



Aiming High for Disabled Children Transforming Short Term Breaks in Bromley.

This newsletter gives a brief overview of what we have achieved so far and gives you some idea of what we hope will happen in the near future.

In May 2007 the Government published a report called *Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families*, based on their review of services for disabled children.

The vision behind Aiming High for Disabled Children is for all families with disabled children to have the support they need to live ordinary family lives, as a matter of course.

One of the recommended actions was to recognise the critical importance and significant benefits of short breaks for disabled children and their families.

Every Local Authority was allocated new grants in order to deliver new short term break services. In Bromley we received a £60,000 preparation grant during 2008-9. This was used to enable the necessary planning and consultation to take place. This planning has been overseen and monitored by a Government advisor.

Year	Revenue	Capital
08/09	£60,000	-
09/10	£367,900	£184,800
10/11	£1,188,600	£431,300
Total	£1,616,500	£616,100

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You can read the full report **Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families** by downloading it from www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/ahdc

What are Short Term Breaks?

Short Breaks are provided to give:

- Disabled children and young people enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, thereby contributing to their personal and social development and reducing social isolation;
- Parents and families a necessary and valuable break from caring responsibilities.

These include day, evening, overnight and weekend activities and can take place in the child's own home, the home of an approved carer, a residential or community setting. Short breaks come in a variety of formats and each one can last from just a few hours to a few days, and occasionally longer, depending on the type of provision and the needs of the child and their family.

Our Vision for the Transformation of Bromley's Short Break Service is to Promote the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters for Disabled Children and Young People in the Borough.

Be Healthy

Short Term Breaks will enable disabled children and young people to access a range of community based services that are tailored to meet individual needs and provide them with increased opportunities for healthy lifestyles.

Stay Safe

Short Term Breaks will be provided within a framework of quality care given to the children and young people by a skilled and knowledgeable workforce, in appropriate environments, where safeguarding remains paramount.

Enjoy and Achieve

Short Term Breaks will increase leisure time for carers and provide the opportunity for disabled children and young people to participate in universal and specialist social activities, affording them greater choice and flexibility.

Make a Positive Contribution

Actively involving disabled children and young people and their carers in the planning and development of their Short Break Services will ensure that their contribution remains at the centre of service planning.

Achieve Economic Well Being

Short Term Breaks will support disabled children and young people during transition to enhance their life skills and promote independence as they move forward into adulthood.

Bromley's Progress to date...

From September 2008 Jane Ching (Childrens Disability Team Social Care) and Hilary Rogers (Early Years & Childcare Access) were seconded to project manage the planning for the Short Term Break agenda.

This planning had to provide evidence to our Government Advisor that Bromley would be ready, by March 2009, to begin to develop a 'transformation' of short break provision.

They called upon the expertise of colleagues across the CYP Trust and

regularly reported on their progress to a Strategic Steering Group, which includes Assistant Directors from both the Local Authority and the PCT.

Areas of their work included:

- [Data collection;](#)
- [Information;](#)
- [Work Force Planning;](#)
- [Commissioning;](#)
- [Increased Parent Participation in future service planning;](#)

A formal consultation process took place with disabled children and their carers on how they felt short term break services could be extended and improved.

Consultations also took place with staff across the statutory and voluntary agencies who work with disabled children and their families.

The full outcome of this consultation will be available on Bromley's website in April 2009.

Confirmation received that Bromley has met the 'Readiness Criteria'.

Fantastic News!

Bromley's Government Programme Advisor confirmed, on the 5th March 2009, that work completed so far means that Bromley has met the 'readiness criteria' as required by the DCSF to draw down the future increased funding for continued Short Term Break development.

Bromley is therefore eligible to receive extra funding as detailed in the table on Page 1.

This is now enabling the planning to move forward into the Implementation Phase.

We have reviewed the responses that came out of the consultation and agreed that the priority areas for development in 2009/2010 are:

- Family based overnight breaks with experienced carers. (Particularly for those with more complex health needs, and those with ASD who present challenging behaviour.)
- Holiday Schemes;
- Saturday/Weekend clubs borough wide;
- Buddying/Outreach to enable access to universal services such as Youth Groups
- Sitting Services (day, evening and overnight);
- Increased leisure opportunities such as Swimming, Trampolining, Cooking, Dancing, Music, Drama, Outward Bound;
- 'Drop in' centre for disabled young people;
- Improved transport to enable access to 'out of school' services;

Commissioning work for these new services will begin in April 2009.

Some funding will also be used to pilot 'innovative' ways of providing short breaks.

Providers Information Day

A successful Provider Information Day was held in Bromley on 24th February 2009 where providers from across a range of services were alerted to our priorities for service development and fully informed of Bromley's commissioning process.

Parent Participation

An essential component of AHDC is that consultation and participation becomes integral to all future service planning and provision.

We now have a developing parent forum in the borough, Parent Voice, that will enable us to work in partnership with parents/carers of disabled children now and into the future.

Some parents have been supported by Bromley to attend a Loughborough University Course on Participation and Partnership Working and we have parent representatives on each of the short term break workstream groups.

'Parent Voice' arranged a very successful Family Fun Day in Bromley on 7th February 2009 (see flyer opposite) which was opened by the

Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Denise Reddin. Despite the weather the day was attended by 99 adults and 132 disabled children. This provided a day where children enjoyed themselves and parents/carers of disabled children could learn more about the AHDC agenda and the development of the parent forum.

Successful follow up meetings were held recently for interested parents to attend. Future meetings are being arranged and if you would be interested in receiving further information please contact as at the email address below.

Free Family Fun-Day

For children with disabilities and additional needs and their families.

Circus Skills, Puppet Workshop
Children's Entertainers,
African Drummers
Mask Making
Dinky Dancing



If you want to get involved in transforming short breaks in Bromley in any way whatsoever - whether you're a parent, someone who can help provide short breaks, someone who works with disabled children or just someone with a good idea - please get in touch with us.

Email: shorttermbreaks@bromley.gov.uk