



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs.

Short Break Statement  
April 2021 – April 2022.



# This statement has been co-produced with PACTS.

**Stockport Co-production Charter**

The charter has been co-produced with families, children, young people and health, care and education colleagues.

The co-production charter is about the way we will all work together to create a culture where we will all:



To find out more about the charter visit:  
[www.sensupportstockport.uk](http://www.sensupportstockport.uk)



**PACTS**  
Parents and Carers Together  
Stockport

To give feedback please email:  
[SEND-IP@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:SEND-IP@stockport.gov.uk)



# What is a Short Break and who is eligible?

A short break is a service offered to children with disabilities and their families to offer respite from the care of caring for a child or children with additional needs.

This service is provided by the Local Authority under Short Break Regulations.

Short breaks can be offered via activities, care in and away from the home and direct payments.

Children eligible for assessment are those in between the ages of 0 up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday who have a disability or an EHCP.



# What are the types of Short Break In Stockport?

## Universal and/or Inclusive Activities.

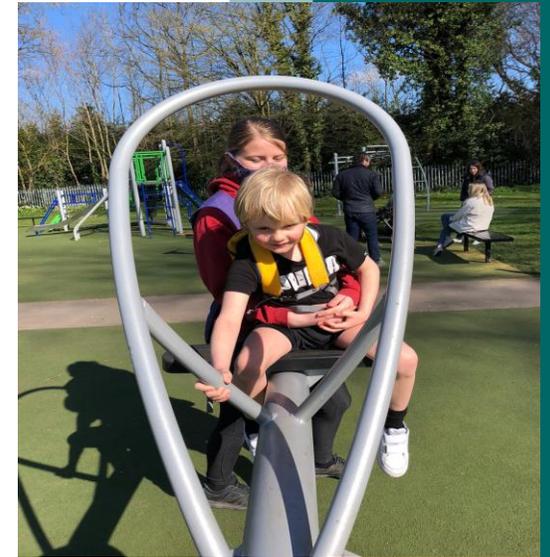
The Local Offer outlines a number of activities that are accessible for all children that do not need to be accessed via the Local Authority or any assessment process.

Examples include NK Theatre Arts, Jump Space, Wheelers, Independent Options.

## Specialist Activities (Grant Funded on the Local Offer).

The Local Authority fund specialist places and provision that can be accessed by children and families following assessment.

These include activities such as CADs, More Play More Often, Innovate etc



# Universal and Inclusive Activities.

Children and adults with disabilities have the right to access all areas of everyday life including education, health provision, social and leisure opportunities.

The law states that “reasonable adjustments” should be made in relation to this, so for example if a child wished to access a club and an adjustment can be made to facilitate this, this should be done.

## What’s meant by the duty to make reasonable adjustments?

The **Equality Act 2010** says changes or adjustments should be made to ensure you can access the following things if you are disabled:

- education
- employment
- housing
- goods and services like shops, banks, cinemas, hospitals, council offices, leisure centres
- associations and clubs such as Scouts and Guides and sports clubs



# Where can I find information on Short Breaks for Children With Disabilities? Stockport's LOCAL OFFER



Go to the local offer

[www.sensupportstockport.uk](http://www.sensupportstockport.uk)

In the 'search box' type in children with disabilities or CWD

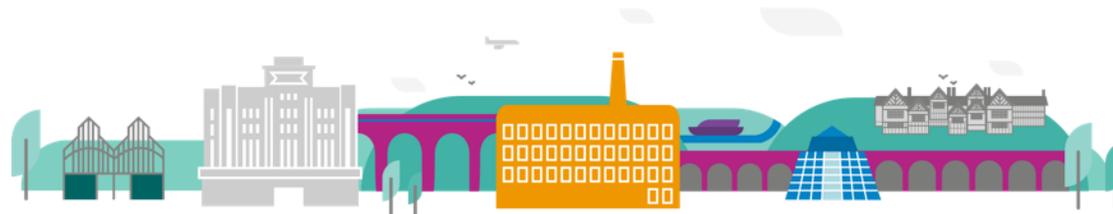
Welcome to the Stockport Information and Childcare Directory

Here you will find information regarding services available for children, young people and adults in Stockport.

