

Swindon Borough Council

Short Breaks Statement 2011 / 2012

Information about short breaks and positive activities for families of disabled children and young people in Swindon



In this Statement:

Page:

Introduction.....	1–2
Short break services in Swindon (October 2011 onwards).....	3–8
Additional information.....	9–10
What happened during Aiming High for Disabled Children (2008–2011)?.....	11–13
Consultation (Summer 2011).....	14–15
<i>Appendix:</i>	
Appendix 1: How does the Aiming High Short Breaks Team fit in with other services in Swindon?.....	16
Appendix 2: List of short break services in Swindon.....	17+

Introduction

This Statement is about short breaks and positive activities for families of disabled children and young people aged from 0 to 18th birthday, who are residents of the Borough of Swindon. This includes children who currently live out of area, where Swindon Borough Council still has responsibility. This Statement also provides useful information for services and professionals who work with families of disabled children and young people in Swindon.

Background

New regulations came into force on 1st April 2011, called the **Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011**. The regulations relate to a section of the Children's Act 1989, which requires local authorities to provide short breaks for carers of disabled children. The new regulations say that each local authority must publish a Short Breaks Statement so that families know what short break services are available, any eligibility criteria, and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of local families with disabled children. You can see the Regulations at: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2011/707/contents/made . Or you can contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team (see page 2).

The new Regulations follow on from **Aiming High for Disabled Children**, which ran from 2008 until March 2011. Aiming High was a government programme to transform services for disabled children, young people and their families. Each local area was given funding to improve short break services. Swindon received a total of £1.1 million over the three years. This money was used to develop and improve a wide range of short break services. Decisions about how to spend the money were made in consultation with local families and services (see pages 11–13).

Although Aiming High has ended, the Government has committed more than £800 million of funding for short breaks for the period April 2011 to March 2015. Following this, Swindon Borough Council and NHS Swindon agreed a budget of £560,000 for short breaks for 2011/12. We want to make sure that the funding is used as effectively as possible to continue to develop and improve short breaks, and we have been talking to families and services about how to do this (see pages 14–15 for more information). The outcomes of this consultation have informed the shape of short break services outlined in this document.

How this Statement has been prepared

This Short Breaks Statement has been produced by the Aiming High Short Breaks Team, in consultation with families of disabled children and young people and service providers in Swindon. It has also been approved within Swindon Borough Council.

What are short breaks?

Short breaks provide opportunities for parents and carers of disabled children and young people to have a break from their caring responsibilities. Short breaks also enable disabled children and young people to enjoy social and leisure activities.

Short breaks can include day, evening, overnight, weekend or holiday activities. They can be at home or away from home. This could range from taking part in a universal activity for all children, to a specialist service for more complex needs. For example, an after-school club, a holiday play scheme, a family day, a sports activity or an overnight break in a carer's home.

Definitions of disability

There are different definitions of disability. The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 refer to the definition in the 1989 Children's Act: that a child is disabled "if he is blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from mental disorder of any kind or is substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disability as may be prescribed".

The definition of disability in the Equality Act 2010 is: "a person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment, and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities".

We are very keen not to focus too much on definitions, and to ensure that definitions do not act as a barrier to accessing services. If you are unsure about definitions but you feel that you need short break support you can contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team to discuss short break services. Or you can speak to a professional that you know.

Local needs assessment

By the end of Aiming High the number of disabled children having short breaks in Swindon was 600. It is difficult to say exactly how many families may require support to access short breaks in future. There are different estimates about the number of disabled children depending on, for example, the definition used.

Some national estimates say that between 3–7% of children will have a disability. This would indicate that there are somewhere between 1000 to 3000 disabled children in Swindon (based on an estimated population of 44,300 under 18s). We know that not all of these families will require support to access short breaks. However, some groups have told us that current services are not meeting the needs of all families.

How this Statement will be published and reviewed

This Statement will be available at: www.swindon.gov.uk/aiminghighshortbreaks from 1st October 2011. We will also be working to make the Statement available in a wide range of other places and formats. There is more information about how we will implement the things in this Statement on pages 3–5. We will also publish regular updates in the Aiming High Newsletter (see page 3).

We plan to review this Statement regularly in partnership with local families and services. We would like to hear from you if you have any comments, suggestions or feedback about how we can improve this Statement to make it more useful.

Contacting the Aiming High Short Breaks Team:

The Aiming High Short Breaks Team is part of the Integrated Service for Disabled Children, within Swindon Borough Council Children Services. You can contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team if you would like more information about anything in this Statement:

Telephone: 01793 464080

Email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

Webpage: www.swindon.gov.uk/aiminghighshortbreaks

Address: The Salt Way Centre, Pearl Road, Middleleaze, Swindon, SN5 5TD

Short break services in Swindon (October 2011 onwards)

This section explains how short break services will work in Swindon from October 2011. This builds upon the outcomes from the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme (see page 11–13) and information gathered from families and services (see page 14–15):

One central point of information, advice and guidance:

- There will be one well advertised, central point of contact for anyone looking for information about short breaks, the 'Aiming High Short Breaks Team':

Contacting the Aiming High Short Breaks Team:

Telephone: 01793 464080

Email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

Webpage: www.swindon.gov.uk/aiminghighshortbreaks



- Short breaks staff will work closely together, to make sure that families' needs are met, and services are planned well for the future.
- We will do more to ensure that families know who to contact about short breaks. This will include more 'outreach', to ensure that we are more proactive in getting information out to families, and that we are sharing information through local groups and schools.
- We will also work to raise awareness amongst local services, professionals and schools so that they know how short break services work and give families the right information.
- We will continue to produce the regular 'Aiming High' Newsletter:

The 'Aiming High' Newsletter:

The Aiming High Newsletter is for families of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs in Swindon. We try to ensure that the Newsletter is circulated as widely as possible but, by registering with the Aiming High Short Breaks Team, we can make sure you receive the information directly. Contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team to register.



Focus on individual needs:

- Two new '**Inclusion and Outreach Workers**' are being recruited within the Aiming High Short Breaks Team. They will support families to access the right short breaks.
- The Inclusion and Outreach Workers will go through a '**Short Breaks Questionnaire**' with you to look at your needs as a carer, the needs of your disabled children and any siblings. This is not an assessment. The Short Breaks Questionnaire is a tool that will be used in partnership with you, to discuss your individual needs and look at the type of short breaks that would be most suitable. Young people aged 16–17 years can also use the Questionnaire if they wish. We may still need to gather information from their parents / carers where appropriate.
- *Please note:* until the new Inclusion and Outreach Workers are in post, you can still contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team, who will support you to access the right short breaks.

A range of short break services; enabling inclusion and choice:

- We will continue to develop and invest in a range of services, to ensure that families have choice.
- We will also continue to support services, so that they are inclusive for disabled children and their families. This will include more training and awareness-raising for staff.
- Funding for inclusion will still be available, if your child or young person needs extra support to have a short break (see page 6 for details).
- We will make it easier to access short break services by removing the need for a Social Care Assessment wherever appropriate. This is also a better use of resources, with less time spent on unnecessary assessments.
- We will make sure that we are working with families and short break providers to look at any gaps in services and how they can be addressed.

A commitment to increase the number of families of disabled children accessing short break services:

- We will continue to increase awareness so that families know about the short break services and support available in Swindon.
- We will identify a target for increasing the number of families accessing short break services.
- We will continue to gather feedback from families and services, and work closely with Swindon Parents and Carers Advisory Group, the recognised forum for the active involvement of parents / carers of disabled children in Swindon (see page 9), in order to monitor uptake and satisfaction.

For more information about the full range of short break services available in Swindon and how they can be accessed please see page 5 and Appendix 2.

What if my needs change or I am not happy with the short break services available?

We recognise that every family is different, and that needs may change over time. Our aim is to provide a flexible service that can respond to the individual needs of children and families. If your needs change, or you are not satisfied with the services that are available, you can come back to the Aiming High Short Breaks Team at any time. We will ensure that all circumstances have been taken into account. We may talk to other staff, with your consent. However, there may be a point at which the Team do not have the resources to meet your needs. We may discuss with you how a statutory Social Care Assessment could better identify your level of need.

How do assessments fit in? Sometimes families may have a Common Assessment Framework (CAF). A CAF is a way of looking at the strengths and needs of a child or young person. You do not need to have a CAF to access short break services. However, if you have a CAF, it could identify a need for short breaks, and you may be directed to the Aiming High Short Breaks Team. There is more information about the CAF online at: www.swindon.gov.uk .

A statutory Social Care Assessment is an assessment undertaken by a Social Worker to look at the needs of your family. You have the right to request a statutory Social Care Assessment at any time if you feel it is appropriate. It does not guarantee additional services. In Swindon, we aim to ensure that statutory Social Care Assessments look at the needs of the whole family. However, if you have had a Social Care Assessment and you do not feel that it has identified your needs as a carer, you can ask for a separate Carers Assessment.

