

# Introduction to Short Breaks in Sheffield



## Introduction

Sheffield offers a range of Short Break services to families which in turn provide:

- parents and carers with the opportunity for a regular break from their caring responsibilities
- children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities that they enjoy or to be cared for in their home.

Although Sheffield has offered Short Breaks for some time, since April 2009 we have been undergoing a programme of transformation, brought about by the Government's Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme. Between April 2009 and March 2011 significant investment is being made in Short Breaks increasing both the range and the number of services that are available.

Short Breaks can take place in a wide variety of settings including, Saturday clubs, holiday, after school or evening programmes, overnight stays in residential homes, family based placements, care in your home or direct payments as an alternative to the Short Break services that are available.

## Who can access a Short Break

Accessing Short Breaks may require some form of assessment in order to provide an appropriate package of support.

Eligibility is based upon both the child/young person's disability/special need and the impact upon the family as a whole. This means that depending upon individual family circumstances and need that you may be eligible for different levels of service.

## Service levels

Short Breaks fall into one of three groups:

- 1) Self referral process for a standard package:** Families can access the Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) and some activities run by parents support groups without having an assessment.
- 2) Assessment process via panel:** In order to access these services, families will undergo an assessment that can be carried out by any professional. Services that can be accessed this way include, home based services, additional SNIPS (holiday, weekend, after school or evening play care services), befriending services and direct payments.
- 3) Services requiring social worker assessment:** In order to access these services, families will undergo an assessment by a social worker in order to determine the most appropriate package.

## Further Information

We would like to keep you informed about Short Breaks. If you would like to receive regular updates on this service please contact SIGN, 0114 2669476, [sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk](mailto:sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk)