

Lewisham Short Breaks

Fact Sheet

What are Short Breaks?

Short Breaks give children and young people with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy positive activities, while giving their parents or carers a break from caring responsibilities.

They come in three levels:

- Universal – available to all families
- Targeted – for those needing extra support to access services
- Specialist – for those with high levels of care needs, requiring social care support

Universal Short Breaks

These are mainstream activities available to all children, **with or without disabilities**.

Examples:

- Youth clubs
- Adventure playgrounds
- Holiday schemes

Cost:

- Usually paid for by parents/carers
- Some services may offer discounts or concessions for children with disabilities: ask the provider directly

Parents are responsible for choosing and assessing the safety/quality of the activity. Providers must make reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010.

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Targeted Short Breaks

These are for children who cannot access universal services without extra support due to their disability.

Eligibility:

- Under 18
- Live in Lewisham
- Diagnosed disability
- In receipt of the Higher Rate Care Component of DLA
- Not already receiving Specialist Short Breaks

If your child does not receive the higher rate DLA, you can still apply and be assessed by the Care Package Panel.

What you may get:

- 100 hours of short breaks annually through:
 - Direct Payments to arrange your own support
 - Support at home
- Referrals to:
 - Rockbourne Holiday Club
 - Rockbourne Saturday Club
 - Rockbourne SEN Evening Club

How to apply:

Apply online or via your professional (e.g. teacher or social worker). Applications are reviewed individually.

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Specialist Short Breaks

These are for children with complex needs that require substantial care and who have undergone a social care assessment.

Eligibility:

- Under 18
- Live in Lewisham
- Have a diagnosed disability
- Substantial impact on daily life due to disability
- Must undergo a Social Care Assessment first

Support is based on the outcome of this assessment

Specialist services include:

- Peter Every House
- Young Person Relate (YPR)
- Drumbeat Holiday Services
- Lewisham Council Short Breaks
- Domiciliary care
- Direct Payments

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How to Access Short Break Services

You can access short breaks by first having a Social Care Assessment. This assessment will help decide if your child is eligible for targeted or specialist short break services.

Who Can Make a Referral?

Referrals for a **Social Care Assessment** can be made by:

- Your child's school
- Another local council
- A health visitor or health professional
- You, the parent or carer

How to Make a Referral

You can request an assessment by:

- Calling: 020 8314 6660
- Emailing: mashagency@lewisham.gov.uk

Urgent Referrals

If you are concerned about a child's safety:

- Call Family First Contact Point (FFCP) on 020 8314 9181 for urgent child protection matters
- If a child is in immediate danger, call 999
- For non-emergency police matters, call 101

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What Happens After You Make a Referral?

After a referral is made:

- We will check if your child meets the Children with Disabilities eligibility criteria
- If they do, a Social Work Manager will decide whether to allocate a Social Worker

Assessment Timeframes

- If allocated, the assessment must be completed within 45 days
- Usually, assessments are done within 35–45 days
- If there are safeguarding concerns, the assessment will happen within 10 days

What Happens After the Assessment?

Your child's social worker will decide one of the following:

- Your child does not need a service
- Your child can be supported by universal services
- Your child needs additional support through a care plan

If a Care Plan is Needed

If your child needs a care plan:

- The social worker will write a plan setting out the services your child will receive
- The plan is reviewed by a manager
- It is then presented to the Care Package Panel for final agreement

Lewisham Shortbreaks Fact Sheet

Contact the Short Breaks Team

Email: shortbreaks@lewisham.gov.uk

Phone Contacts:

Targeted Short Breaks:

- Lucy Cameron – 07918 612639
- Rebecca Burford – 07468 709083
- Tiffany Curtis – 07468 709247

Specialist Short Breaks:

- Claire Sullivan – 07468 709303
- Vivienne Allen – 07468 709273
- Natalie Baker – 07468 709362

Manager: Rebekah Green – 07341 569895

Reviewing Officer: Marianne Johnson – 07920 045899

Admin: Charly Harrison – 07901 382958

Need further help/ guidance from us?

Fill out a referral form here!

Our team is always happy to help!

What else do we offer in Lewisham?

Scan the QR code to find out!

