

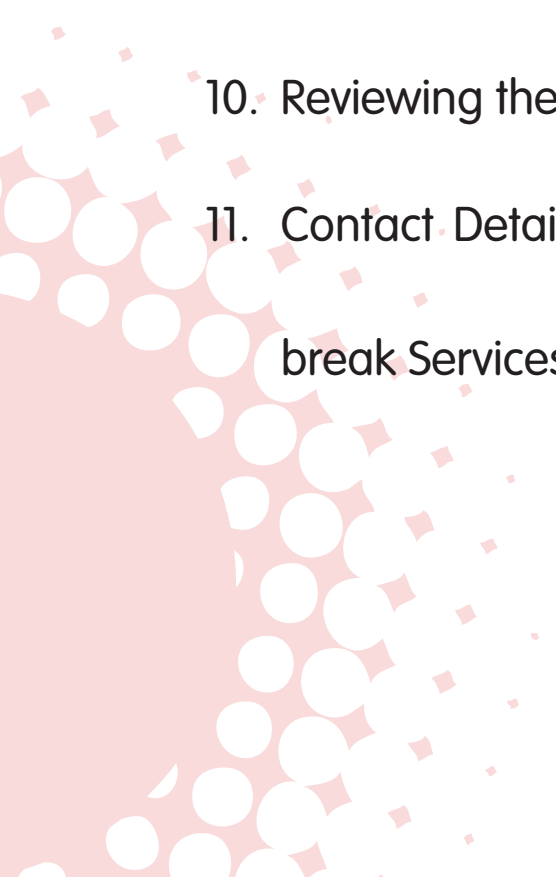
Halton Disabled Children's Service Short Breaks Statement



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Halton's Short Breaks and Support Services for Disabled Children and their families

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 came into effect in April. These placed a duty on local authorities to provide Short Breaks for carers of disabled children to enable them to continue to care for their disabled child and to participate in everyday activities. It also required that a Short Breaks Statement is produced that states:

- the range of Short Breaks services available;
- the criteria by which eligibility for services will be assessed; and
- how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in Halton.

The statement must be kept under review and it should be revised when new services become available, or when there are changes to existing services. Carers' views will be fully considered when preparing and revising this statement. The views of disabled children and young people and of voluntary sector organisations working with disabled people should also be taken into account.

In Halton, we have worked closely with disabled young people; parents and carers, service providers and partner agencies to develop a range of Short Breaks services that provide carers with a break from their caring responsibilities. They also provide disabled children with positive and enjoyable experiences.

In Halton we have organised 3 Powerful Voices conferences since 2008 that have been attended by carers, young people and professionals. These have been used to gain everyone's views about Short Breaks and which services they have found to be most beneficial. Smaller consultation events, questionnaires and feedback from individual families and groups have also contributed to the development of the range of services that are available in Halton.

We have carried out further consultations throughout the summer period with providers, parents groups and young people to involve them in creating this statement. They have advised on; how the statement should look, what information would be most useful to families and how to make it easily accessible to families. All the information gathered has been used to inform the statement.

Principles and Values

In Halton, we understand that families of disabled children want to lead ordinary lives. They want to provide the best care and opportunities for their children to feel safe, and to be healthy and happy. We also know that this can be more of a struggle as some of the things that most families take for granted are more difficult to achieve if they have a disabled child. For example, It can be difficult for parents to have some time to themselves and be able to spend time with other children in their family.

Following detailed consultation and involvement with families and providers, we have developed a range of services and support that we hope will help families of disabled children to lead a more 'ordinary' family life within their community. This document explains who families should talk to about getting support for their family, where they can get information about services, and how they can tell us what they think about them and help us to develop them further.



We are committed to

- Supporting disabled children and families to take part in local community life.
- Providing clear information for families about support, services and how to access them.
- Providing choices for disabled children and their families to help them make decisions about what works best to improve their daily lives.
- Listening to the views of disabled children and families so we can continue to improve the quality of their lives.
- Working in partnership with disabled children and families to ensure their involvement in decision making about the development of support services to help them.
- Supporting disabled young people to become more independent through a smooth transition into adulthood.
- Providing services that enable families of disabled children to have an improved quality of life within their communities.



