

Short Breaks Service Statement

For Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

2020-2021





Contents: Page Number

1. Introduction 3
2. The criteria by which eligibility

for services will be assessed 3

1. How the range of services are designed

to meet the needs of families with disabled

children in their area 4

1. NE Lincs Short Breaks Commissioned

Provision 2020/21 5

1. The range of short break services available 6
2. How these services can be accessed 8
3. Measuring the Outcomes and Impact

of Short Break Services 9

1. Appendix A – Action Plan 10

### **Introduction**

Welcome to the North East Lincolnshire Council Short Breaks Service Statement.

***Para 6(1) of Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to provide services designed to give breaks for carers of disabled children and young people.***

***The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011, which came into force on the 1 April 2011, require each local authority to provide a Short Breaks Service Statement so that families know:***

* The criteria by which eligibility for services will be assessed
* How the range of services are designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in their area
* The range of short break services available
* How these services can be accessed

NE Lincs Council has undertaken a consultation with parents and carers through an online questionnaire between 23rd September and 16th October 2020. The link was shared with NELPPF, SENDIASS, Special School Heads, Children’s Disability Team Social Workers, Complex Healthcare, and the team at Cromwell House (Residential Home). The link also appeared on NEL Families First social media pages.

**2.The criteria by which eligibility for services will be assessed**

North East Lincolnshire Council makes a distinction between Children in Need and the needs of children and young people with substantial or profound disabilities and provides a Children with Disability Service for this group.

For a referral to be accepted by the Children’s Disability Service the child or young person must have a disability that has been formally diagnosed (or likely to be diagnosed), be permanent or long term and meets at least one of the following criteria:

* A substantial or profound learning disability
* A substantial or profound physical disability
* Substantial or profound sensory disability
* Complex medical needs or long-term condition expected to disable the child for more than one year
* Life threatening and or life limiting condition or illness
* Substantial communication disabilities or behavioural difficulties related to the child’s disability
* Substantial development delay
* A combination of disabilities, which individually are not substantial but together cause as much stress and impact on their lives as a substantial disability
* Substantial hearing impairment or deafness
* Substantial visual impairment or blindness
* Children with mental health disorders unless in conjunction with a learning, physical or communication disability

These criteria are based on the definition of disability set out in the Children Act 1989, this legislation also provides further guidance where there is uncertainty, the application of concepts **“substantial and permanent”** could help make good judgements.

* **Substantial** means considerable or significant factors that are life changing or limiting and might include issues to do with risk and dependency
* **Permanent** means existing indefinitely and not expected to improve. However, there must be sufficient flexibility to take account of intermittent or episodic conditions.

The criteria does **not** include children with:

* A disability or disabilities that are not substantial
* Behavioural problems due to social/environmental factors (i.e. not associated to a disability)

Children who do not meet the eligibility criteria for an assessment by the Children’s Disability Service may be entitled to an assessment by the Assessment and Intervention Service. The Integrated Front Door will make the decision if a social work assessment is necessary. Please note registration on the Disability Register is not sufficient evidence that a child meets the eligibility criteria for Children’s Disability Service as the register includes children with a wide range of Special Educational Needs.

### **3.How the range of services are designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in their area**

Our vision in NE Lincs is to provide disabled children and young people, with opportunities and experiences that help achieve positive outcomes for them.

It is our aim that short breaks will contribute to keeping disabled children safe and healthy, enabling them to enjoy new activities, make friends, and have new learning opportunities, as well as preparing teenagers for adulthood.

By providing disabled children and young people with such opportunities, it is our aim to support parents in their role as primary carers and give them breaks to assist them to look after themselves and their wider family. We aim to ensure that families of disabled children have the support they need to live ‘ordinary lives’ as a matter of course.

### **NE Lincs Short Breaks Commissioned Provision 2020/21**

During 2020/21 North East Lincolnshire provided the following provision:

**Overnight breaks:** 36 children and young people with disabilities and/ or SEND accessed an overnight break

**Short break activity:** 80 children and young people accessed a short break activity.

**Direct Payments**: 40 children and young people access direct payments to commission their own provisions

We have commissioned the following services for children and young people with disabilities and or special educational needs:

* A team that specialises in activity based short breaks (Short Breaks Team)
* FLAG
* Gravity Red
* Vulnerable Young People’s Project
* Cromwell House
* Caravan and chalet provision in Cleethorpes

### **Key themes that came from the consultation**

Parents and carers felt that where they accessed a short break, they were of good quality and valued by families, children, and young people. The current length of the sessions was also identified as good.

Parents and carers also told us that there is not enough variety in the short breaks offer currently, and not enough capacity for the numbers of young people who would benefit from them

**Key gaps in the offer includes**

* school holiday daytime activities
* animal based activities (including horse riding)
* outdoor activities
* group work / social activities
* sensory activities
* provision for young children and young people with complex needs
* weekend activities and activities that are age and stage appropriate for 15-18 year olds

**Parents and carers commented**

“I have never heard of or been offered any short break services!”

“I didn't know about the service, so do not know what and if we can access anything!”

