'Childcare and early years' section of the [Lambeth Local Offer](#) page for links to further support.

How do I find out what short breaks are available in Lambeth?

Please see the information and links available under [Lambeth Short Breaks Service](#)

What if I am not happy with my child's short break activity?

Please contact the Short Breaks Co-ordinator on 020 7926 1513 or lambethshortbreaksservice@lambeth.gov.uk for further information and advice.

When will my son/daughter require a social work assessment?

Please see the eligibility criteria for Children with Disabilities - [Lambeth Children with Disabilities Eligibility Criteria](#)

How can I become more involved as a parent?

You can call Contact (previously known as Contact a Family) for information regarding parent forums and coffee mornings, workshops, training, and events on 020 7326 5270 or email via lambeth.office@contact.org.uk. Additionally you can contact Rosemary Merrick regarding the Lambeth Parent/Carer Forum on info@lambethparentforum.com.

How do I get discounts for fun local and national activities, for example Legoland?

Please contact Tracey Imms on 020 7926 9140 or Liberty@lambeth.gov.uk to access the Lambeth Liberty Card. This will require a child to join the disability register, also managed in Lambeth by Tracey Imms.

What if I want to meet with a representative of Children with Disabilities face to face?

Please come to the SEN/CWD parent coffee mornings. These are usually held on the third Wednesday of each month, with a representative from CWD attending at alternate meetings (every 2 monthly). The meetings are at Weare336, 336 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7AA, between 10.30am and 11.30am. Please contact the Short Breaks Co-Ordinator on 020 7926 1513, or SEN Team on 020 7926 9460, to confirm dates of meetings.

What if I want to set up a local project that supports disabled children?

Please contact Marie Keeley or Natalie Thomsen in Children's Commissioning.
Marie Keeley: 020 7926 5134 or MKeeley@lambeth.gov.uk
Natalie Thomsen: 020 7926 6212 or NThomsen@lambeth.gov.uk

Where can I find out more information about SEND services in Lambeth?

Please see the selection of links available on the [Lambeth Local Offer](#)

What are health services available in Lambeth for my child?

Information on available health services can be found in the [Health Services](#) page of the Lambeth Local Offer.