What are the different types of short breaks available in Swindon?

	Universal short break services	Targeted short break services	Specialist short break services
What is it?	<p>This means services for all children, young people and families (disabled and non-disabled). For example, a sports activity at a leisure centre.</p> <p>There may be a specific age range. Most will have a limited number of spaces.</p>	<p>This means services for disabled children, young people and their families. For example, a holiday group for children with any type of disability, and their siblings.</p> <p>There may be a specific age range. Most will have a limited number of spaces.</p>	<p>This means services for specific groups of disabled children, young people, and their parents / carers. For example, a play scheme for children with complex health needs.</p> <p>Groups are based on type of need and/or age range. There will be a limited number of spaces.</p>
How can I access it?	<p>You can contact the service directly, or the Aiming High Short Breaks Team can support you with this.</p> <p>You may need to book in advance, or you may be able to drop in.</p>	<p>You can contact the service directly, or the Aiming High Short Breaks Team can support you with this.</p> <p>You may need to book in advance, or you may be able to drop in.</p>	<p>You can contact most of these directly, or the Aiming High Short Breaks Team can support you with this. Some can only be accessed through the Aiming High Short Breaks Team (see Appendix 2 or the Aiming High Newsletter for details).</p> <p>You will need to book in advance. You may need to complete a self referral form and/or meet with a member of staff, to ensure that the service can meet your child's needs safely.</p>
Do parents/ carers stay?	Yes, unless advertised or discussed with the service.	Yes, unless advertised or discussed with the service.	No, unless advertised.

Additional short break services identified through Social Care Assessment

In certain circumstances a family may have a statutory Social Care Assessment to look at their needs. You have the right to request a statutory Social Care Assessment at any time if you feel it is appropriate. This may identify that additional services, or a higher level of services are needed. For example, where a child has an overnight break away from home. A Social Care Assessment may also identify additional Universal, Targeted or Specialist services needed. For example, a combination of support, including a Direct Payment and holiday groups. To see the eligibility criteria for the Disabled Children Social Care Team contact:

Disabled Children Team, Salt Way Centre, Pearl Road, Swindon, SN5 5TD. Tel: 01793 464240

There is a full list of short break services at the back of this Statement in Appendix 2.

Inclusion funding and Direct Payments:

For some disabled children and young people, extra support may be needed to access services, for example, a support worker. This could be available through inclusion funding or a Direct Payment:

Inclusion funding

Where Swindon Borough Council manages the funding for you

Inclusion funding was available during Aiming High to support disabled children and young people to access short break services, where extra support was needed. For example, a support worker or specialist equipment to help children access short breaks.

This type of funding will continue to be available but, from October 2011, the way that families access it will change. Families will no longer need to fill in a separate application form. Instead, when the Aiming High Short Breaks Team go through the Short Breaks Questionnaire with families, inclusion funding will be one of the options that is considered. Families who already receive inclusion funding will receive a letter explaining the changes.

Money is not paid directly to families. The funding is managed by the Team, and paid to the service provider. The Team will be able to help families find support workers, and liaise with services. Inclusion funding does not cover the cost of the activity itself.

Note: From October 2011, inclusion funding will be available for children aged from 0–18th birthday. This is a change to the previous age range, which was 0–19 years.

Direct Payments

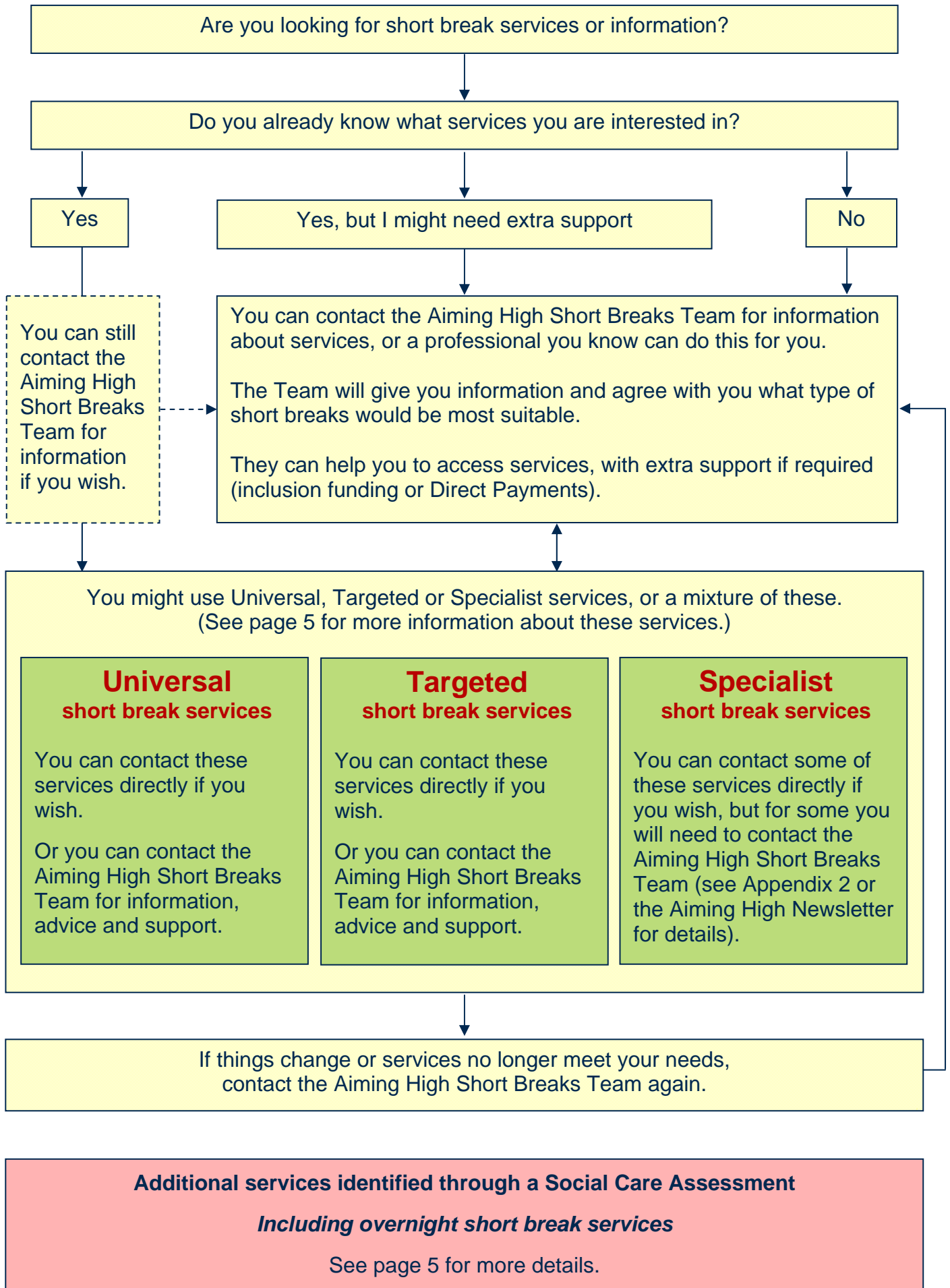
Where the funding is paid directly into a bank account that you manage, instead of Swindon Borough Council managing the money.

A Direct Payment is a cash payment that is paid to the parent or carer of a disabled child, or to a disabled young person aged 16 or 17, so that they can arrange and pay for their own short break support. Families are supported by a Direct Payments Support Advisor, who provides ongoing assistance with managing the Direct Payment.

Direct Payments used to be available only through assessment. We are making it easier to access Direct Payments. When the Aiming High Short Breaks Team go through the Short Breaks Questionnaire with families, a Direct Payment will be one of the options that is considered.

A Direct Payments Support Advisor will still be available for ongoing support. The Direct Payments Support Advisor will support families with recruitment of support workers and ongoing management of the Direct Payment. They will meet with families yearly, or as necessary, to review the Direct Payment. The Direct Payment covers the employee costs, employer costs, and payroll costs. It does not cover admission costs.

“How will I be able to access short breaks?”



Examples

Families told us that it would be useful to see some examples, to show how families with disabled children may come into contact with the Aiming High Short Breaks Team and how short break services will work from October 2011. (These are not real examples, they are to show how the service can work in different circumstances.)

“I’ve just moved to Swindon. How can I get information?”

Laura, aged 7, and her family have just moved to Swindon. Laura’s parents would like her to do some activities outside of school, so that she can have fun, but they don’t know what’s available, or how to find out.

The family look on the Swindon Borough Council website (www.swindon.gov.uk) and find information about the Aiming High Short Breaks Team. They contact the Team and a team member explains the type of short break services that are available.

