

RBKC Services for Disabled Children and Their Families Short Breaks Statement

Introduction

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea provides a range of different services to support disabled children and their families. These include advice and sign posting, help with behaviour problems, family and social work support, drop-ins, day care (after school, Saturdays, holidays) and overnight care.

Wherever possible, we try to enable disabled children and young people to access mainstream services, such as After School Clubs, Local Play Schemes, Local Youth Service and Local Leisure facilities. We have good links with these services and can use our experiences, skills and expertise to work with you and your child to enable this to happen.

The philosophy behind our services is that they should help normalise families' lives and contribute to the health, wellbeing, growth, development, enjoyment, and achievement of the children and young people it serves.

We seek to provide choice and make our services easy to access. Any assessment should be proportionate to the level of service required. We work closely with other agencies to provide a co-ordinated service.

Service Overview

The Services for Disabled Children and their Families consists of:

- St Quintin Centre for Disabled Children
- Children with Disabilities Social Work Team
- Behaviour and Family Support Team
- The Key Worker Service
- Healthlink Team
- The Haven
- Short Breaks

The services have been developed in consultation with parents, carers and users and are designed to support families to care for their disabled child in their own homes and where possible access mainstream services and do all the things that families' with non disabled children are able to do. The services are expected to work together to support disabled children and their families each providing their particular input, this includes help in emergencies. It is intended that the services will provide disabled children with the range of experiences open to non disabled children and their families with the level of support that matches their needs and enables them and their families to experience the best that family life has to offer.

Who are the services for?

All services are available to residents of RBKC and are for Children and Young People up to the age of 18 years with a disability who are substantially and adversely affected in their ability to carry out normal day to day activities by a physical or mental impairment: This may include one or more of the following:

- Global developmental delay
- Physical impairment
- A profound sensory impairment
- A significantly disabling chronic ill health condition
- Severe communication or language disorder
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder with communication disorder and developmental delay
- Learning disability
- A serious life limiting or terminal illness.

For Children who are substantially and adversely affected in their ability to carry out normal day to day activities through a mental impairment such as

- Emotional and Behavioural problems
- ADHD
- Aspergers Syndrome
- Mental Health Problems

Services are provided through the locality social work teams and local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

For more details go to Short breaks through the locality Social work teams for children with Aspergers ADHD and mental health problems.

Transition

Services are expected to work together to achieve a smooth transition into Adult Services. Transition planning starts at 16 years of age, to facilitate this, a children and families' worker works in the adult transitions team and an adult transition worker works in the children with disabilities social work team. The adult transitions team provides services up to the age of 25 years.

The Services :

St Quintin Centre for Disabled Children Service

Provides a range of activities and clubs for disabled children and young people and their families. This includes:

- Daytime stay and play for Under 5s
- After School Activity Clubs
- Sunday Drop In
- Holiday Trips out
- Advice and Signposting
- Parents training and workshops
- Centre Hire
- Support in accessing mainstream play youth and leisure services
- After school, Saturday and Holiday Care for children receiving Assessed Care Packages.

For more details go to St Quintin Centre for Disabled Children Service

Children with Disabilities Social Work Team

The child with disabilities team provides specialist services to disabled children and their families. This includes:

- Assessment to access assessed and complex needs support packages.
- Emotional and practical support
- Advice and signposting
- Case management
- Occupational Therapy including equipment and adaptations
- Child Protection Services
- Services to Looked After Disabled Children

For more details go to Children with Disabilities Social Work Team

The Behaviour and Family Support Team

The team provides, support, practical advice and behavioural management advice and strategies to support families who have a disabled child who presents with;

- Challenging behaviours (eg aggression, self injurious behaviour, tantrums, non-compliance).
- Emotional problems (eg anxiety, depression, phobias and anger).

- Language and communication issues that cause behaviour problems or affect emotional wellbeing.
- Sensory processing needs .
- Difficulties with Sleep, toileting and eating issues.
- Issues relating to adolescence.

The team also provide training and consultation to staff, carers and professionals in relation to the above issues.

For more details go to The Behaviour and Family Support Team

The Key Worker Service

Helps families find out about services which support a disabled child
 Provide emotional support to the family
 Make appropriate referrals to other professionals
 Help with benefit and other applications
 Liaise with other professionals and co-ordinate services

For more details go to The Key Worker Service

The Health Link Team

The Health Link team is a social work team funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It is based in the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and serves patients of the hospital giving priority to residents of Kensington and Chelsea.

For more details go to The Health Link Team

The Haven

The Haven is based in Hammersmith and Fulham and provides overnight care for children with the most complex needs.

For more details to The Haven

Short Breaks

Support packages are there to support families in their everyday lives, and to provide disabled children with the opportunities and experiences available to non disabled children.

Short breaks include:

- After school and Saturday activities (*Core Offer*)
- Holiday activities (*Core Offer*)
- Stay and play opportunities (*Core Offer*)
- Family days out (*Core Offer*)
- Subsidised holiday opportunities (*Core Offer*)
- Holiday play provision
- Help with Transport
- Homecare or Home Sitting
- Direct payments
- After school Care
- Regular Saturday care
- Residential short breaks

Help with Transport

Help with transport is available for those families who have difficulty getting to and from St Quintin. Priority is given to those who:

- Live more than a mile from St Quintin
- Do not have a family car available
- Where there siblings or other children who the parent needs to bring along when they collect the child from the centre
- If the parent disabled in a way that makes it difficult for them to collect the child from the centre
- When the child's disability make it significantly difficult for the parent to collect them from the centre and take them home

For more details go to Short Breaks

How to Access Short Breaks

The "Core Offer" provided from St Quintin can be accessed on proof of disability without a detailed assessment. For children with higher needs, more comprehensive packages of care known as "Additional Needs" and "Complex Needs" Packages will require a Social work Assessment to be completed by the Children with Disabilities Social Work Team. The assessment will cover the level of the child's disability, any relevant social or environmental issues such as, finance, ill health and housing and any parenting issues such as relationship difficulties. Following assessment depending on the level of need either key managers or a panel of key people who provide services for disabled children will meet to agree a care package aimed at meeting the needs which have been assessed.

For more details go to how to access short breaks

Consultation, Involvement and Review

The current range of services for disabled children and their families have been developed over time with Parents, Carers and Users. The current Short Breaks Statement reflects this history and was last consulted on during July 2011.

We will continue to consult with our service users and involve them to help improve services, through: the St Quintin user group, annual consultation meetings, involvement in working groups, involvement in commissioning decisions, the production of an annual report, and regular news updates.

In response to our consultation with parents and users in July we pledge to do the following:

For more details click go to Consultation, Involvement and Review

This Short Breaks Statement and Eligibility Criteria reflects this boroughs history of involving parents carers and users in the development of services and was last consulted on during July 2011
This statement complies with the duties on a Local Authority by virtue of section 149 Equality Act 2010.