Using the categories below please select which area you are searching for and click on the link, or alternatively if looking for something specific use the search bar above.



Click "Children With Disabilities Short Breaks Service"



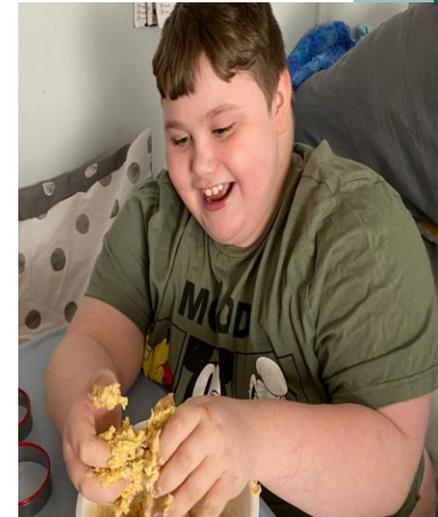
# Children with complex disabilities and health needs.

- Some children with complex needs will not be able to access some activities even with “reasonable adjustment”.
- In these instances short breaks can be offered via direct payments.
- Additionally some children and families require support with their everyday care to allow them to remain at home.
- This care can be offered within and away from the family home.



# How to access a Short Break?

- There are a number of ways to access a short break. In its simplest form a parent can contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH).
- Alternatively a parent or carer can discuss with a professional already working with the family about accessing a short break and this might be considered as part of the Early Help Assessment or plan.
- If your child has an allocated social worker please discuss a referral with them.
- Once a short break is agreed they are then reviewed via processes that are already in place, such as Team Around the Child (TAC), Team Around the Family (TAF) or Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) annual review. If none of these are in place they will be reviewed via a short break review coordinated by the Short Breaks Coordinator.



# What we provided 2019/2020

- We have collated data from this year to look at what was provided for children in Stockport via Short Breaks 2019/2020:
- 52623 hours of 1:1/direct payments
- 1090 overnights
- 15625 hours of group based sessions.
- This service reached approximately 447 children.
- So whilst we strive to improve the services we offer and how we do this it is also clear that many children benefit from short breaks.



# Support During the Covid Pandemic. 2020 – 2021.

During 2020 – 2021, a range of services worked hard to continue to provide support to families. This had to be done in line with government guidance and legislation.

Examples of some of these services were:

- CADS, Innovate and More Play More Often, all were able to offer provision at certain times.
- Home from Home carers were able to continue to offer a service when safe and appropriate for children and carers.
- Direct payments remained in place with flexible uses agreed at panel.
- Some outreach agencies continued to offer support.



# What's working and what we could do better.

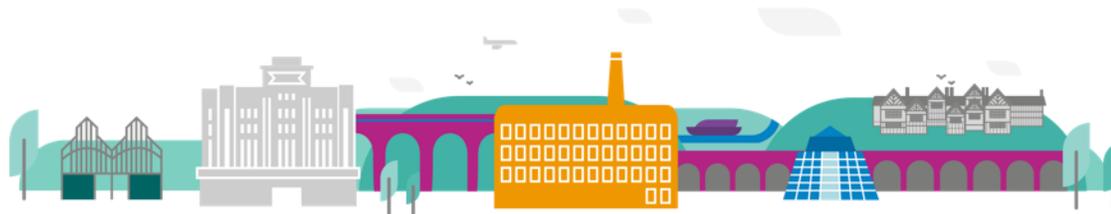
From March 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 and April 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 a survey was generated in conjunction with PACTS. There were 112 responses to this survey and the responses were mixed.

