

# Southwark Short Breaks Statement

This short breaks statement sets out what services are available, the eligibility criteria for these services and how services are designed to meet the needs of families.

Short breaks are part of a continuum of services which support disabled children and their families. They include the provision of day, evening, overnight and weekend activities for the child or young person and can take place in the child's home, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential or community setting.

The scheme is open to children and young people between the ages of 0-25, are resident of Southwark and meet the eligibility criteria.

The level of support a child and their family is entitled to depends on the severity and nature of the child's disability. The support is categorised into three levels:

**UNIVERSAL SERVICES:**  
These are short breaks that are available to all children in Southwark, whether disabled or not.

Examples of universal services include Children's Centres 'Stay and Play' activities, youth clubs and after-school clubs, and Free swim and Gym. All of these services are included in the Local Offer. We want these services to be as inclusive as possible for disabled children. All universal services are expected to make reasonable adjustments so that children with additional needs can be included. For most children, these short breaks are enough and they do not need to visit targeted or specialist services.

## TARGETED SERVICES:

These are short breaks set up to provide activities for disabled children only.

Families can use targeted services without needing to go through an assessment. In other words, you can simply contact the service and arrange for the child or young person to attend – they do not need to be assessed. Some targeted services are funded by Southwark and some by voluntary groups and charities.

**Examples of targeted services include;**

- *London PE network weekend sports club*
- *Ambitious about Autism*
- *Wednesday Art Club*
- *Salmon Centre Youth Club*

## SPECIALIST SERVICES:

These are services for disabled children with the most complex needs.

Due to their specialist nature, there is a process for ensuring that these services are suitable for the family. The child or young person will require an assessment – this is usually carried out by a member Children with Disabilities Team. The results of the assessment will then go to a decision-making Panel. A Panel consider each case individually and decide on eligibility.

**Examples of specialist service include;**

- *Family Link*
- *Orient Street*
- *School holiday specialist clubs*

## How was this statement developed?

Individual feedback and interaction with families and young people helps the council to decide what families want and

need which informs the commissioning cycle.

We are currently reviewing our short breaks statement and what activities are available for children and young people in Southwark. This review is taking place throughout 2017. Lots of parents and young people are helping us to design this service. If you are interested in joining the review team please contact the SIAS Team via the [Localoffer@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Localoffer@southwark.gov.uk)

## Have your say:

If you would like to raise concerns or tell us about a good service you can do this via the local offer. If you require support with this please contact the SIAS Team.

<http://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/have-your-say/comment-on-the-local-offer/>