At this point in time, the family feel that they don’t need any extra support, they just want to receive information so that they can ring to enquire about activities as and when they choose. The family register with the Team to receive information (see page 3) so they can be sent the regular Aiming High Newsletter and other information about short breaks.

Ryan, aged 11, has always used universal services on his own. As he gets older his needs are changing, and a parent now has to go with him for support. He would like to do some activities on his own and his parents are starting to find it difficult to do day to day tasks.

“My son was using universal services but needs extra support and I need a break.”

A professional who knows the family suggests that they contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team. Mum contacts the Team, and completes a Short Breaks Questionnaire with a team member. They talk about what Ryan enjoys, and what he would like to do without his parents. They also talk about how Mum and Dad could find the time for everyday tasks.

The team member advises that support could be arranged for Ryan to attend an existing activity with a support worker, instead of his parents. This would support Ryan to be independent, and give his parents a break. The options for doing this are discussed with Mum, who will decide on the best option with Ryan, and then contact the Team again.

“We get some services, but not enough.”

Simon is 15. His Mum has talked to the Aiming High Short Breaks Team in the past, to go through the Short Breaks Questionnaire, which identified a specialist short break service. Simon wants to be more independent and spend more time with his friends. Mum also feels that she needs more time with her other children.

Simon and his Mum have identified a youth club that some of his friends go to. Simon’s Mum contacts the Team again. A team member talks to Mum about the needs of the family and what has changed. The existing Questionnaire is updated (families are not asked to repeat lots of information that they have already given in the past if it hasn’t changed). Using this information they look together at how Simon could be supported to go to the club, and how to support Mum to spend time with her other children. They decide on the best option together.

Additional information

Parent participation: Swindon Parents and Carers Advisory Group

Swindon Parents and Carers Advisory Group is the recognised forum for the active involvement of parents and carers of disabled children in the planning and development of services that affect them. They also act as an advisory group to Swindon Borough Council and NHS Swindon. For more information contact Parent Participation Worker Lisa Barrett:

Telephone: 01793 531133 or mobile: 07785 186194

Email: lisa.barrett@prtc-swindon.org or swindonpag@gmail.com

Website: www.swindonparentsandcarers.org.uk



Charges for short breaks

When we have spoken to parents and carers about charges, nearly all have told us that they are willing to pay a reasonable cost for their short break activities. All agreed that an activity should not cost a family **more** because of a child's needs.

We will continue to ensure that families of disabled children will not pay more than families of non-disabled children for Swindon Borough Council short break activities. We are committed to supporting families to make sure that, where a family cannot afford to pay, this does not prevent them having access to short breaks.

SwindonCard and Supporter Card

The SwindonCard provides people living in Swindon with the opportunity to use leisure facilities at a reduced price. There are 3 levels of discount, depending on your circumstances. There are extra savings on some activities at off-peak times. You can also book activities in advance, book on-line and there are other offers too.

Supporter Card: People who receive Incapacity Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, War Disablement Pension or Attendance Allowance can get a second SwindonCard free to be used by a person accompanying them to an activity (e.g. a parent or carer). This person can go to the activity for free.

You can get a Card at any Swindon Borough Council leisure centre. For more information tel: 01793 445500 or go to: www.swindon.gov.uk/swindoncard. In some circumstances it may be possible to receive two Supporter Cards, depending on need. To discuss this, contact Ben Humphrey, Ability Sport Development Officer, tel: 01793 465404.

Transport for short breaks

We know that transport is an important issue for many families, in order for their child to get to short breaks. Parents and carers are encouraged and expected to transport their children to and from short breaks. If this is not possible, and it would be detrimental to the child or family if they do not receive the short break, consideration will be given to providing or funding transport.

Short breaks in transition from childhood to adult life

Transition means the time when young people are moving from childhood into adult life, between the age of 13 and 25 years. For disabled young people, more support may be needed during this time to enable them to reach their full potential. Families have told us that short breaks for young people in this age range are sometimes not very consistent, with services often changing or ending when a young person turns 18. Families said that this can be very unsettling. Young people also told us that they wanted more short breaks that would build confidence and help them to become more independent.

Transition was one of the key areas of work during Aiming High, and Swindon is still committed to improving the transitions experience for families. A dedicated Transitions Coordinator has been appointed. A new Transitions Protocol and updated Information Guides were produced for parents, carers and young people. For more information about this work you can contact Transitions Coordinator, Kevin O'Grady via 01793 464240 or email: ko'grady@swindon.gov.uk .

Work is being done with schools to use more 'person centred' planning with young people, so that they are better able to think about what they want in the future. The way that information is collected and shared has been improved. This includes how Children Services share information with Adult Services, to make sure that future service planning is better.

There have also been some improvements in short break services. Increasingly, short breaks are split by age range, with activities for older children designed to increase independence and develop new skills. For example, young people aged 11–18 who use the Carers Project decide and plan what they want to do, and when. Leisure Services provide a wide range of accessible and inclusive activities for disabled people of all ages, including services aimed at ages 16+ (older young people and adults). For more information about both services see Appendix 2.

However, we know that more still needs to be done to make short breaks better for young people in transition. One of the reasons that this is challenging, is because of the different ways that short breaks are provided in Children Services and in Adult Services. As part of Swindon's continued commitment to transitions, we are trying to improve families' experiences of short breaks for young people in the transition between Children's and Adult Services. This will include listening to feedback from families about their experiences and what they need.

Childcare to enable parents and carers to work

Swindon Sure Start Partnership at Swindon Borough Council can provide working parents, and parents who are training to return to work, with information about choosing registered childcare. You can see general information online at: www.swindon.gov.uk/fis . Swindon Sure Start Partnership also offer additional help to find childcare for working parents with disabled children aged 0–18.

- Registered group childcare settings can apply for additional resources to support a disabled child to access their setting while parents are at work. Tel: 01793 466778 or go to: www.earlyyearschildcare.org/eyr-nav-funding/grants_to_group_childcare_provision.htm
- An Outreach Worker can offer working parents with disabled children additional help to find registered childcare. For example, helping a parent find a suitable placement with a childminder or childcare group, or liaising with school transport. Tel: 01793 466032

Outreach services are also offered to provide additional support for all parents of disabled children aged three and four years, to find suitable funded early education. Tel: 01793 466032

What happened during Aiming High for Disabled Children (2008 – 2011)?

Aiming High for Disabled Children was a government programme to transform services for disabled children, young people and their families. Aiming High ran from 2008 until March 2011.

Each local area was given funding to improve short break services. Swindon received a total of £1.1 million over the three years. This money was used to develop and improve a wide range of short break services. Decisions about how to spend this money were made in consultation with local families and services.

Swindon Parents and Carers Advisory Group was set up at the beginning of Aiming High to make sure that parents and carers of disabled children were actively involved in the planning and development of services that affect them. See page 9 for more information about Swindon Parents and Carers Advisory Group.

Working with Swindon Parents and Carers Advisory Group, a questionnaire was completed to ask parents and carers about their experiences of short break services in Swindon. A DVD called 'Listen to Us' was also made, to ensure that disabled young people had their say too.

What families said, and how the Aiming High funding was used in response:

Families told us that they needed more specialist services for disabled children and more inclusive universal services. They wanted more short breaks during evenings, weekends and holidays.

Young people told us that they enjoy getting out and about, doing activities and meeting friends, but they wanted more choice, and the chance to try new things:



"We need a mixture of short break services"

What we did:

- Developed a mixture of specialist services and more inclusive universal services, with a range of different types of activities and times, to give families more choice and flexibility.
- Increased overnight short breaks in a foster carer's homes (the Home & Away scheme).
- Some funding was put towards the planning of a Hop, Skip & Jump centre in Swindon. The Hop Skip & Jump charity runs fully inclusive play and respite centres, open to all children and young adults with any form of additional / special need or life-limiting condition (see page 23).

Families said that the services they used were good, but there weren't enough of them:

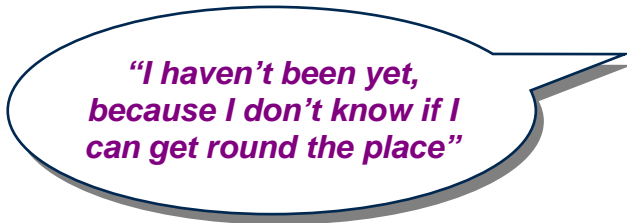
What we did:

- Existing short break services were increased, so that more children could go, with longer sessions, and more of them. For example, the Education Support Service increased the sessions available for young people who have a hearing impairment.

For some children in particular, families told us that there were very few activities that they could go to. For example, children with autism or complex health needs:

What we did:

- ✓ The National Autistic Society was brought in to increase short breaks for children with autism, including new after-school clubs and more holiday playschemes.
- ✓ The Disabled Children Team's holiday play scheme for children with complex needs was increased from one to two days per week.



Families said they could make more use of universal services, like leisure centres, if they were more inclusive and had accessible toilets and changing facilities.