In Halton we have developed our services and carer support based on some of the key messages that disabled children and families have told us about what they want locally.

Young people have told us that they want to be able to do the same things that other young people are able to do. They want to be able to have fun with their friends and have improved access to community services.

Parents and carers have told us that they want to have up to date information about services, that are easily available and accessible from one single contact point. They want services to be available at weekends, evenings and school holiday periods. They want activities that they can experience as a whole family rather than just services for their disabled child. On the whole they do not believe that a Social Work Assessment is necessary in order to receive a Short Break.

In response to families' comments, Halton has established a service called The Disabled Children's Service which is based at Peelhouse Centre in Widnes and they work across Halton.

The team consists of a group of skilled and experienced workers who have up to date information about the Short Breaks services available in Halton. They work closely with all agencies who work with children and families including schools, health staff, Short Break providers, community groups and Social Work teams.

Halton has developed a model of early help and support. It is called 'Team Around the Family' and is supported and overseen by Halton's Children's Trust. The aim of the model is to ensure that appropriate help and support is offered to families as soon as additional needs are identified. By offering support to the whole family at an early stage, we can help prevent further difficulties arising in the future and more specialist interventions becoming necessary. The Disabled Children's Service is part of 'Team Around the Family' model of early help. The model includes services such as parenting support and Children's Centres.

Who is eligible for a short break?

This section tells you who may be eligible for Short Breaks and how we work with disabled children, young people and their families, to make sure they receive the services that best meet their needs.

Who is a disabled child?

In Halton, we see disabled children as being those children and young people aged 0 –18 years whose daily lives are substantially affected by one or more of the following diagnosed conditions:

- A hearing impairment
- A visual impairment
- A learning disability
- A physical disability
- A chronic/life threatening physical illness
- A communication disorder (including autism)
- A consciousness disorder (e.g. epilepsy)
- A mental health condition

Their condition should usually be expected to last for more than 12 months and have a substantial effect upon the child in more than one of the following areas:

- Physical ability
- Communication and understanding
- Awareness of risk and danger
- Behaviour
- Independence



We understand that children and young people may also be disadvantaged because of other factors, such as their environment, other people's attitudes, poverty and social exclusion. However, these factors alone do not entitle them to be considered for Short Breaks services.

Each child and family will have different needs and the impact of the child's disability needs to be considered against what would usually be expected for any child of the same age. Their family's circumstances will also be different and so it is important to assess how their situation impacts upon their ability to lead an ordinary life within the community. The assessment process in Halton is explained in more detail in the section called 'How can families get a Short Break?'



Range of support services

Halton is establishing a system that enables all disabled children and young people to access community based social and leisure activities. Ordinary community facilities, such as cinemas and sports and leisure clubs, should be able to meet the needs of those children and young people who require little or no additional support. Such facilities are expected to make reasonable adjustments to enable them to access services as required under The Disability and Equality Act 2010.

Additionally, we have developed a range of Short Breaks services within universal services such as Youth Services and Children's Centres right through to specialist services for those children with more complex disabilities. Those disabled children and young people who have been assessed as requiring support in order to access activities can request this through the Disabled Children's Service.

What is a short break?

From, 2008-2011, the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme transformed the delivery of services for disabled children and their families in England. Additional funding was given to Local Authorities to provide support to enable disabled children to be involved in leisure activities and to have fun with their friends. This also provided their families with a break so they could do things that they might not usually be able to, whilst caring for their disabled child.

In Halton, we used this as an opportunity to build upon the existing services and add new ones, with the aim that families would find them beneficial. We worked with young people, parents and carers and representatives from a range of agencies who work with disabled children and their families to develop a Halton Vision for Short Breaks. It stated that:

“Halton’s vision is to extend the quantity and quality of Short Breaks to ensure that disabled children, young people and their families have a choice of services, increased access to inclusive services and opportunities towards independence. We will continue to develop engagement with families and young people towards the provision of flexible and responsive services that are child and family focused, and led.”



The Short Breaks provided are listed in the Guide to Services Section and they range from; family activities and day trips, out of school sessions, holiday playschemes to individual support, both at home and in the community. They are available in various locations in Runcorn and Widnes. Some services are provided directly from Halton Borough Council with others from national and local organisations who deliver the service on behalf of the Council.



