

# SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

## What? Who? How?

### UNIVERSAL, NON ASSESSED SHORT BREAKS

**What?**

Activities and events for all children, for example:

- Support from your family and friends provide - a trip out, a bit of sitting, an invitation for tea or for an overnight stay
- youth clubs
- sports and arts based activities
- after school activities
- school holiday schemes

**How?**

- Find out what's available locally. Ask around!
- Check out Bolton's SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) [Local Offer](#) on Bolton Council website. This details resources for young people 0 – 25.

### TARGETED NON ASSESSED SHORT BREAKS –

**What?**

Activities and events that are set up for disabled children, but don't require a formal assessment, for example:

- AFC Masters Football Club
- Wheels For All cycling
- Activ8 at the Octagon
- Bolton Disability Sports Association.

**How?**

Check the [Local offer](#).  
Ring our Parent information & Support worker, Elaine Nuttall  
Check out the [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages of Parent Consortium.

### ASSESSED SHORT BREAKS

**What?**

These are our specialised services aimed at disabled children and young people with the highest level of need who cannot enjoy a short break from a universal or targeted service.

They include services provided via Bridges:

- Residential short breaks
- Family based short breaks
- Sessional support
- Family Support
- Social and leisure groups

And those services commissioned by Bridges:

- Play is For All
- Out of school clubs
- Resourced play scheme places

**What is the *Threshold Criteria*?**

In determining criteria, we must look not only at a child's diagnosis, but also the impact of that impairment on the child as an individual and on the family. A medical diagnosis, for example, cerebral palsy or ASD, is insufficient to access services as each spans a wide spectrum of impact.

Our specialist services are designed to work with severely disabled children and young people. This is reflected by...

- The award of DLA at middle or higher rate
- A statement of educational needs or an Education, Health and Care plan indicating 15 hours a week or more support in school
- A clear medical diagnosis from a named professional

In addition, we will look at the impact of the child's disability by carrying out an assessment with you that looks at all aspects of your child's life, strengths, skills, needs, family situation etc.

**PLEASE REMEMBER.....**

Not all children who meet threshold criteria *need* a specialist service. Increasingly, settings are more inclusive and welcome our children. We work hard with our partners to develop these inclusive services reserving our specialist services for those with the highest level of need. Only 20 - 25% of children who meet criteria currently need specialist services and often, only for a limited time.

**How?**

Because these services are specialist, the assessment process looks at a threshold criteria



which you would need to reach. This is to ensure that the services are right for you and your child and to enable us signpost you to other services if not.

The need for some specialist short break services can be met via a Direct Payment and you *may* be given this option following your assessment.

### Conduct disorders and/or mental ill health

Conduct disorders as a result of childhood experience and/or mental health difficulties do not meet threshold criteria and would be redirected.

**HOW DO I REQUEST AN ASSESSMENT?** We suggest that you ask to see our Parent Information and Support Worker, (01204 337102). She will talk to you about the *threshold criteria* for The Record (Bolton's database of disability) and advise you about universal, targeted and specialist services. If you have a social worker from the Children with Disabilities Social Work team, you can discuss with your social worker.