“I would like School Holiday Respite/Activity”

### **The range of short break services available**

NE Lincs Council recognises that not all children and young people with disabilities and/or special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families will require the same level of support. Therefore, disabled children and young people may access a combination of universal, targeted and specialist services at any one time or move between them according to their age, support needs and family circumstances.

Short breaks can include day, evening, overnight and weekend activities and can take place in the child’s home, in the home of an approved carer, a residential or community setting. They come in a range of formats and each one can last just a few hours to a few days, depending on the type of provision and the needs of the individual child and their family.

### **Universal Services**

Universal services are provided or routinely available to children, young people, and their families. Children and young people with SEND can access these services if they require little or no support or where additional support and training has already been provided to staff. These services can be found via the Childrens Information Services and SEND Local Offer Website.

This is the [Families First Information Service](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-families-and-schools/family-hubs/).

Families can access most of these services directly and without a referral from social care or special educational needs teams.

Universal short breaks may include:

* Local youth groups
* Group based, drama, community, and sports activities
* Play schemes
* After school clubs

FLAG: Runs every Saturday morning with additional activities during the school holidays. Sessions are £10 per session or £20 if it is a day trip. Parents/carers can self-refer

Read more about [Flag Grimsby](https://flaggrimsby.co.uk/).

Gravity Red: provide group activity sessions as well as a befriending service and is £15 per session.

Read more about [Gravity Red Inspires](https://www.gravityredinspires.com/).

Carers Centre: A range of funded sessions and support available for parents and carers of children who have disabilities and or special educational needs including:

* Information and advice
* Signposting to other services
* Case leader calls
* Specialist advice-benefits ,housing, finance
* Counselling
* Befrienders
* Training
* Parents groups
* Activities
* ‘Angels ‘ a group supporting carers who are looking after someone with addiction
* Dedicated substance and Alcohol worker.
* Bereavement support
* Volunteer opportunities
* Choir
* Sensual holistic activities

Learn more about [Carers Support Centre North East Lincolnshire](https://www.carerssupportcentre.com/nel/).

### **Targeted Services**

Targeted services are aimed at children and young people with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs and are more targeted support to access universal service provision or more targeted provision. This group of children and young people may need groups and services that are specifically designed to meet their needs.

Some of these services are targeted solely for disabled children and young people and may also have special educational needs. You do not need to have a personal budget to access these services or for the package to be agreed through the Childrens Resource Panel.

Targeted short breaks services may include:

* Group based services provided through universal services with additional support
* Short break Team (provides short break activities)
* Group based services that are commissioned to provide a more targeted service for children and young people with disabilities and/or special educational need
* One to one support through outreach provision or in the home
* Personal budget could be used to buy in the targeted short break provision
* Young Carers service provides support to brothers and sisters of children and young people with disabilities and / or specialist educational needs
* Read more about the [Young Carers Service](https://www.carerssupportcentre.com/nel/young-carers/).

### **Specialist Services**

Specialist Services are services for children and young people with disabilities and/or special educational needs. These services must be commissioned following a social care assessment and are part of an individual support or Education, Health and Social Care Plan. They are specialist services tailored to meet the individual needs of a child or young person.

Specialist short breaks services may include:

* Group based services
* One to one support
* Personal budget is a mechanism for delivery of funding to commission the provision
* Overnight short breaks at Cromwell House, or St Andrews Hospice

### **How these services can be accessed**

A parent/carer or multi agency partner can request an assessment for any child/young person, 0 – 18 years, who meets the criteria for Children with Disabilities and lives in North East Lincolnshire via **NELC Children’s Integrated Front Door, 01472 326292 option 2.**

Referrals received in the Integrated Front Door will also provide advice and guidance around the Local Offer available and consider Early Help or Early Years Services. However, for children with a disability and parenting or a safeguarding concern, these referrals would be directed to the Children’s Disability Service.

Following the acceptance of the referral to the Children with Disabilities Service an assessment of support required for the parent and/or assessment of child/young person will be completed by a Social Worker within 45 days of receipt.

Where the assessment concludes that services are required, it may recommend one or more of the following:

* Advice and guidance around access to the Local Offer
* Early Help Services
* Early Years Services
* Short breaks (overnight stays) that can either be provided by a Local Authority Resource – Cromwell House or St Andrews Hospice
* Direct Payments so that the parents can source their own provider of support
* Education, Health & Care Plan jointly with Health and Education

### **Measuring the Outcomes and Impact of Short Break Services**

We will ensure that our short break services focus on improving life opportunities and outcomes for disabled children and their families through continuing to develop our participation strategy with disabled children, young people, and their families. We know that the views of families and disabled children are essential to support positive outcomes.

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 circumstances.

We will continue to monitor and review the views of disabled children, parents, and providers so that everybody feels involved and included. This will assist us with developing a cycle of continual improvement.

Regular meetings are in place with all providers of commissioned short breaks to continuously review individual packages of support and monitor the service as a whole.

Each child or young person will have a support plan in place containing clear outcomes for development in preparation for their adult life, skills of independence and wider social needs. The support plan will be reviewed every six months, alongside the annual review process for an EHCP process where applicable.