Additional funds have been provided for specialist equipment to be used in community facilities throughout Halton, so families can go to local facilities such as leisure centres and play parks. We have provided portable hoists in Phoenix and Victoria Parks and hoists and adjustable changing beds in Kingsway and Brookvale Leisure Centres. Play equipment has been provided in some of the newly developed parks and wheelchair accessible benches have also been installed. Ten sports wheelchairs have been purchased to enable young disabled people to become involved in disability sports sessions and some specialist toys have been bought by The Play Council Toy Library that can be used by families or groups in the community.

Funds have been used to provide sensory rooms in Children's Centres around Halton and The Chill Out Room at CRMZ. Two outreach bases have been refurbished at Chesnut Lodge school in Widnes and Inglefield Short Breaks Centre in Runcorn in response to the young people's wish to have somewhere safe and accessible to 'hang out with their mates'.

We are continuing to work with families and service providers to develop our Short Breaks services. In the next few months we will be going through a process to invite agencies to bid for contracts to deliver Short Breaks services next year. We will use information disabled young people and families have already told us, about what works best for them and we will be involving them in the process to choose services that will provide choice, flexibility and quality.

How can families get a short break?

All enquiries and requests for Short Breaks and family support are made to the Disabled Children's Service using a direct telephone number or e-mail address. Professionals and Parents/Carers can contact the service to have an initial discussion about the child's needs and the family's circumstances. Professionals must have prior consent from the family before doing so.

Single services

In some cases families need access to information or a single service in circumstances where they are managing their lives well but may need access to specific activities. There is no need for additional planning and so the Disabled Children's Services worker will advise accordingly and signpost them to appropriate services, if necessary making contact with the provider to facilitate a smooth entry into the activity. They will then log the child and family details on to the Information Network. They will ensure that the family has information about The Families Information Service, Carer Support, VOICES Participation Group and Bright Sparks young peoples group.



Additional services

In some cases, a single service may not be sufficient for a family. Further information or assessment may be required to see if there are any additional support needs that can be met through other Short Breaks services. In these situations, the Disabled Children's Service, with the family's consent, will work with any other professionals involved with the family. Any previous assessments will be taken into account and any further needs will be assessed holistically, making sure that any Short Breaks services offered are suited to the child and family's needs.

Assessment and Planning

We understand that most disabled children and their families will have experienced a number of assessment processes and so it isn't necessary to put families through even more assessments before they can have a Short Break or family support. Your child might already have one or more of the following:

- Disability Living Allowance for care at middle rate or above
- A statement of Special Educational Needs
- Individual support at school for 15 hours or more

If this is the case then you could be eligible for Short Breaks. However, the type and level of service will be dependent on the needs of the child and family circumstances.

In all cases, a worker from the Disabled Children's Service will, with your permission, access any assessments that are already in place. This will help us establish which planning and review systems the child and family are already engaged with. The worker will then participate in the current plan for the child, providing advice on services and ensuring that the Short Breaks documentation is completed.

If there isn't a recent assessment available then a discussion will take place with the family to establish who has the most professional involvement with their child and whether their child would benefit from a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) assessment.

The outcome of the assessment process is that level and type of service is agreed and implemented.

In Halton we have developed a system that looks at what support the disabled child and their family require and links this to a level of service that might meet their needs. This is supported by new documents that are colourful and family friendly and these are completed by the worker with the family. Once this is complete then a points system is used to say how much Short Break the family could benefit from and the type of services that would be appropriate to meet their needs. A Short Breaks care plan is then completed with tasks agreed to enable the child and their family to start to join in the new activities. This plan is reviewed on a 6 monthly basis and changed to reflect any changes in the child and family's circumstances.

Some disabled children who may have more complex needs or be living in more difficult family circumstances may need a larger package of support from different services. Therefore it may be more appropriate to have involvement from a Social Worker. In these cases the worker from the Disabled Children's Service will make contact with the Children's Social Care Duty Officer and discuss whether a Child in Need Assessment would be beneficial for the child.



