

# **Short Breaks and Fun Activities**

**Guide to Short Breaks and Fun Activities for  
Children and Young People with Disabilities  
and Additional Needs**

**Dudley MBC**

**Short Breaks Statement 2019**

# **Working in Partnership to Deliver Short Breaks and Fun Activities for Children and Young People with Disabilities and Additional Needs**

Dudley Council is committed to enabling children and young people with disabilities and additional needs and their families and carers to access short breaks and fun activities. Short breaks provide parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities and additional needs, with an important break from their caring responsibilities. They are fun, safe and life enhancing for the child or young person.

A wide range of organisations provide short breaks and fun activities, in addition to those provided by Dudley Council. The Council reviews those services it provides with feedback from children, young people and carers to ensure they are personalised and provide choice, control and creativity, in recognition of every child and young person being unique. In this way, our services reflect the spirit of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the aspirations of Dudley Borough, to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people.

## **Dudley Disability Service Vision**

‘Support children and young people with disabilities, special educational needs and Autism, in Dudley to achieve a full and happy life, in which they have independence, gain skills and knowledge, and have confidence and a sociable life’.

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# What is a short break?

Short breaks are for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs. They provide parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities and additional needs with an important break from their caring responsibilities. They are fun, safe and life enhancing for the child or young person.

## What does the law say?

Paragraph 6 (1) (c) of the Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to provide services designed to assist carers of children with disabilities and additional needs by giving breaks from caring. This duty came into force in April 2011 and requires each local authority to:

- Offer short breaks as a preventative early intervention strategy
- Offer a range of short breaks services to parents and carers
- Publish a statement of those services to parents and carers (this is Dudley's short breaks statement).

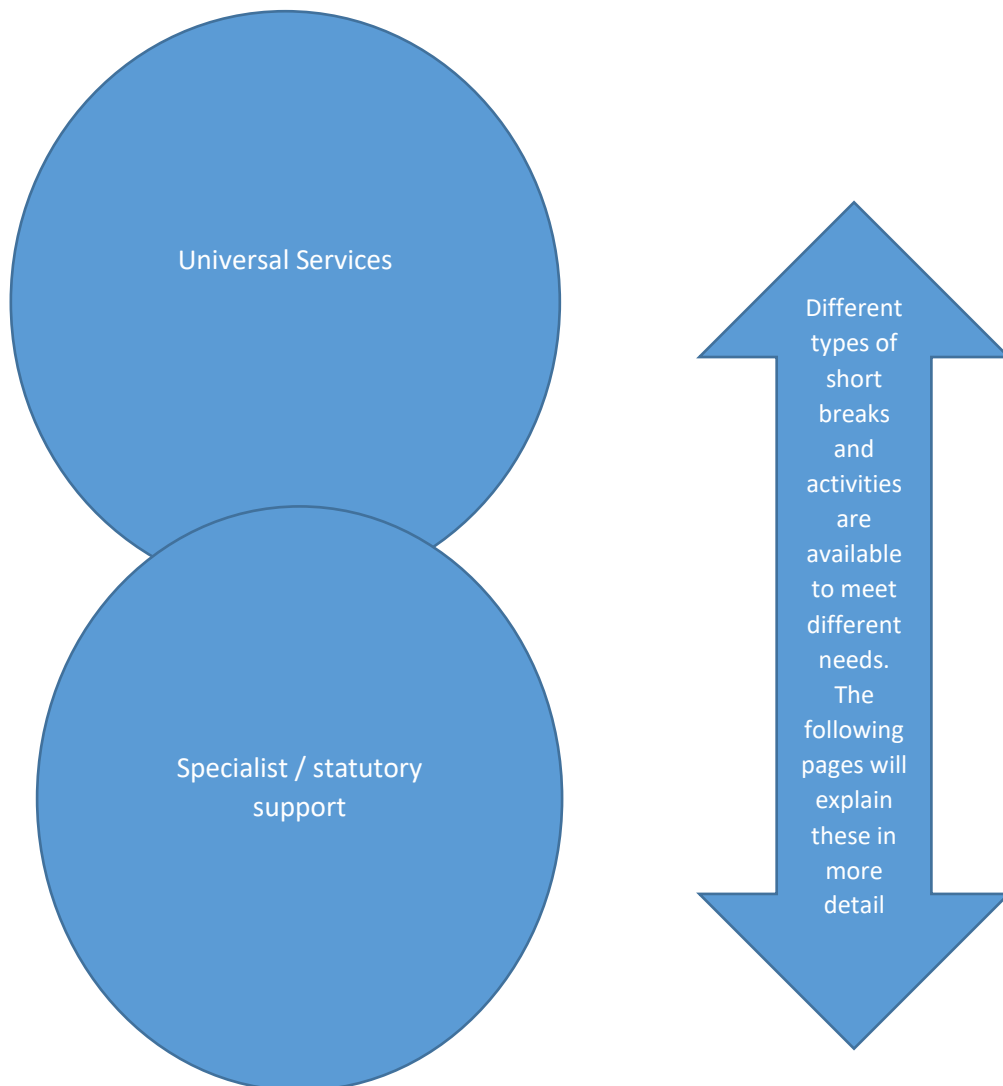
## Who can access short breaks and fun activities?