Young people told us that buildings were not always easy to access or welcoming:

What we did:

- ✓ Working with Leisure Services, fully accessible, age-appropriate toilet / changing facilities were installed at Dorcan Rec and the Oasis. These meet the national 'Changing Places' standard. A Changing Places public toilet was also built near Wharf Green, in the town centre.
- ✓ A wide range of equipment was bought to support access to leisure sites. For example, hoists, aquatic wheelchair, basketball wheelchairs and equipment for a full team.
- ✓ More staff training and awareness-raising has been done. For example, autism awareness.

Families said that they couldn't always find the information they needed:

What we did:

- ✓ The old 'SADIE' newsletter was updated into the Aiming High Newsletter, including more information, more often and available more widely (see page 3).
- ✓ We worked closely with Swindon Parents and Carers Advisory Group to share information, and worked to build better links with other local parent groups.



Families said that better support is needed for siblings:

What we did:

- ✓ Short break services were set up to include the whole family, like family swims and holiday activity groups.



Families told us that there can be too many assessments just to have a break:



"I just want a break"

What we did:

- ☑ We worked to make it easier to get short breaks, with many available without an assessment.
- ☑ We piloted a member of staff called a Budget Holding Lead Professional Advisor, who worked with families to help them access short breaks more easily.
- ☑ An Inclusion Fund was set up to help remove the additional barriers that can prevent disabled children from accessing activities.

The Inclusion Fund

The Inclusion Fund started in September 2009. Between then and summer 2011, just over 100 children received inclusion funding.

Much of the money was used to provide support workers or equipment so that children could access activities like swimming, riding, drama and football.

Feedback from families showed that it has enabled disabled children to access positive activities and also given parents and carers a break:

"It's helped to build my child's confidence, and they are happier at home now too."

"They've had a chance to try something new, in a supported, safe way."

"He can go to a holiday club with other children, instead of spending his holiday alone."

"The funding has enabled me to have some time to get jobs done or do something for myself."

But we know that this can improve further:

"Initially it was hard finding the right person to speak to, but once I did, it was great."

What did Aiming High achieve?

Aiming High showed how important regular and reliable short breaks are for families of disabled children. There were really positive outcomes for many families of disabled children in Swindon. The range of short breaks and the amount available increased significantly.

By the end of Aiming High the number of children accessing short breaks in Swindon had increased by over 50% from 384 to 600 children.

Consultation (Summer 2011)

Following the end of Aiming High, short break services remain a priority, both locally and nationally. Swindon Borough Council and NHS Swindon have agreed a budget of £560,000 for short breaks for 2011/12.

From April to July 2011, we spoke to families and service providers about how we could continue to develop and improve short break services in Swindon. This included working closely with Swindon Parents and Carers Advisory Group, talking to parents and carers at a range of short break activities, visiting other local parent groups and school forums, and regular updates through the 'Aiming High' Newsletter. In July 2011 there were also a number of consultation sessions with parents, carers and services.

What did parents, carers and service providers tell us?

- Lots of families were happy with short break services in Swindon and the progress made during Aiming High.
- However, some families were still not aware of the services available and / or their needs were not being met.
- Families stressed that there needs to be flexibility and choice: every family is different, and needs may change over time.
- There are still too many assessments just to have a break, and families shouldn't have to be at crisis point.
- A minority felt that it would be fairer to divide up the available funding per child, and give each family their share.
- However, many families said that money alone would not give them the support they need, and that the main priority is making sure that the right services are available, with choice.

"I like having a choice of activities"

"Inclusion funding has enabled my child to go swimming"

"I didn't know short breaks existed"

"Every family has different needs. You can't put all children in one category"

"All the assessments make you want to give up"

"The funding hasn't helped my family"

"Giving out money is no good, if the right services aren't available"

- Lots of families said that information and outreach are vital. Families need good information and advice in a range of formats, that is easy to access.
- Families often get different information depending on which services they are in contact with; there's no clear pathway.
- There needs to be one central point of contact, including staff who will work with families to enable inclusion.

"I don't have time to seek out information. I need someone to tell me what is available for us"

"It looks like there's a lot available, but there's nothing we can access"

If you would like to see the full Consultation Feedback report, contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team on tel: 01793 464080 or email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk .

What have disabled children and young people told us?

During Aiming High a participation group for disabled young people was piloted, called 'Chatterboxes', to ensure that disabled young people could have their say about the services that affect them. The Chatterboxes pilot ended in March 2011, but funding has been agreed to ensure that the participation of disabled young people continues, and work is being done to make this happen.

We have taken into account information and feedback from Chatterboxes, including some great work that they did with the Young Inspectors.

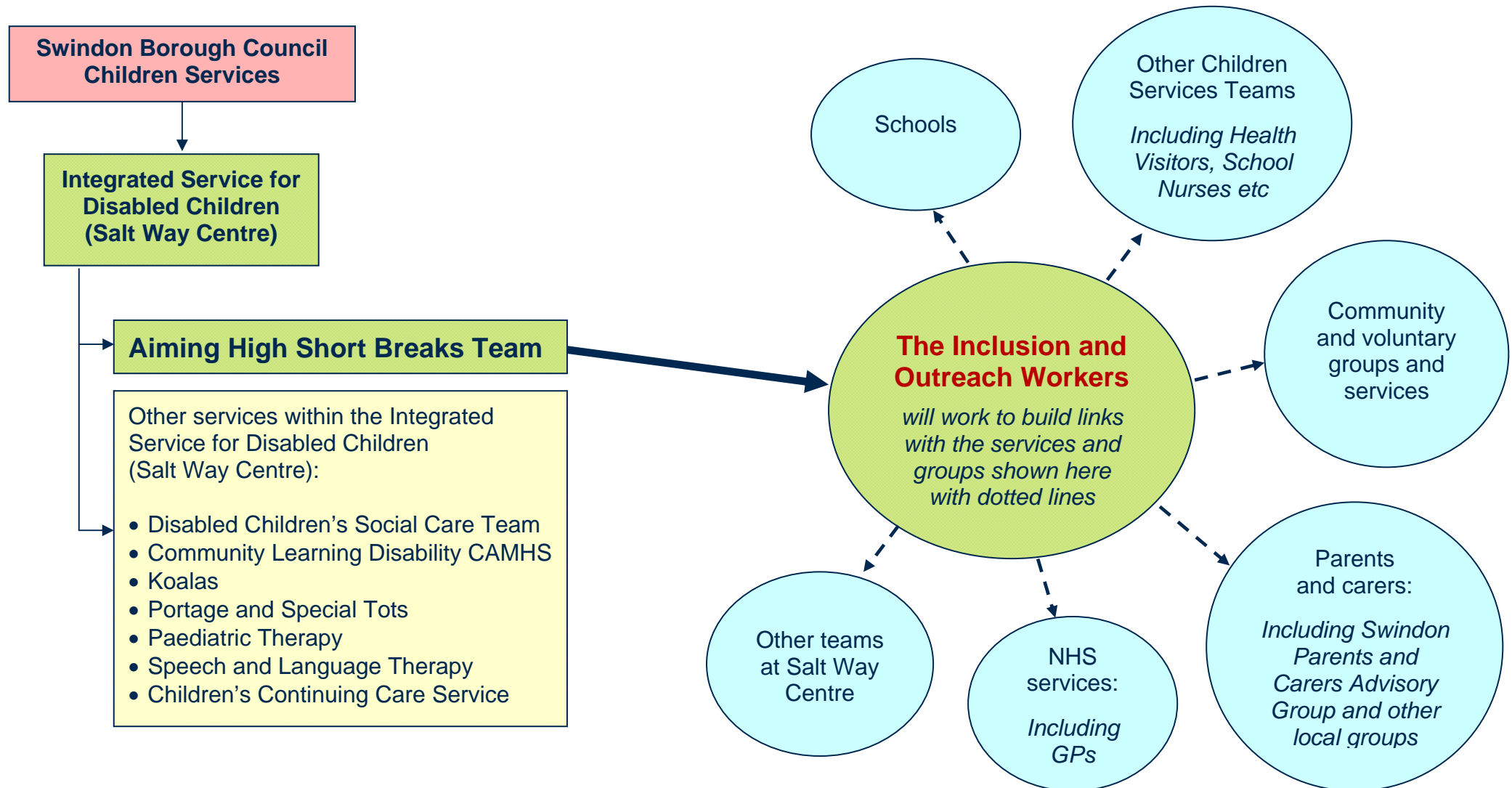
Here are some of the main things that disabled young people have said about short breaks:

- They want to get out and about, do exciting activities and meet up with friends.
- They want more of the things they do now, but also more choice.
- They want to try new things and learn new skills, so that they can be more confident and independent, especially as they get older.
- They want activities and workers that suit their age.
- Buildings need to be easier to access and welcoming – things like ramps, lifts, wide doors and clear signs are important. So are good changing facilities and friendly, trained staff.
- Location is really important, because they may not be able to travel independently.

