

Referral Process: Enabling Disabled Children to Access Short Breaks

Bath & North East Somerset Council has set up a referral process to enable the inclusion of disabled children and young people aged 0-18 years into short break services by;

- linking disabled children and young people with mainstream opportunities, or
- supporting the needs of severely disabled children in accessing specialist short break services**

By supporting individual children or young people to access provision, a sustainable legacy of inclusive provision will be created, alongside identifying the needs of families with severely disabled children.

The funding is not designed to meet the cost of the short break activity itself, or any associated transport costs* but to fund the cost of removing the barriers to enable the child or young person to take part. This could include training staff, providing resources to enable inclusion, or arranging accessible* transport to short break provision.

**This scheme could arrange and fund transport where a lack of specialised accessible transport is a barrier to accessing mainstream provision, but is not otherwise intended to pay for transport to an activity if the cost of this is the only barrier.*

*** Severely disabled children are defined as children and young people with complex health needs including those with disability and life limiting conditions, and/or those who require palliative care and/or those with associated impairments such as cognitive or sensory impairments and/or have moving / handling needs and/or require special equipment / adaptations. In regards to severely disabled the package is an additional package of short breaks and therefore would not include services that require an initial or core assessment*

Definition of a Short Break

Short break services are additional services required to support disabled children and their families; in other words, short breaks are services over and above the universal services expected and available to all families. They provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend time away from their primary carers. These include day, evening, overnight or weekend activities and take place in the child's own home, the home of an approved carer, a residential or community setting. Breaks can last from two hours a week to a longer stay away from home and can take the form of a specialized or targeted service, or a mainstream activity with support to enable inclusion

A short break should:

- occur on a regular basis and should be part of an integrated programme of support
- be chosen by the child
- be of benefit to the child and parent/carer
- be appropriate for the child or young person
- be flexible to the needs of children and their families

The use of daycare, such as childminder or day nursery would not be considered a short break. All children should be expected to access youth clubs, community and leisure facilities. The disabled child may need additional support to attend these activities, such as support of a sessional worker, this may constitute as a short break.

Definition of Disability

Bath and North East Somerset Council have used the definition contained within the Disability Discrimination Act.

A disabled person is:

“someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse impact on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”

The eligibility criteria is based on the understanding that

- children and young people are disabled by the physical barriers of the world around them and the attitudes of people around them as much as by their health condition or impairment.
- children and young people with disabilities should be seen first and foremost as individuals and have equal rights and access to services.
- people with disabilities have the right to exercise power and control over their own lives and to participate within the community.

Eligibility

The service is open to disabled children and young people aged 0-18, who are resident in Bath & North East Somerset. The funding is aimed at supporting inclusive practices to enable disabled children and young people to access short breaks, such as play and learning opportunities alongside their peers, and to support the development of short breaks for severely disabled children and young people. The decision to support access to short breaks through this process will be based on the personal and social needs of the child/young person and their family.

Exceptions

- Children/families open to another Social Care team, unless the child is considered to be severely disabled
- Disabled children in care
- Child protection concerns
- Short breaks requested to support a child through a short-term trauma or event
- Children or young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties which are not linked to a diagnosed condition or disability

Referrals

Professionals making referrals to this service must be working to support the needs of the child or young person and their family and will need to seek agreement from them prior to making the application. Supporting comments from the child/young person and/or their family will strengthen the application and help to highlight the desired outcomes for the child/young person to the team reviewing the application.

Decisions

A decision will be made within four weeks of receipt of the application.

Funding Approvals

If a package of support is agreed, the Co-ordinator will work with the identified service provider/s to ensure that the needs of the child or young person can be met.

Funding could be awarded for:

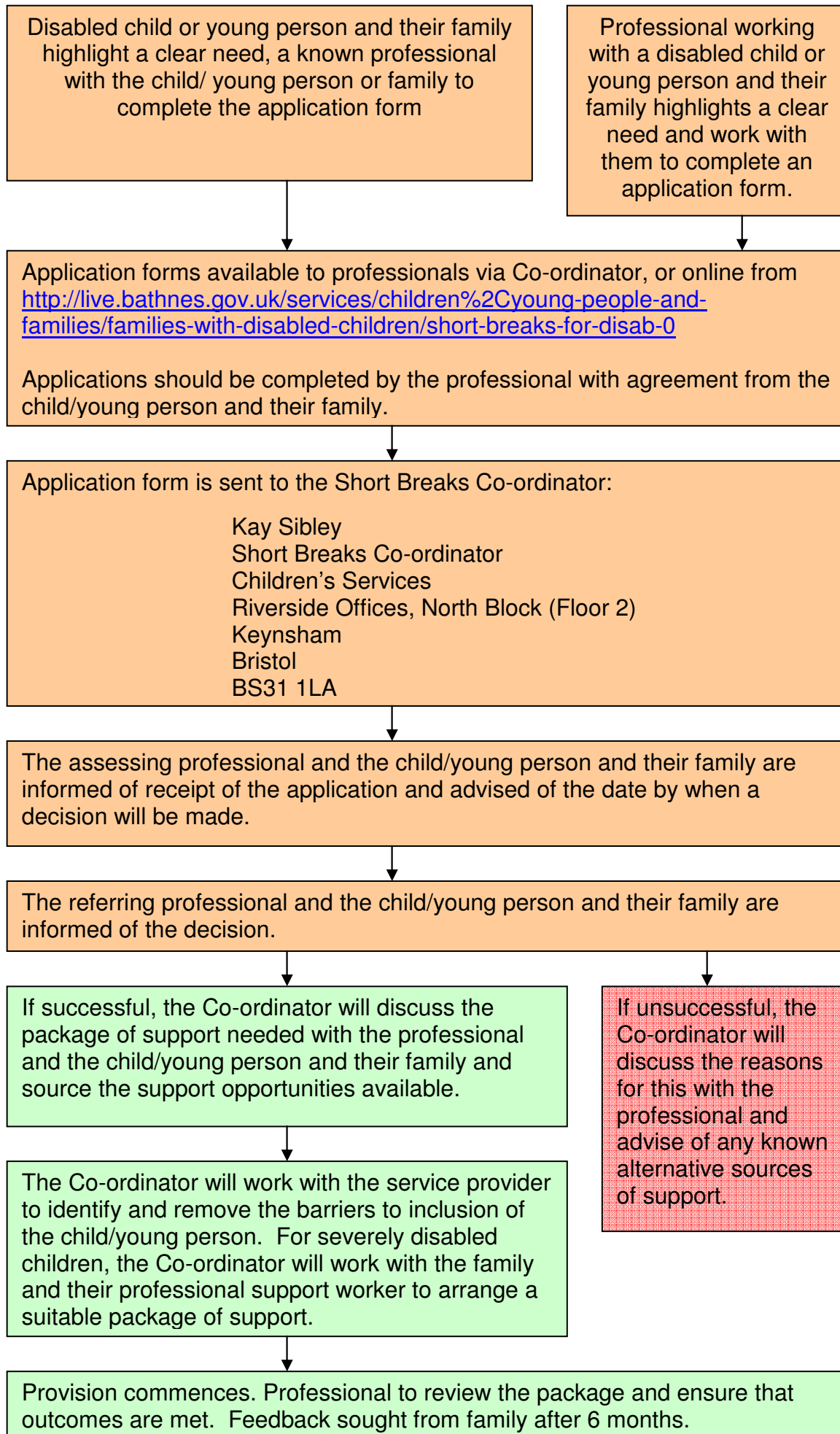
- training of staff to support the individual needs of a disabled child or young person
- provision of sessional staff, with suitable approved skills/training/expertise, to support the child or young person
- resources to support and enable inclusion
- accessible transport costs

Review

A review meeting will be held after three months between the Co-ordinator and referring professional to establish whether the original outcomes highlighted in the application are being met by the mainstream service provision supported by the funding.

Feedback forms will also be sent to the child or young person and their family.

Service Pathway



Short Breaks Support Package Funding
 For Children & Young People aged 0 -19 years*

*0-18 years and 19 years if they remain in full-time, statutory education

APPLICATION FORM

Professional making or supporting this application			
Name:			
Position			
Business Address and Postcode			
Email		Telephone	
Parent /Carer Details			
Name			
Relationship to young person			
Address and Postcode			
Email		Telephone	
Name			
Relationship to young person			
Address and Postcode			
Email		Telephone	
Child / Young Persons Details			
Name			
Address and Postcode			
Telephone		Date of Birth	
School (if applicable)			
Resident in B&NES?		YES <input type="checkbox"/> Child or young person must be resident in B&NES to be eligible for this service.	
Details of Child's Disability or special requirements – other relevant information.			

Details of Short Break Activity Requested

Type of Short Break			
Location		Preferred time/days	
Provider Details			
Name			
Address and Postcode			
Email		Telephone	

What support is required for the child or young person to access this activity?

Please give an indication of costs if known.

What will the benefits be for the child or young person

Please include any supporting comments/views from the Child/Young Person and the Parent/Carers

Additional Information			
Authorisation of application from Parent/carer or representative of the Young Person			
Name			
Signature		Date	
Professional making/supporting the application (delete as appropriate)			
<p>I confirm that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All the information provided is complete and accurate, ▪ That I have read and understood the Support Package Funding Terms and Conditions and have retained copies of all documents for my records. ▪ Information will not be shared with any third parties; however anonymous information may be shared with service providers from Bath and North East Somerset Council to assess service use. ▪ We may request information from other providers when evaluating applications 			
Name		Signature	
Job title			
Date			

Please return your completed application form to:

Kay Sibley
Short Breaks Co-ordinator
Children's Services
Riverside Offices, North Block (Floor 2)
Keynsham
Bristol
BS31 1LA
Email: kay_sibley@bathnes.gov.uk