Guide to Services

Halton Borough Council offers a range of Short Break and support services for disabled children and their families in conjunction with private and voluntary providers who receive Council funding to deliver services on their behalf. In effect, we offer a continuum of support that is based on what level of help the child and family needs. Therefore, the greater the need, the higher the level of support.

All such services are available for disabled children who live in Halton. Many are available without an additional assessment if your child has had a previous assessment that confirms their disability and need for additional support.

Universal services are available to all children, whether they have a disability or not. They can be accessed directly or via the Disabled Children's Service, as can general information and advice. Families can also be sign-posted to single services.

Other Short Breaks services, for example after school clubs and play activities, are available for those disabled children who have more complex needs and who may be living within difficult family situations. These can also be accessed via the Disabled Children's Service, once a holistic assessment establishes what level of support would be beneficial to the family.

In such circumstances it may be useful to undertake an additional assessment such as a CAF (Common Assessment Framework). This would take account of any previous assessment undertaken involving the child and/or family.

Dependent on the level of complexity and difficulty, it may be necessary for a Social Work Assessment to be undertaken. In both cases, the family will be kept fully informed of what assessment, if any, is required, and no assessments will not be undertaken unless necessary.

Most of the services are free of charge but you will usually be required to transport your child to an activity and pick them up afterwards. In certain circumstances transport may be offered to a child for a specific activity if available and agreed with staff from Disabled Children's Service.

Similarly, parents may be asked to provide a packed lunch, spending money for some trips or a contribution to certain activities which may be for longer outings or special occasions.

Information about activities is available from the Disabled Children's Service and Families Information Services. Additional activities may be organised throughout the year and families can find out about these as above or by looking at our Twitter page and through publications such as Carers Centre newsletter, Halton magazine and local newspaper.



FULL GUIDE TO SERVICES

Provider	Location	Description of Service	Who is it For?
Action For Children	Youth Centres and community centres in Halton.	Various youth group activities including Fun Club held on Tuesdays 7-9pm at CRMZ in Widnes.	Young people aged 11-18
Ashley Adventurers	Group based at Ashley School but activities take place in community	Group activities chosen by the young people. Also support for young people to become young leaders.	Young People aged 11-18
Barnardos Wider Horizons	Various Venues in the community	<p>Brokerage Service provides support for children who have been assessed as requiring specific Short Breaks into new services.</p> <p>Befriending Service provides support for young people to access community activities either in groups or individual sessions.</p>	<p>Children and Young People aged 0-18</p> <p>Children and Young People aged 0-18</p>
ChAPS	<p>The Hotel Campanile, Runcorn.</p> <p>George and Dolly's Playspace</p> <p>Focus Gymnastic Club, Ditton Industrial Estate, Widnes</p>	<p>Parent and Carer support group is held every 2nd Thursday from 7-9pm.</p> <p>Fun session for children and families held every 3rd Wednesday from 4-6pm.</p> <p>Trampolining session every Friday from 3.30 to 4.30pm.</p>	Children of all ages who have diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition and their families.
Core Disability Service	In family home, carers home or community venues	<p>CDS provide personal assistants to support young people with more complex disabilities to access the community.</p> <p>CDS also provide a short break overnight service within carer's home or family home. This service is only available through a Social work assessment.</p>	<p>Children and Young People aged 0-18</p> <p>Children and Young People aged 0-18</p>
Crossroads	In the family home or in the community.	Personal assistants provide support in the family home that enable carers to go out or they take the child out to enjoy an activity in the community.	Children and Young People aged 0-18
Deafness Resource Centre	Kingsway Learning Centre, Thursday only at the moment.	Assessment for equipment and support to carers including family trips, signing classes and support group.	Deaf children aged 0-18 and their families.