Appendix

Appendix 1: How does the Aiming High Short Breaks Team fit in with other services in Swindon?

Families have told us that it would be useful to see how the Aiming High Short Breaks Team fits in with other services. Please note that the structure of services may change over time. The information on this page will be reviewed periodically to keep it up to date.



Appendix 2: List of short break services in Swindon

This list includes the main short break services which are accessible and inclusive for disabled children, young people and their families in Swindon. We have also included some of the main short break services for disabled children which are not run, or paid for, by Swindon Borough Council.

We are continually working to identify and develop further services, and occasionally a service may change. Activity locations, dates etc may also vary from time to time. As a result the details in this list may be subject to change.

We always recommend ringing the contact listed to check the latest information if you are unsure. Or you can contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team on tel: 01793 464080 or email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk.

This document will be updated periodically to try to ensure that the list is kept as up to date as possible.

Disclaimer:

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Swindon Borough Council accepts no responsibility for the services provided by groups or organisations in this document, and does not endorse the providers featured (except where the service is provided by Swindon Borough Council). Links to websites are provided for your convenience and inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement or approval by Swindon Borough Council of the site, its operator or its content.

Universal short break services

- This means services for **all** children, young people and families (disabled and non-disabled).
- There may be a specific age range. Most will have a limited number of spaces.
- You can contact the service directly, or the Aiming High Short Breaks Team can support you with this.

Transport to and from short break services:

- *Swindon Borough Council services:* Parents and carers are encouraged and expected to transport their children to and from short break services. If this is not possible, and it would be detrimental to the child or family if they do not receive the short break, consideration will be given to providing or funding transport.
- *Non-Swindon Borough Council services:* Contact provider to check, if not stated.

Universal short break services	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Children's Centres</p> <p>Services for all children (pre-school age) and their families, e.g. early years groups and play sessions.</p> <p>Timetables updated regularly; contact your local Centre to find out what is taking place.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Children's Centres across Swindon</p>	Depends on centre	Pre-school age	Various times. Some may close during school holidays.	Varies, ring for details	Varies, ring for details	Varies, ring for details	Butterflies: 01793 722984 Croft: 01793 533353 Drove: 01793 818600 Eldene: 01793 484100 Goddard Park: 01793 342347 Gorse Hill: 01793 523800 Greenmeadow: 01793 530260 Ladybird: 01793 762341 Moredon: 01793 615479 Robert Le Kyng: 01793 525830 Saltway: 01793 465364 Saplings: 01793 829996 Sure Start: <i>Penhill:</i> 01793 705091 <i>Pinehurst:</i> 01793 514492 West Swindon: 01793 871303

Universal short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Cycling for Health</p> <p>Open to all abilities. Bikes / helmets can be provided if you don't have your own. With inclusive bikes. Qualified instructor.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Swindon Athletics Track (County Ground), County Road, Swindon, SN1 2EE</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	Adult (16+) Under 16s ok with a parent / carer	Mondays (not Bank Hols) 10–11am	No need to book, just turn up and pay on the track.	Not for age16+. Parent / carer to stay with under 16s.	Swindon Card prices apply (parent / carer free)	Anna Cipullo: 07717 696672 acipullo@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Extended school services</p> <p>Schools provide a range of activities for children and families beyond the school day. Activities vary, some may be for specific groups.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Schools</p>	Schools	School age	Various	Contact your school	Varies	Varies	Contact your school
<p>Football in the Community Holiday Development Weeks</p> <p>For boys and girls, disabled and non-disabled. May not be suitable for all disabilities, ring to discuss child's needs. Not suitable for wheelchair users.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Children meet at the County Ground, County Road, Swindon, SN1 2EE and walk from there to St. Joseph's School and back.</p>	Swindon Town Football in the Community	5–15	School holidays 3–4 days a week, during most school holidays 9.30am–3pm	Yes must book ahead	Only if 1:1 support is needed	£49.50 (3 days) or £59.50 (4 days) Ask about sibling reductions	Clive Maguire: 01793 421303 clive@stfc-fitc.co.uk

Universal short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Leisure Centres</p> <p>Wide range of activities and sports at leisure centres around Swindon.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Leisure centres</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	All ages	Various times	Varies, ring for details	Varies depending on activity	Varies, ring for details	Link Centre: 01793 445566 The Oasis: 01793 445401 Broome Manor: 01793 495761 County Ground Athletics Track Croft: 01793 526622 Delta: 01793 465490 Dorcan Rec: 01793 533763 Haydon Centre: 01793 706666 Health Hydro: 01793 465630 Rec at Highworth: 01793 762602 www.challengeswindon.org.uk/challengeswindon/leisure_centres.htm
<p>Star Track Athletics</p> <p>Fun athletics for all children, disabled & non-disabled. May not be suitable for all children, ring to discuss child's needs.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Ring to check</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	8–15	Normally 2 weeks in summer. May also run in other school holidays, ring to check.	Yes, ring to ensure availability	No, but please call to discuss any additional needs.	Varies, ring to check	Jamie Osborn: 01793 526622 josborn@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Summer Community Games</p> <p>For all abilities, disabled and non-disabled. May not be suitable for all children, ring to discuss child's needs.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Ring to check</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	All ages	Annually in summer hols, ring to check details.	Ring to check details.	Yes, families are responsible for their children.	Free	Doug Imrie: 01793 465405 dimrie@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Swindon Rangers</p> <p>Activities in Swindon's parks and open spaces, open to all children and families. May not be suitable for all; ring to discuss child's needs.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Varies, ring to check</p>	Swindon Borough Council	Varies	Various times. Ring to find out what is taking place.	Must book ahead for most activities.	Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.	Varies, ring for details	Swindon Rangers: 01793 829704 stantonrangers@swindon.gov.uk

Targeted short break services

- This means services for **disabled** children, young people and their families.
- There may be a specific age range. Most will have a limited number of spaces.
- You can contact the service directly, or the Aiming High Short Breaks Team can support you with this.

Transport to and from short break services:

- *Swindon Borough Council services:* Parents and carers are encouraged and expected to transport their children to and from short break services. If this is not possible, and it would be detrimental to the child or family if they do not receive the short break, consideration will be given to providing or funding transport.
- *Non-Swindon Borough Council services:* Contact provider to check, if not stated.

Targeted short break services	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>0–5 Holiday Trampoline Group</p> <p>For all disabled children. Open to friends, siblings, relatives. Maximum 15 participants per day.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Normally Brimble Hill School, Tadpole Lane, Redhouse, Swindon, SN25 2NB</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	0–5	School holidays Most Tuesdays 10am–12noon	Yes must book ahead	Yes	£1.50 per child	Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk
<p>5–16 Holiday Activity Group (trampoline and multi-sports)</p> <p>For all disabled children. Open to friends, siblings, relatives. Maximum 15 participants per day.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Normally Brimble Hill School, Tadpole Lane, Redhouse, Swindon, SN25 2NB</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	5–16	School holidays Most Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am–12noon	Yes must book ahead	Yes	£1.50 per child	Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

Targeted short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Autism friendly cinema screenings</p> <p>Lights are left on low, volume reduced, ok to make some noise. Open to anyone who feels this would be suitable, not just those with autism. Family and friends welcome.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Empire Cinema, Greenbridge Retail Park, Drakes Way, Swindon, SN3 3SQ</p>	Empire Cinema / National Autistic Society (Swindon & District)	All ages	Normally the first Sunday of each month, approx 2pm, but times may vary, so ring to check.	No	Yes	Usual cinema prices. Carers may be entitled to go free with a CEA Card*.	<p>www.empirecinemas.co.uk Choose Swindon and look for the film with the National Autistic Society logo.</p> <p>Or ring the main booking line: 08714 714 714 (they may need to get the local cinema to call you back).</p> <p>Or contact Sally Grubb, National Autistic Society (Swindon & District): 01793 770079</p> <p>(*Cinema Exhibitors' Association card: 0845 123 1292 www.ceacard.co.uk)</p>
<p>Big Hat Disability Network</p> <p>Inclusive arts and disability network.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Various</p>	Big Hat Disability Network	Varies	Various activities, ring for details	Yes	Dependent upon project, contact for details	Varies, contact for details	<p>Josie Williams, c/o Commonweal School: 01793 612727 josie@commonweal.co.uk www.thebighat.org.uk</p>
<p>Boccia League</p> <p>Targeting disabled people, but open to disabled and non-disabled people.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Training at local groups. League fixtures at Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, Swindon, SN3 5DA</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	12+	The League will be played on a monthly basis	Yes, contact Ben to register	No	£1 per person	<p>Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk</p>
<p>Disabled Ice Skating</p> <p>Wheelchairs welcome on the ice, wheelchair ramp available. No coaches.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, SN5 7DL</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	All ages	<p><i>Disability session:</i> Term-time on Tuesdays 11am–12noon</p> <p><i>Or any public session</i></p>	No need to book	Parents to stay, can support user on the ice.	Swindon Card prices apply, supporter skates free	The Link Centre: 01793 445566