There was positive feedback in relation to workers, activities and services.

There was feedback that expressed dissatisfaction at the process, range of services available for some children and the flexibility of services available.

Because children with disabilities are so diverse there will always be areas that are difficult to mitigate. For example a small number of respondents felt that the short breaks offer was weighted for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), however 69 of the 112 respondents had children with ASC.

People reported that the Local Offer was difficult to navigate and there was confusion about processes and what was available for children.



# FEEDBACK.

*Archie has had the best day at more play they said he's been brilliant , been kind , and gentle I guess the 3 golden rules I set when leaving the house is working 1) be kind 2) be gentle 3) play nicely with everybody. **MPMO**.*

*I would like to say a huge thank you to short breaks and The Sea Shell Trust. It has been so lovely to see my daughter Mia grow in confidence by going to CADS on a Saturday Morning it has given Mia a structure to her weekend. Knowing that on a Saturday Morning she would be going to CADS to see her friends and take part in the activities. Her 1-1 has given me the confidence and trust to loosen the apron strings and give Mia the freedom and independence to grow into the beautiful girl she has become. I am so so proud of her and so grateful to everyone who has supported Mia and cared for Mia. **CADS***

Hi i did a talking mats session with one of the children last week and she was able to tell me that she liked spending time with her home from home carers, she enjoyed doing activities with them, and the only thing she would like to change was that they cooked her favourite dinner, chicken, corn on the cob and rice.

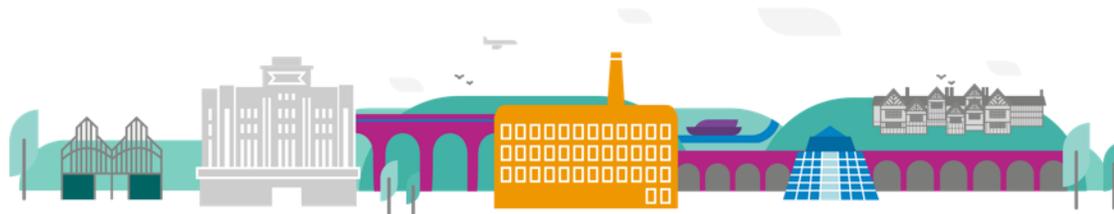
*Most important, our son gets to spend time alongside other children & with different adults. He has no friends or peers away from school. It also allows us to get noisy jobs done in the house, or to run errands that our son would find triggering. And, on the rare occasion that nothing needs doing, we might spend a bit of time chatting and having a brew. Or more likely, sleeping! It's a welcome service. **SENSE***

The support we've had from Sense on Saturdays has been invaluable to Olivia and the entire family. Olivia struggles with communication, and this has left her feeling marginalised - especially since the pandemic. Having a dedicated person from outside the family giving her uninterrupted time every week has been a massive boost to her confidence. She looks forward to the sessions and loves planning what they'll be doing every week. The support we receive also enables us to spend quality time with Patrick, who often gets overlooked due to Olivia's needs. We're free to go for longer walks with him and on stress-free trips to cafes. It's brilliant from a practical and emotional perspective, and the breaks mean we have more energy to dedicate to Olivia. Sense has been a huge boost to our family - it's a godsend!



# Our short term aspirations.

- To continue to improve the Local Offer content and accessibility to all families, professionals and carers.
- To reach out to mainstream providers and look at supporting them to make more adjustments so that more children with additional needs can attend.
- We have a new case recording system to help ensure short breaks are reviewed regularly and data can be collected to consider future provision.
- Covid has taught us that there are many flexible ways to support children and their families and we will continue to explore these opportunities, including personal budgets.
- Feedback received and annual consultation will inform future service development.
- We will continue to embed the voice of children, young people and their families in the Short Breaks Service.



**Thank you 😊 to all the parents and carers who allowed us to use photographs of their children.**

**We felt this would be more representative than the catalogue images available.**