



## Short Break Activities for Disabled Children – Children’s Services grants for 01 April 2021 – 31 March 2023

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Department: Children's Services

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### Description of current service/policy

Short Break Activities enable children and young people with disabilities to join in with fun or educational activities. They give parents or carers an opportunity to have a short break from caring.

The Short Break Activities are part of the whole range of provision for children with disabilities short break services (including specialist tier 4 services such as overnight breaks). The range of services is described in the County Council’s Short Breaks Service statement: Short Breaks Service Statement ([hants.gov.uk](http://hants.gov.uk))

Grant funding is awarded to providers during the grant round to enable them to deliver Short Break Activities. To access a Short Break Activity a child or young person must have

Geographical impact: All  
Hampshire

### Description of proposed change

Two-year grants are being proposed to support the delivery of Short Break Activities across Hampshire, for children with disabilities. Each grant round is a new commissioning activity and therefore provision may be different to previous years. As a result of this grant round providers may have reduced grant funding in comparison with previous years or may not be prioritised for funding and this could potentially lead to some services ceasing to operate or reducing the amount of sessions available. New providers may also receive grants, which could lead to new Short Break Activities becoming available or in different geographical locations.

# Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

## Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

A public consultation was held between March and July 2020 to inform recommendations for implementation to ensure that a Short Break Activities Programme for Children with Disabilities can be provided from April 2021 within a reduced budget .

Respondents to the consultation were invited to let the Council know their priorities for short break activities, which were endorsed by parent representatives prior to the opening of the grant round. Provider engagement took place in October and November 2020 to support the grant round, and parent representatives were part of the grant evaluation panel.

<b>Statutory considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Age:</b> Positive	The grants will supplement existing provision and projects to provide holiday clubs, youth clubs and weekend Short Break Activities for children and young people with disabilities up to the age of 18.	
<b>Disability:</b> Positive	The grants will ensure that children and young people with disabilities have opportunities to access Short Break Activities during school term time and in school holidays and give their families a break from caring.	
<b>Sexual orientation:</b> Neutral		
<b>Race:</b> Neutral		

<b>Religion and belief:</b>  Neutral		
<b>Gender reassignment:</b>  Neutral		
<b>Gender:</b>  Neutral		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership:</b>  Neutral		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity:</b>  Neutral		
<b>Other policy considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Poverty:</b>  Low	In order to align the Short Break Activities with mainstream activity clubs we have made funding recommendations that some providers will need to increase the parental contribution. The impact is mitigated by providers applying a consistent charging and concessions policy that contains revised charges for families in receipt of benefits or on low incomes, in line with the criteria for free school meals.	

<b>Rurality:</b> Positive	The recommended grant awards will enable consistent coverage of Short Break Activities around the county, including in two new areas that previously did not have a Short Break Activity offer.	
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**Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)**

**Any other information**