Provider	Location	Description of Service	Who is it For?
Deafness Support Network	Various locations in Halton and in Merseyside and Cheshire.	DSN support young deaf people to access social activities with their peers and siblings. They also provide advice and information to families.	Deaf children aged 0-18 and their families.
Everton Foundation	Various locations in Halton	Specialist football coaching for disabled children and family activity days.	Children and Young People aged 0-18
Focus Gymnastics	Ditton Industrial Estate, Widnes.	Fun sessions for children and families using trampolines, bouncy castles soft play equipment. Plans are in place to have trampolines sunken into the floor for full access for all. Qualified coaches support all sessions.	Children and young people aged 0-18 and their families.
HAFS	Various community venues. Fortnightly sessions in George and Dolly's and CRMZ in Widnes.	Activities for the whole family such as social events, parties and trips out.	Families of children who have been given a diagnosis within range of Autistic Spectrum Condition.
Halton Carers Centre	Carers Centre in High Street Runcorn and at Peelhouse Centre in Widnes	Support and information for carers including training, therapy and advice on issues relating to the caring role. The centre also runs the Carers Forum and provides support for the Voices Group. They organise trips out and family events.	All carers of disabled children.
Halton Borough Council	Various locations throughout Halton	<p>Inglefield Short Breaks Centre provides overnight breaks for those children who have complex needs. This service is only available through a Social Work Assessment.</p> <p>Children's Centres offer a range of services for children and family groups including activity groups, parenting support and fun events. There is a fortnightly Saturday club in Runcorn and Widnes for disabled children.</p> <p>Direct Payments are available as an alternative to Council provided services to allow families to purchase their own service or employ their own staff. This is only available following an individual assessment of the child's needs and the family's ability to manage the funds.</p> <p>Halton has developed an Individual Budget Pilot Scheme to explore whether this would offer some families more choice and flexible support.</p>	<p>Children and young people aged between 4 and 18 years.</p> <p>Children and their families can attend many events. Saturday club is for those aged 4-8 years.</p> <p>Children aged 0-18 years following assessment.</p> <p>Currently this is only available for a specific group of families involved in the project.</p>

Provider	Location	Description of Service	Who is it For?
Halton Play Council	Cavendish High School, Runcorn and Warrington Road Children's Centres, Widnes	Out of school clubs run one night after school midweek and morning and afternoon sessions on Saturdays.	Children and young people aged 8-18 years.
	Various locations throughout Halton	Play schemes are delivered during 3 weeks of the summer school holidays, Easter and half term holidays. These are inclusive but have allocated sessions for disabled children with additional support required for those who are assessed as needing it.	Children and young people aged 5 to 12 years.
Halton Play Council	Simms Cross School, Widnes and Windmill Hill Children's Centres, Runcorn	Open access play sessions provided every Saturday during school term times from 12 noon to 4pm.	Children and young people aged 5 to 12 years.
	Play Resource Centre, Runcorn	The Toy Library has a wide range of toys and activities that families or groups can loan. This includes larger toys, sensory activities and specialist equipment.	Families or activity groups
Halton Speak Out	Old Police Station, Runcorn and various locations in Halton	Bright Sparks group is supported by HSO staff to enable young disabled people to be fully involved in consultations and decision making processes to influence the development of services that are provided for them.	Young People aged 11 to 18 years.
VOICES	All Saints Children's Centre, Runcorn and various locations in Halton.	Parent Participation Group supported by Parent Support Officer from HBC to involve parents in consultations and decision making processes to influence the development of services that are provided for disabled children and families in Halton.	Parent Carers of disabled children.

Where can families find information about Short Breaks?

Halton has developed a logo which was designed with young people to be used on all information which may be of particular interest to disabled young people and their families. This is used on all information about Short Breaks services so that families may find it easier to identify it amongst all the other information that they are likely to receive.

Carers were involved in a consultation at The Powerful Voices Conference held in January 2011. This looked at where and how they would like information on Short Breaks, and other relevant information, to be displayed, so they can easily find out what is available locally. Not surprisingly, they wanted the information to be made available in different formats. Therefore, we produced various fliers, posters and leaflets which are sent to schools, Children's Centres, council buildings and Health Centres. Information is given to all schools, including Special Schools, who make sure it is sent out to the families of disabled children. Information can also be sent to families via e-mail subject to them providing their e-mail address to the Disabled Children's Service.



Services are advertised in the local press, Children's Centres Activity Programmes, Carers Centre newsletter and Inside Halton Magazine that is delivered directly to most homes in the Borough. Staff from Disabled Children Service attend various Halton events, parents evenings, conferences, carers forums and support groups to talk directly with families about services and how to access them.