Targeted short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
Football in the Community For any children with disabilities in the age group. <i>Location:</i> Ring to check	Swindon Town Football in the Community	5–16	6 week evening courses and school holidays. Ring to check dates.	Yes	Ring to discuss	Contact to check	Clive Maguire: 01793 421303 clive@stfc-fitc.co.uk
Football in the Community Targeted at people with learning disabilities, but all disabilities welcome. <i>Location:</i> Upham Road Centre, Upham Rd, Swindon, SN3 1DH	Swindon Town Football in the Community	Adult (16+)	Term-time Fridays 10.30–11.30am May run additional sessions in the summer	Anyone new, contact Clive first to talk through.	Not applicable (activity for adults)	£2 per session	Clive Maguire: 01793 421303 clive@stfc-fitc.co.uk
Gym Open to people with disabilities. <i>Location:</i> Broome Manor Gym, Pipers Way, Swindon, SN3 1RG	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	Adult (16+)	Most Thursdays 10.30am–12noon	No need to book	Carers can stay.	Swindon Card: £1.80 Without: £2.30	Broome Manor Gym: 01793 495761
Holiday Family Swim For any children with disabilities. Siblings welcome. <i>Location:</i> Thamesdown Hydro Pool, Jefferies Ave, SN2 7HJ	Swindon Borough Council (Aiming High Short Breaks Team)	0–18	School holidays Normally 1–3 times a week	Yes must book ahead	Yes, parents are required to swim with their child.	£1 per person (child & parents / carers)	Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk
Hop Skip & Jump Swindon Fully inclusive play and respite centre, open to all children and young adults who have any form of additional / special need or life-limiting condition. Will also be specific sessions for groups. <i>Location:</i> Upper Shaw Farm, Ridge Green Swindon SN5 5PU	Hop Skip & Jump (charity)	0–25	Saturdays and holidays: 10am–4pm Term time weekdays: 9am–6pm	Book ahead to secure sessions where parents / carers don't need to stay. If parents / carers are staying, you can just turn up.		Varies, contact to check	Verity Brooke-Maples: 07557 435012 manager.hsjswindon@gmail.com <i>Please note:</i> As this is a new provision times / sessions may change. Aiming to provide a youth group every Thursday evening 6.30–8.30pm, as well as breakfast and after school clubs. Please contact for information.

Targeted short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Jolly Roger play sessions</p> <p>Open to children with special needs and siblings.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Jolly Roger Adventure, Greenbridge Road, SN3 3JE</p>	Friends of The Chalet School	All ages	Occasional Thursday evenings in school holidays, usually 6–7pm	No, just turn up.	Yes	£3 (under 3ft 3") £4 (over 3ft 3")	Karen Roberts: 01793 534537
<p>Koalas</p> <p>Support and playgroup for families whose children have special needs.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Salt Way, Pearl Road, Middlelease, Swindon, SN5 5TD</p>	Koalas Swindon Opportunity Group	0–5	Various sessions on weekdays, 48 weeks per year.	Sessions are agreed beforehand.	Yes if child is under 3. Siblings also welcome.	Varies, contact to check	01793 465361 koalas@swindon.gov.uk www.koalas.org.uk
<p>Learn to Skate with Swindon Wildcats</p> <p>Targeted at people with learning disabilities but inclusive of all disabilities. With coaches.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, SN5 7DL</p>	Swindon Wildcats and Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	Adult (16+)	Term–time Every other term, Tuesdays 11am–12noon	Yes	Not applicable (activity for adults) Parents / carers can stay if they wish	£10 for 7 week course Parents / carers don't pay.	Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Learn To Swim</p> <p>For any children with disabilities.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DA</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	5–16	Thursdays 6.30–7pm (10 week courses, ring to check dates)	Yes	Adult to accompany child in water at 1st session, then depends on need.	£48 for 10 weeks with a Swindon Card.	Dorcan Rec: 01793 533763
<p>Monday Family Swim</p> <p>For any children with disabilities. Siblings welcome.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool, Jefferies Avenue, Swindon, SN2 7HJ</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Aiming High Short Breaks Team)	0–18	Every other Monday 6–7pm (not Bank Hols)	Yes must book ahead	Yes, parents are required to swim with their child.	£1 per person (child & parents / carers)	Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

Targeted short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Music Alive</p> <p>Range of individual and group based music-making sessions at a fully accessible location.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Bentham House, Purton, SN5 4HZ</p>	Music Alive (charity)	Varies	Various activities, ring for details.	Yes	Yes, but ring for details	Approx £3–£10 per session, ring for details	01793 770699 www.music-alive.org.uk sessions@music-alive.org.uk
<p>Oasis Family Swim</p> <p>Fully inclusive swim for all children / young people with disabilities / additional needs. Family members welcome. Excellent access, dedicated disabled change, shallow entry.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> The Oasis, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1EP</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	All ages	Every other Friday 7–8pm, ring to check.	No need to book	Parents to stay; children to be accompanied into the water.	Swindon Card prices, supporter swims free.	The Oasis: 01793 445401
<p>Oasis Stepping Stones Swim</p> <p>Dedicated disability swim. Excellent access, dedicated disabled change, shallow entry.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> The Oasis, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1EP</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	All ages	Fridays: 9.15–10am School Hols 10.15–11am Term Time	No need to book	Parents to stay; children to be accompanied into the water.	Swindon Card prices, supporter swims free.	The Oasis: 01793 445401
<p>Reach Inclusive Arts</p> <p>Projects designed by people with disabilities so that they can participate in arts in the community.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Various</p>	Reach Inclusive Arts	Varies	Range of projects during the year, including direct work in schools.	Dependent upon project; contact for details	Dependent upon project, contact for details	Varies, contact for details	Helen Whelehan: 01793 520318 reachinclusive3@btconnect.com www.reachinclusivearts.org.uk

Targeted short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Riding for the Disabled</p> <p>Horse riding for people with disabilities.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Various locations near Swindon</p>	Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Association	All ages	Dates by arrangement	Yes	Ring to check	Contact to check	Contact the local County Chairman for more details on groups in these areas (they are volunteers so you may not be able to get through straight away): Wiltshire: Sarah Cornell 0845 450 7034 Gloucestershire West: 0845 450 7032 Berkshire: Mary Iliffe 0845 450 7038
<p>Rowdy Bunch</p> <p>Youth club for disabled young people, to build social skills, self esteem and confidence.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Park Youth Centre, Marlowe Avenue, Swindon, SN3 3JR</p>	Rowdy Bunch (run by volunteers)	12–24	Fridays 8–10pm term–time; and possible residential week in summer.	Yes	No	£3 per session / £30 per term	Jackie Stevens: 07590 430874 jackie_stevens@hotmail.co.uk
<p>Saturday Trampolining</p> <p>For any children with disabilities. Siblings welcome.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Brimble Hill School, Tadpole Lane, Redhouse, Swindon, SN25 2NB</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Aiming High Short Breaks Team)	0–18	Term–time Saturday mornings 9.30–11am and 11.15–12.45pm	Yes must book ahead	Parents stay and are responsible for their child	£2.50 payable in advance	Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Sledge Hockey</p> <p>New group: Ice hockey on sledges! Inclusive sport for all to learn and play together.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, SN5 7DL</p>	Swindon Wildcats	6 +	2 sessions per week, days to be confirmed. Ring for more details.	Yes	Yes	Free, but may be a charge if playing in a league	Peter Winn: 07713 599472 peter.winn@swindonwildcats.com

Targeted short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>StreetGames and Parachallenge Festival</p> <p>Gives young people from disadvantaged communities the chance to experience a wide range of sports, with competitive and taster sessions.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Ring to check</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure and Youth)	All ages	Annually in July	Ring to check details.	Ring to check details.	Contact to check	Doug Imrie: 01793 465405 dimrie@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Tennis for people with disabilities</p> <p>Mainly group based and some individual tennis sessions for people with disabilities. Access all on one level.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Delta Tennis Centre, Welton Road, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7XF</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	All ages	Bookable in groups	Ring to arrange	Don't need to stay	Ring for details.	Delta Tennis Centre: 01793 465490 deltatenniscentre@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Trampolining (with hoist)</p> <p>For disabled people.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Highworth Rec, The Elms, Highworth, SN6 7DD</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	Adult (16+)	Tuesdays 12noon–2pm. Usually runs in holidays, ring to check.	Anyone new, contact Ben first to talk through.	Not applicable (activity for adults)	Swindon Card prices apply	Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Trampolining and Rebound Therapy (with hoist)</p> <p>For disabled people.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, SN5 7DL</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	Adult (16+)	Most Thursdays 12.30–2.30pm Usually runs in holidays, ring to check.	Anyone new, contact Ben first to talk through.	Not applicable (activity for adults)	Swindon Card prices apply	Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