Dudley Council is committed to enabling children and young people with disabilities and additional needs to access short breaks and fun activities within their local community. This guide provides information about short break services available, and who may access them, depending on the needs of the children, young people and their families.

## Short break, not childcare

A short break is not an alternative to childcare and should not be used to enable parents to work. Rather it offers parents and carers an important break from their caring responsibilities whilst children and young people get the opportunity to make friends, try new things and gain confidence. The short break could range from an hour or two of support or activity a week to overnight placements.

# Which short break is right for a child or young person and their family or carer?

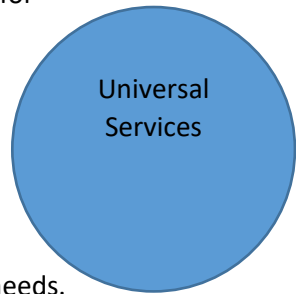


# Universal Services for Everyone including Children and Young People with Disabilities and Additional Needs

There are many activities in the community that all children and young people can access, for example, youth groups, sports clubs. You can find more information by visiting Dudley Local Offer website


Children and young people with disabilities and additional needs should be able to access these services if they want to. The people who provide these activities have a legal duty to make reasonable adjustments to make sure children and young people with disabilities and additional needs can access these services, for example, accessing additional training to meet behavioural or medical needs.

Some of these activities may be free and some may have costs for all children and young people who access them. Children and young people with disabilities and additional needs should not be charged more than other children and young people.



# Specialist short break services for children and young people with acute needs

Children and young people with disabilities who meet the Dudley Disability Service (DDS) service criteria may request an assessment of their needs, in order to determine whether a short break is required.



Specialist /  
statutory  
support

The service criteria are that the child or young person will have a formally diagnosed disability which:

- has a substantial and long term effect on their ability to undertake day-to-day activities typically expected in line with their chronological age; and
- there are significant difficulties in meeting identified needs within their family, broader support networks or through local universal provision.

This will include children and young people with:

- a severe learning disability;
- a diagnosis of Autism with associated severe learning disability which has a significant impact on their communication needs, social and behavioural development;
- severe global development delay;
- a severe sensory impairment; or
- a significant, permanent and enduring physical disability or health need.

This service is accessed through the Dudley Disability Service on 0300 555 0050.

## Specialist Short Breaks

Dudley Council currently funds five specialist short breaks services for children who meet the DDS criteria. Some of these services are contracts paid for by Dudley Council, some are by Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and some are jointly funded by the two organisations.

There are the following specialist short breaks for children and young people who meet the Dudley Disability Service Criteria, and are aged 5 years to 18 years (unless otherwise stated):

1. Barnardos - This is a Dudley Council DMBC) contract for approved foster carers for overnight respite in family homes. It includes occasional tea-visits or day care in holidays, as assessed.
2. Caretech - This is jointly funded by DMBC and CCG. It is an overnight residential respite service at Coppice Lodge, which includes support to children with complex physical health needs.
3. Progress Care - This is jointly funded by DMBC and the CCG, for an overnight residential respite service at Stourbridge House. It includes support to children with behavioural challenges.

4. Acorns (Hospice at Home) - This is a Dudley Council DMBC contract, for specialised care respite for children with life limiting conditions or end of life care in the family home.
  
5. KIDS - This is a Dudley Council DMBC Contract, for:
  - Two specialist after school clubs for 5-9 years and 9-12 years;
  - Two specialist youth groups for young people aged 13-25 years and 17-25 years;
  - Two-week summer-holiday play scheme.