The staff work closely with all agencies who work with children and families in Halton and pass on all information about new services. They maintain contact with professionals and services who work with specific groups who could have the potential to be more isolated within the community; for example, Traveller families and those from different ethnic groups. All services take account of the different needs of families and take appropriate steps to meet them. They also celebrate diversity and support all young people to have a greater understanding of different cultures.

The Halton Borough website has two areas dedicated to information specifically aimed at families of disabled children. One has information on Short Breaks services and the other has wider information about services and support that is available.



The Disabled Children Service maintains an Information Network and families are asked if they wish their details to be added so that they can receive information and be included in consultation events and questionnaires etc. Recently the Team has set up a Twitter account and this is used to display information about up and coming events and new activities.

All information about both regular and one off events is sent to the Families Information Service, a Council run service which has information about all events and services for families living in Halton, including Short Breaks.

Consultation and Participation

Consultation and participation are key to the development of services that are family centred and provide positive benefits to both the disabled child and their family. We have developed a number of ways, highlighted below, in which we gather information from young people and carers. This is then fed into wider Council plans, for example, The Children and Young People's Plan, that influences wider service provision.

In January 2011, we held the third Powerful Voices Conference which was attended by more than 150 parents, carers and professionals which sought views on the range of services available and which families had found were more beneficial. We looked at issues such as transport, the value of community activities such as parks, libraries and leisure centres, the benefits gained from family activities and preferred methods of receiving information about services.

In April we sent out a questionnaire to all Short Breaks users asking about their experiences of the services they use, in particular those they benefit from most and any suggestions for further development. We had several consultations with carers and young people about specific Short Breaks issues including play park developments, the Individual Budget Pilot Programme, Short Breaks Handbook, Short Breaks for children with complex health needs and Halton's Short Breaks Statement.

Families can contact The Disabled Children's Service to give their views or concerns about the Short Breaks Service and the staff regularly gain their views when they are discussing the assessments, Short Breaks plans and reviews. They also talk with carers at coffee mornings, Carers Forums, Support Groups and information events at a range of locations across the Borough.

A number of young people and carers have attended regional and national events to share their experiences and to be involved in discussion groups about the development of Short Breaks. Some families have been involved in national consultations to share their experiences and to influence national developments in Short Breaks services.

VOICES

The VOICES group for carers of disabled children was developed as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Parent Participation project. It consists of a small group of Parent/Carers who want to be involved in steering groups and consultation events representing the wider group of carers in Halton. They have developed links with parent groups across the Borough and consult with them on specific topics and feed their views into the appropriate groups. They also have a direct link with the Parent representative on Halton's Children's Trust Board and they are linked into the regional and national Parent Participation Networks.

The group is supported by a worker from The Disabled Children's Service and Carers Centre and they meet weekly in a local Children's Centres to plan their activities to reach more carers and invite them to join the group. The group can be contacted on their phone number, email or facebook address.



Bright Sparks

The Bright Sparks group is supported by local advocacy group Halton Speak Out. Bright Sparks enables all disabled young people in Halton to contribute to consultation events including the review of The Children and Young People's Plan. Organisations wishing to gain the views of young disabled people in Halton can approach this group who will engage with the wider group of young disabled people.

The young people have representatives on various groups that engage with young people in Halton and they are involved in the Youth Council. They have had some training to help them to be involved in these groups. One young person is employed to be their spokesperson to work alongside the coordinator from Halton Speak Out.

The group are in the process of developing a Charter Mark system to award the Halton Short Breaks logo to providers of services in Halton that they judge to deliver quality services. They are setting their criteria which will include accessibility and how welcome they were made to feel as well as how enjoyable the activity was. This scheme is expected to be up and running later in the year.

The group have their own website and last year they made a DVD about their experiences of doing more activities and having fun which can be seen on HBC Website or You Tube at the links given below.

Link to part 1:

<http://youtu.be/gGCgJpjlFww>

Link to part 2:

<http://youtu.be/ySvIUJRcEX8>

Carers Assessment and Support

A carer is anybody who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of their illness, frailty or disability. Many parents of disabled children don't see themselves as carers and the responsibilities and demands of being a carer can often mean they overlook their own health and wellbeing. Carers need good sources of help, support and information and can access this through the Carers Centre or Carers Development Worker based within Disabled Children's Service.

