



Somerset's Short Breaks Statement

Important words are explained below:

	<p>Disability</p> <p>The law says that you are disabled if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is very hard for you to do normal everyday things because of your disability; and• You have found these things hard for a long time; at least one year.
	<p>Legal duties</p> <p>These are the rules that organisations must follow.</p>
	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Somerset County Council is the local authority responsible for education and social care in Somerset.</p>
	<p>Legislation</p> <p>Is a law passed by the Government and something that must be followed.</p>
	<p>Inclusive</p> <p>Everyone gets treated with respect and nobody gets left out.</p>
	<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)</p> <p>A child or young person who has Special Educational Needs may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find it harder to learn than other people of their age.• Face challenges that make it hard to go to school or college.• Need extra or different support to learn.
	<p>Service</p> <p>Somewhere or someone that you might go to for some help.</p>

About

Introduction

This document provides information about the range of Services available to families of children and young people with a disability or additional need living in Somerset aged 0-18 years.

The services, or 'Short breaks' can / could include daytime, evening, overnight and weekend activities for the child or young person and can take place in their own home, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential or community setting. They cover the whole Children with Disabilities Service in Somerset.

Short breaks give disabled children and young people time away from their carers to try out new things, have fun and make new friends. Short breaks can also provide families with a chance to do ordinary things together.



" We went to the inclusive panto.....such great entertainment, they were absolutely fantastic with our grandchildren and even our very shy one was dancing and singing!

A really great, fun filled family activity for all"

Our Aims

We want good quality services that offer positive experiences for children and young people with a disability or additional need, particularly where they are unable to easily access other things in their local community.

We want our short breaks to provide children and young people with enjoyable experiences, that help them with their personal, social and educational development. At the same time, we want them to give parents and carers a valuable break, allowing them to rest, pursue other interests or spend time with other family members.

We know that each family's needs are different and for this reason we want to offer a range of services which are suitable to meet the assessed needs of all disabled children and young people.

We listen to children, young people and their families and use their feedback to change and develop our services.

The Law

There are legal duties that Local Authorities have, which relate to Short Breaks, these can be found within: -

- Children's Act 1989 and the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011
- Chronically Sick and Disabled Person's Act 1970
- Children Act 2004
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- NHS Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012)
- Care Act 2014 (in relation to transition to adult social care)

"Thank you so much for a fabulous afternoon and making me and my Daughter feel so welcome. I could tell from her smiles and laughter how much she was enjoying herself. You all work so well as a team and are so encouraging to all the children"

Parents / Carers are telling us...

What's working well?

- The calendars and newsletters are good, clear and visual and allow us to plan ahead
- There are some great activity providers where nothing is a barrier
- Having a range of short breaks is important because sometimes we need a full respite break, as well as being able to have fun days out as a family
- Accessible activities and friendly, trained staff is important as we feel more confident and can build trust and relationships with workers
- The short-term family work is good, the service is tailored to us and at a personal level
 - it's really helpful

What's not so good?

- Accessing our local community can be difficult as my child is not understood, we need to have some activities which are disability specific
- We are not confident to go to activities on our own, we like being with other families who understand as this helps. We like there to be staff on hand if needed
- Transport to get to activities is limited if you do not drive
- We need more for the 14+ years and the under 8's in some areas of Somerset
- Changing place toilets can be limited in some areas of Somerset which make it difficult for my child's personal care on a day out
- We need more activities for siblings of disabled children and young people
- Buddies could help our young people access more in their community
- We would like more accessible parks and open spaces, more inclusive soft play sessions, and more disability awareness in the community.
- There are more limited options for children with complex physical needs.

Children and young people with a Disability are telling us...

- Short break activities support children and young people's needs and are affordable
- The clubs and activities enable you to meet new people, are good for parents/carers and help you to be more confident
- The calendar of activities helps you to choose what you would like to do
- Some of the activities only go up to 18 years
- We need help with getting to places and transport
- Some of the activities can be too busy

"Finally, a place where everyone understands me, I can be myself and they won't think I'm stupid...OMG I love it!!!"

Effective support for Children and Families

The information below shows the different support available to children and young people and their families, living in Somerset aged 0 to 18 years with a disability or additional need. It is possible for a child or young person to receive support from one or more of the sections at any time. The information shows the lowest level of need at the top and the greatest level of need and possible support at the bottom.

Universal Information for all children and young people with a disability or additional need	What is available: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular Newsletter and Activity Calendar• Activity Day Passes• Regular club opportunities• Max Card (0-25 years) www.mymaxcard.co.uk• Youth Equipment Store www.somersetyouth.co.uk• SEND Engagement and Participation Team – The Unstoppables	How to access: <p>No assessment is needed and you do not need to be referred to any service access this information</p> <p>Information hosted on: www.somerset.gov.uk/cwd</p> <p>Information available on the Local Offer website www.somersetchoices.org.uk</p> <p>Email: CIATeam@somerset.gov.uk</p>
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The sections below show what may be available with an assessment of need:

<p>Additional Assessment and support</p> <p>(some children)</p>	<p>Potential services available:</p> <p>Time limited support from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Inclusion and Activity Team <p>1:1 support from a Somerset Supporter</p> <p>Direct Payments</p> <p>Specialist club provision</p>	<p>How to access and contact details:</p> <p>If your child / young person has one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A diagnosed disability; • In receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) / Personal Independence Payment (PIP); • Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) <p>You can contact Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224 and request an assessment which will help to find the right service for your child / young person.</p>
<p>Complex More Support</p> <p>(some children)</p>	<p>Potential services available:</p> <p>Time limited support from Children with Disabilities Early Support Team</p> <p>1:1 support from a Somerset Supporter</p> <p>Direct Payments</p> <p>Specialist club provision</p> <p>Overnight short breaks through Direct Payments</p> <p>Occupational Therapy assessment and ongoing support if needed</p>	<p>How to access and contact details:</p> <p>If your child / young person has one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A diagnosed disability; • In receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) / Personal Independence Payment (PIP); • Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) <p>You can contact Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224 and request an assessment which will help to find the right service for your child / young person.</p>

Acute Specialist Support (few children)	Potential services available: Direct Payments Overnight short breaks / foster care Occupational Therapy assessment and ongoing support if needed	How to access and contact details: If your child / young person: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a medical diagnosis of severe physical impairment, learning impairment or autism;• Has needs arising from their impairment that cannot be met by services within universal or targeted services. You can contact Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224 and request an assessment which will help to find the right service for your child / young person.
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Making sure the services meet the needs of disabled children and young people, and their families

To achieve this, we agree to: -

Fully involve parents, carers and disabled children and young people in the planning and delivery of short breaks

Make sure there are a range of activities and opportunities available

Work together with other organisations to make sure services are child / young person focused, good quality and positive outcomes are achieved

Develop our workforce (staff and volunteers) by making sure we have the skills that we need to provide short breaks

Regularly report to The Health and Wellbeing Board

Reviewed 24 February 2020

Contact Information

Visit: www.somerset.gov.uk/cwd

Somerset Local Offer: www.somersetchoices.org.uk

Email: CIATeam@somerset.gov.uk

Telephone: Somerset Direct 0300 123 2224

Somerset Parent Carer Forum

Unit 3, Babylon View, Oxford Road, Pen Mill Trading Estate, Yeovil, BA21 5HR 07543
680365 (answerphone available)

help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk

www.somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk

Tell us what you think about our services

You can talk to the person providing the service or alternatively you can:

Visit: www.somerset.gov.uk/telluswhatyouthink

Email: generalenquiries@somerset.gov.uk

Text: 07781 482858

Phone: 0300 123 2224