Targeted short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Trio Opportunity Network Childminders</p> <p>Qualified to level 3 in childcare. Specific SEN training. Varying experience of working with children with disabilities. Open to all.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Across Swindon.</p>	Trio Opportunity Network	0–25	Dates by arrangement	Yes	No	Contact for details	Contact Swindon Sure Start Partnership: 01793 466032
<p>Walking Group</p> <p>For families of disabled children. Open to all. It can get muddy, wellies advisable. No dogs.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Stanton Park, Stanton Fitzwarren, SN6 7SF</p>	Community Learning Disability CAMHS Team (NHS)	0–18	School holidays 10.30am most Wednesdays	No, just turn up	Yes	Free	Kirk Anderson: 01793 464089 kirk.anderson@nhs.net
<p>Wheelchair Basketball</p> <p>Open to all abilities, disabled and non-disabled. You don't have to be a wheelchair user. Equipment including sport wheelchairs provided. Qualified coaches.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DA</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	12+	Sunday 3–5pm Usually runs in holidays, ring to check.	Anyone new, contact Ben in advance.	No, but need consent form for under 16s	Free	Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Wheelchair Tag Rugby</p> <p>Open to all abilities, disabled and non-disabled. You don't have to be a wheelchair user. Equipment including sport wheelchairs provided.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DA</p>	Swindon St George and Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	12+	Saturdays 10am–12noon	No need to book.	No	£2 per session (first 2 sessions free)	Tony Ellis: 07887 561520 Or Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404

Targeted short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Youth Engagement Team</p> <p>Supporting young people to engage in positive activities (to include education, employment and training).</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Services take place in localities.</p>	Swindon Borough Council	11–19	Various sessions	Yes	No	Depends on session	<p>Contact is through the Operational Managers in each area. Contact to talk about services and referrals:</p> <p><i>South:</i> Steve Smith: 01793 463170 ssmith7@swindon.gov.uk</p> <p><i>North:</i> Caroline Starling: 01793 465452 cstarling@swindon.gov.uk</p> <p><i>Central South:</i> David Attree: 01793 464492 dattree@swindon.gov.uk</p> <p><i>Central North:</i> Jayne Lyons: 07818 510513 JLyons@swindon.gov.uk</p>

Specialist short break services

- This means services for specific groups of disabled children and young people, and their parents / carers.
- Groups are based on type of need and/or age group. There will be a limited number of spaces.
- You can contact most of these directly, or the Aiming High Short Breaks Team can support you with this.
- Some can only be accessed through the Aiming High Short Breaks Team – see details below.
- You may need to complete a self referral form and/or meet with a member of staff, to ensure that the service can meet your child's needs safely.

Transport to and from short break services:

- *Swindon Borough Council services:* Parents and carers are encouraged and expected to transport their children to and from short break services. If this is not possible, and it would be detrimental to the child or family if they do not receive the short break, consideration will be given to providing or funding transport.
- *Non-Swindon Borough Council services:* Contact provider to check, if not stated.

Specialist short break services	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Actionnaires multi-sports and lifestyle skills</p> <p>For blind and visually impaired children. Regular trips and activities. Transport provided for trips outside of Swindon / surrounding area.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Various</p>	Action for Blind People	5–16 (under 8s with parent / carer)	Normally 2 Saturdays per month throughout the year.	Yes must book in advance.	Welcome, but don't need to stay, except with under 8s. Families are encouraged to come to family days.	Free	Vivienne Mills: 07872 197314 Vivienne.Mills@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Specialist short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>ASD / SCID after-school club</p> <p>For children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) / Social Communication and Interaction Difficulties (SCID).</p> <p>Groups are based on a ratio of 1 worker to 3 children.</p> <p>The Coordinator will meet with you and your child beforehand, to decide together whether this ratio is appropriate.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Ring to check</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Aiming High Short Breaks Team)	5–18 Groups based on age range as below:	Term-time:	Yes. By referral. Anyone can refer, including families.	No	£1 per hour:	Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk
			5–11*	Tuesdays 5.30pm–7pm	£1.50		
			11–14	Tuesdays 7.15pm–8.45pm	£1.50		
			12–16*	Wednesdays 5.30pm–8.30pm (meal provided)	£3		
			14–18	Thursdays 6pm–8pm	£2		
<i>*These groups may be split further by age in future</i>							
<p>ASD / SCID holiday playscheme</p> <p>For children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) / Social Communication and Interaction Difficulties (SCID).</p> <p>Groups are based on a ratio of 1 worker to 3 children.</p> <p>The Coordinator will meet with you and your child beforehand, to decide together whether this ratio is appropriate.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Ring to check</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Aiming High Short Breaks Team)	5–18 Groups based on age range as below:	School holidays:	Yes. By referral. Anyone can refer, including families.	No	£1 per hour:	Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk
			5–7	Tuesdays 10am–3pm	£5		
			8–11	Wednesdays 10am–3pm	£5		
			12–18	Thursdays 10am–3pm	£5		

Specialist short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Brimble Holiday Group</p> <p>Specialist group for children with ASD, plus other associated disabilities, who need a minimum of 1:1 support. The Coordinator will meet with you and your child beforehand to complete a care plan and to ensure that the group is able to meet your child's needs.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Normally Brimble Hill School, Tadpole Lane, Redhouse, Swindon, SN25 2NB</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Aiming High Short Breaks Team)	5–11	School holidays Tuesdays 10am–3pm	Yes. By referral. Anyone can refer, including families.	No	£5	Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Buddying Project</p> <p>For physically disabled young people. Non-disabled volunteers befriend disabled peers on a 1:1 basis, matched by age and gender. They decide together how much time they spend together and what they do.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Various</p>	Living Options (Scope)	14–22	Dates by arrangement	By arrangement	No	Contact to check	Dave Plotkin: 01793 542074 david.plotkin@scope.org.uk Please note: <i>This project may not continue after March 2012 – ring to check.</i>

Specialist short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Gym & Athletics</p> <p>For people with learning disabilities.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> The Link Centre Studio, Whitehill Way, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DL</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	Adult (16+)	<p>Most Wednesdays 2.30–4pm</p> <p>Usually runs in holidays, ring to check.</p>	Anyone new, contact Ben first to talk through.	Not applicable (activity for adults)	Swindon Card prices apply	<p>Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk</p>
<p>Holiday Activity Days</p> <p>Activity days for teenagers with Aspergers / ASD</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Varies</p>	Farleigh College and National Autistic Society (Swindon & District)	10–17	<p>Various holiday dates, ring to check</p>	Yes	No	£15 per day	<p>07789 718189 becki@leonius.net or o.morrison-clarke@tiscali.co.uk</p>
<p>Inclusive Climbing</p> <p>For people with learning disabilities.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> The Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DL</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	Adult (16+)	<p>Most Wednesdays 10.30am–12.30pm</p> <p>Usually runs in holidays, ring to check.</p>	Yes book in advance.	Not applicable (activity for adults)	Swindon Card prices apply	<p>Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk</p>
<p>Learn to Swim</p> <p>For people with learning disabilities.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DA</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	Adult (16+)	<p>Saturdays 1–2pm until further notice</p> <p>Usually runs in holidays, ring to check.</p>	Anyone new, contact Ben first to talk through.	Not applicable (activity for adults)	£1 per session	<p>Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk</p>
<p>Magic Mondays</p> <p>Group for hearing impaired and deaf children</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Varies, ring to check.</p>	Swindon Borough Council	5–12	<p>Holiday playschemes</p>	Yes	No	Contact to check	<p>Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk</p>

Specialist short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Otters</p> <p>Water based group for children with physical disabilities who have a referral to the Hydrotherapy Pool from a professional (for example, your GP). The aim is to have fun in the water, build confidence and exercise.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool, Jefferies Avenue, Swindon, SN2 6HJ</p>	Run by volunteers	1–12	Term–time Every other Wednesday 6–7pm	Yes. 20 swimmers are allowed in the pool including 3 Otters staff.	Yes, but don't need to swim.	Price by age: 0–5s: £3.50 5–16s: £4	Contact Otters directly: Jean Clifford: 01793 706270 and Margaret Tyson: 01793 635511 Contact the Hydrotherapy Pool for a referral form or for information: 01793 496002 info@thamesdownhydrotherapypool.com www.thamesdownhydrotherapypool.com
<p>Pathfinders sports group</p> <p>Sports group for physically disabled young people. The young people decide what they want to do, and are enabled to take part in a wide range of sporting activities.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Various</p>	Run by volunteers	12–30	Regular trips during the year, plus an 'expedition' week during the summer.	Yes	No	Varies, contact to check	Jean Clifford: 01793 706270 jeanpathfinders@hotmail.co.uk
<p>Rainbow Trust Drop–In Group</p> <p>Group for families supported by Rainbow Trust or if a family has a child with a terminal illness or life threatening condition, by arrangement.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Salt Way Centre, Pearl Road, Middleleaze, Swindon, SN5 5TD</p>	Rainbow Trust Children's Charity	0–19	Most Wednesdays 4–6pm	New families should make contact in advance	Yes	Free	Bryan Short: 01793 841204 bryan.short@rainbowtrust.org.uk