Carers Assessments

The needs of carers should be considered within the assessments that are completed for disabled children and support plans should usually include measures that will benefit the whole family. However, parent carers can request a separate assessment of their own needs as carers. This should consider; their health needs or disability, their ability to participate in further education or work, their finances and any housing issues that make it more difficult to care for their child. It should also take into account any barriers that prevent them from participating in everyday activities within their families and their communities.

In cases where a carer has a disability or significant health issue, they may need their own community care assessment from adult services to establish whether they are entitled to information, advice or services.

Carers Centre

Halton Carers Centre is managed by The Princess Royal Trust and is based in Runcorn but provides services across Halton. However, they have responded to requests from carers to have a base in Widnes by providing two staff at Peelhouse Centre. During the past few years they have made specific efforts to reach more carers of disabled children and to extend their range of services to meet their specific needs.

The Centre provides information, advice, therapy services, carer training, and support to get access to services, social events and day trips. They support the Carer's Forum and set up consultation events and provide leadership for the VOICES Parent Participation Group.

Support Groups

Halton has a number of parent support groups for families of disabled children. Some of them also provide family activities as well as opportunities for carers to share their experiences and to support each other in their caring role. The details of their Short Breaks activities are included in the Guide to Services. The VOICES Parent Participation Group have connections with all of the groups so that they can be involved in consultations and feed their views through the system to the Children's Trust Board. Details of the groups meeting in Halton with contact details are included in the contacts section.



Reviewing The Statement

This is the first statement that provides information about Halton's Short Breaks Services. During the next 12 months we will be monitoring the quality of the services through our robust system of contract evaluations and will also work with our providers to respond to comments and suggestions from families as to how to inform future service development.

A fourth Powerful Voices Conference is planned for this year so carers and professionals can meet to share their views and experiences of Short Breaks and influence future service development. Questionnaires will be sent out to families using Short Breaks services next year, to give all families the opportunity to share what works well for them and how further improvements can be made.

Young people and parent carers will be involved in the commissioning of Short Breaks services through the Bright Sparks and VOICES groups. Both would welcome involvement from new members who wish to play a key role in influencing the decision making about which services are provided for families in Halton.

The Disabled Children's Service welcome contact from families so that they hear their views and staff will continue to meet families at information events, coffee mornings or consultation sessions, to include their comments in the review of services. They will also collect views from individual young people and carers through their direct involvement with them throughout the year ahead.

This statement will be reviewed and updated in 12 months and will reflect any changes in the delivery of services. It will take into account the views of families of disabled children, which will have been gathered throughout the year. We will also consult with parent groups, disabled young people and service providers during the review period.

We welcome comments about this statement and suggestions as to how this may be developed to make it more useful for families of disabled children living in Halton.



Contact Details for Further Information about Halton Short Breaks Services and Parent Support Groups

Disabled Children Service
Peelhouse Centre
Peelhouse Lane
Widnes
WA8 6TJ

Direct phone line is 0151 420 8130
Direct e-mail address is
aiminghighfordisabledchildren@halton.gov.uk
You can also access the twitter account at [haltondcs](https://twitter.com/haltondcs).

Halton Borough Council Website Address

www.halton.gov.uk.
Disabled children and young people section and short break section can be found in children and family section of the website.

Halton Families Information Service

01928 704306

Halton Carers Centre
62, Church street
Runcorn
WA7 1LD
Or
Peelhouse Centre, Widnes

01928 5801829 (Runcorn)
0151 257 9673 (Widnes)
www.haltoncarers.co.uk

VOICES Group

07586 464359
Pv4pnc@hotmail.co.uk

Bright Sparks Group

Care Of Halton Speak Out
01928-588526

ChAPS

01928 722384
www.asparents.org.uk

CROSS

Contact at www.thecrossscheme.org

HAFS

HAFS (Halton Autistic Family Support Group) Limited
Trinity House
78-80 Victoria Road
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7RA
Tele 0151 495 3540
Email contact@hafs.org.uk

Disabled Children's Service

Peelhouse Centre

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