Specialist short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Saturday Group Specialist group for children with any disabilities who need a minimum of 1:1 support (this includes ASD, learning disabilities, complex health needs). The Coordinator will meet with you and your child beforehand to complete a care plan & ensure that the group is able to meet your child's needs.</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Aiming High Short Breaks Team)	5–18	1 Saturday a month at Salt Way Centre and 1 Saturday a month at Uplands School 9.30am–1.30pm	Yes. By referral. Anyone can refer, including families.	No	£4	Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk
<p>SCWAD activities Groups for SCWAD members: Swindon (and surrounding areas) disabled children without a diagnosis or rare disorders. Contact the group about joining. <i>Location: Various</i></p>	SCWAD (charity)	0–19	Various activities, dates throughout the year.	Yes book in advance	No, but may depend on activity.	Ring to check	SCWAD: 07913 625977 scwad@btinternet.com www.scwad.org.uk
<p>Shaw Holiday Group Specialist group for children with learning disabilities, plus other associated disabilities, who need a minimum of 1:1 support. The Coordinator will meet with you and your child beforehand to complete a care plan and to ensure that the group is able to meet your child's needs. <i>Location: Normally Hop Skip & Jump Swindon, Upper Shaw Farm, Ridge Green, SN5 5PU</i></p>	Swindon Borough Council (Aiming High Short Breaks Team)	5–14	School holidays Fridays 10am–3.30pm	Yes. By referral. Anyone can refer, including families.	No	£5	Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

Specialist short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Stanton Holiday Group Specialist group for children with learning disabilities, plus other associated disabilities, who need a minimum of 1:1 support. The Coordinator will meet with you and your child beforehand to complete a care plan and to ensure that the group is able to meet your child's needs.</p> <p><i>Location: Various</i></p>	Swindon Borough Council (Aiming High Short Breaks Team)	12–18	School holidays Wednesdays 10am–3.30pm	Yes. By referral. Anyone can refer, including families.	No	£5	Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Swindon 10–18 Project (STEP) Groups for STEP members only. Safe and supportive environment for children/young people who are experiencing isolation and exclusion due to lack of social skills, personal circumstances or poverty. Transport provided. Get in touch for more information or referrals.</p> <p><i>Location: Various</i></p>	STEP (charity)	10–18	Saturdays and school holidays.	Yes	No	Free	Paul Dobson: 01793 728555 swindonstep@aol.com
<p>Swindon Champions Multi-Sports Club For people with learning disabilities.</p> <p><i>Location: Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DA</i></p>	Swindon Borough Council (Leisure)	Adult (16+)	Most Thursdays 6.30–8pm Usually runs in holidays, ring to check.	Anyone new, contact Ben first to talk through.	Not applicable (activity for adults)	£1.50 per session	Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404 or 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

Specialist short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Swindon Down's Syndrome Group activities</p> <p>Groups for Swindon Down's Syndrome Group members, or anyone who has Down's Syndrome with an 'SN' postcode. You can contact the Group about joining.</p> <p><i>Location: Various</i></p>	Swindon Down's Syndrome Group (charity)	All ages	<p>Various activities, dates throughout the year.</p> <p>Contact to check.</p>	Yes for some sessions; contact to check	Yes	Contact to check	<p>Nicky Parker (Chair): 01793 640234 nicky.parker@swindondownsgroup.org.uk www.swindondownsgroup.org.uk</p>
<p>Swindon Leopards Learning Disability Football Team</p> <p>For men with learning disabilities / mental health. Open to any level of football ability. The Leopards play in the Wilts & Dorset Ability Counts League.</p> <p><i>Location: Croft Sports Centre, Marlborough Lane, Swindon, SN3 1RA</i></p>	Swindon Leopards F.C.	Adult (16+)	<p>Tuesdays 5–6pm</p> <p>Usually runs all year but ring to check.</p>	Yes. Contact to discuss needs before attending for the first time.	No, but contact to discuss	£3 per session	Terry Yeomans: 07512 213512
<p>Swindon Panthers Ladies Football Team</p> <p>Football training with qualified coaches for ladies with learning disabilities / mental health. Open to any level of ability.</p> <p><i>Location: Upham Road Centre, Upham Road, Swindon, SN3 1DH</i></p>	Swindon Panthers	Adult (16+)	<p>Wednesdays 11am–12noon</p> <p>Usually runs all year but ring to check.</p>	Yes. Contact to discuss needs before attending for the first time.	No, but contact to discuss	Contact for costs	Christina Guy: 01793 535431

Specialist short break services continued...	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
<p>Swindon Rockets Powerchair Football Club</p> <p>For people with physical disabilities. Powerchairs and manual wheelchairs.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Nova Hreod School, Akers Way, Swindon, SN2 2NQ</p>	Swindon Rockets	8+	Most Mondays 6–8pm, ring to check (not Bank Hols)	Yes arrange in advance	Families can watch	£5 per session. £20 per year to be a member.	07960 763716 swindonrockets@fsmail.net
<p>Uplands Holiday Group</p> <p>Specialist group for children with complex health needs, who need a minimum of 1:1 support. The Coordinator will meet with you and your child beforehand to complete a care plan and to ensure that the group is able to meet your child's needs.</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Normally Uplands School, Tadpole Lane, Redhouse, Swindon, SN25 2NB</p>	Swindon Borough Council (Aiming High Short Breaks Team)	5–18	School holidays Mondays and Thursdays 10am–3pm <i>Children may not go to both days.</i>	Yes. By referral. Anyone can refer, including families.	No	£5	Aiming High Short Breaks Team: 01793 464080 aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk
<p>Vibrations</p> <p>Pre–school group for hearing impaired and deaf children</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Salt Way Centre, Pearl Road, Middleleaze, Swindon, SN5 5TD</p>	Swindon Borough Council	Pre–school age	Weekly during term–time.	Yes	Yes	Contact to check	Ian Sharp, Advisory Teacher of the Deaf: 07740 038025 isharp@swindon.gov.uk

Additional short break services identified through Social Care Assessment

In certain circumstances a family may have a statutory Social Care Assessment to look at their needs. You have the right to request a statutory Social Care Assessment at any time if you feel it is appropriate. This may identify that additional services, or a higher level of services are needed. For example, where a child has an overnight break away from home. A Social Care Assessment may also identify additional Universal, Targeted or Specialist services needed. For example, a combination of support, including a Direct Payment and holiday groups. To see the eligibility criteria for the Disabled Children Social Care Team contact the Team on tel: 01793 464240 (Salt Way Centre, Pearl Road, Middleleaze, Swindon, SN5 5TD)

Specific information about overnight services in Swindon:

If a need is identified through a Social Care Assessment for overnight short breaks, these may be provided in a number of ways. The type of provision will be dependent upon the individual needs identified. Information is provided below:

Overnight short break services	Provider	Age group	When	Book in advance?	Do parents / carers stay?	Cost	Contact details
Direct Payments Families may receive Direct Payments to enable them to purchase overnight short breaks themselves. For more about Direct Payments see page 6.	Swindon Borough Council	0–18	Overnights. The number of nights / day care sessions allocated is agreed following assessment.	Not applicable	No	Free	Disabled Children Social Care Team: 01793 464240
Home and Away Overnight short break services in a family home with carers who are approved under foster care regulations. This is a sustained, long-term link with the foster carer. This service can start with day care, leading to overnight breaks.	Swindon Borough Council	0–18	Overnights. The number of nights / day care sessions allocated is agreed following assessment.	Not applicable	No	Free	Disabled Children Social Care Team: 01793 464240
Residential Provision Overnight short break services provided in a residential unit.	Dependent on provider	0–18	Overnights. The number of nights allocated agreed following assessment.	Not applicable	No	Free	Disabled Children Social Care Team: 01793 464240

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Tel: 01793 445500

Email: customerservices@swindon.gov.uk

This information is also available on the internet at:

www.swindon.gov.uk/aiminghighshortbreaks

Contacting the Aiming High Short Breaks Team:

This Short Breaks Statement has been produced by the Aiming High Short Breaks Team, Swindon Borough Council Children Services.

Contact the Team:

Telephone: 01793 464080

Email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

Webpage: www.swindon.gov.uk/aiminghighshortbreaks

Address: The Salt Way Centre, Pearl Road, Swindon, SN5 5TD