

*Royal Borough of Greenwich
and South East London
Integrated Care System*

Children and Young People's Short Breaks Strategy

2023 – 2027





Every child in Royal Greenwich deserves to have their pick of fun and exciting activities. It's our duty to ensure that children who need extra support have choices too, so that's why I am so pleased to be introducing our Short Breaks strategy.

Royal Greenwich is a fantastic place to grow up, and through this programme we're making sure that everyone has the chance to enjoy it.

Short Breaks are so important. Not only do they give eligible young people an outlet to have fun and meet new people, they also give them space from their families and carers. This encourages independence and growth, but in a supportive and inclusive way.

It also means that families get some time to themselves, to carry out other tasks or just relax and avoid burn-out.

We must make sure that our offer is easy and affordable so we can help parents care for themselves and give every young person the best support.

This strategy has been developed in partnership with the Greenwich Parent Carer Participation Forum using feedback from children, young people and families.

Councillor Matt Morrow
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People





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Introduction

The Royal Borough of Greenwich (The Council) and South East London Integrated Care System (ICS) are responsible for commissioning Short Breaks for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

We currently have a wide range of options to allow families and children and young people with SEND to have accessible fun days out in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. This includes our accessible leisure centres which includes swimming sessions for young people with a physical or sensory disability, autism friendly cinemas, the Greenwich Pier, local parks with wheelchair access and accessible equipment. We want our local facilities and open spaces to allow all families to enjoy spending time together while being inclusive of all children and young people regardless of their needs.

We want the same for our Short Breaks offer. It is our aim to have a diverse range of high quality, age and need appropriate provision that is inclusive of and accessible to all families in the borough.

We want to commission Short Breaks provisions that help children and young people to achieve their full potential and improve outcomes for children and their families. We can do this by giving children and young people the opportunity to participate in quality opportunities in the community.

Our Short Breaks Strategy sets out how we intend to develop short break provisions between 2023 – 2027 to achieve this aim.

The Short Breaks Strategy has been developed in partnership with the Greenwich Parent Carer Participation Forum taking into account feedback from children, young people families. Providers were also consulted on current needs, during the SEND Providers Forum, see section 14 for further details.

What are Short Breaks?

The Royal Borough of Greenwich Children’s Services have a duty to provide access to short break services for parent/carers of all disabled children and behaviour that challenges aged 0-17 (this will be extended up to 25 for Short Breaks services between 2023-2027).

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 require local authorities to:

- ensure that, when making Short Breaks provision, they consider the needs of different types of carers, not just those who would be unable to continue to provide care without a break;
- provide a range of breaks, as appropriate, during the day, night, at weekends and during the school holidays; and
- provide parents with a Short Breaks services statement detailing the range of available breaks and any eligibility criteria attached to them, which is published on the local authorities Local Offer page.

Short Breaks are services that help parents/carers to more effectively provide care for their disabled children by providing them regular breaks so that they can meet the needs of other children in the family; study or take part in leisure activities themselves; or carry out day to day household tasks.

Within Royal Greenwich we strive to support children and young people to work towards independence. Part of how we do this is by supporting children and young people to work towards the Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) outcomes as defined by the Department for Education:

- employment
- community inclusion
- independent living
- health

All Short Breaks provisions are expected to help children and young people to work towards achieving at least one of the PFA outcomes in line with outcomes identified in their EHCP and/ or disabled child support plan. More information can be found here: <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/downloads/education-health-and-care-planning/pfa-outcomes-tool.htm>

The local authority must put arrangements in place to promote co-operation with Integrated Care Systems to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area, to advance the health and welfare of their populations and to have joint commissioning arrangements in place.

Local authorities and Integrated Care Systems are required to meet duties under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equalities Act 2010 relating to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between different groups.

A more comprehensive view of the statutory duties for young people with SEND is set out in *Short Breaks for Disabled Children: A legal guide for local authorities*.



Our Vision

We want the Short Breaks Strategy to align with our ambitions and purpose set out in the Children and Young People’s Plan 2020-2024, in particular Priority 3; “Supporting our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and challenging behaviour”.

We want our Short Breaks offer to include a “clear range of development opportunities and options at school and beyond” through the after school and holiday Short Breaks offer.



In commissioning our Short Breaks provisions, we want our Short Breaks offer to:

Be clear and easy for families to access the right level of support to meet their needs in the local community and available throughout the year, including evenings, weekends and school holidays

Provide children and young people with a diverse range of fun, interesting and exciting opportunities and experiences and high-quality care, that families feel confident in using

Provide inclusive activities that enable children and young people to take part in activities alongside their peers; those with SEND and those without

Meet children and young people’s individual and cultural needs and contribute to their personal goals and maximise their independence

Help children and young people to gain skills, independence and make connections with other children (both with SEND and without) and connections with their local community

Help parents to care for themselves, their child and other family members effectively

Enable children and young people to be able to access different types of provision at different ages if this is what they want and need

Include an offer specifically for young adults

Make greater use of our existing assets, while ensuring our funding for targeted and specialist provision is reaching those who need the additional support

Where eligible, we want a family to be able to make their own choices on a range of Short Breaks offers, based on their own personal budget and/or personal health budget.

Impact of COVID-19 in Royal Greenwich

COVID-19 and lockdown restriction measures have had a devastating impact on local people in Royal Greenwich and communities across England.

During periods of lockdown, we recognise many families struggled with their daily lives and accessing necessities like food and sanitary products. The lockdown measures added extra pressure on families with children and young people with SEND, as many of these young people fell into the high-risk category and were required to shield. We recognise a lot of families felt isolated; however, many were able to access support in the community through the Live Well Greenwich Community Hub.

The national restrictions impacted the ability of providers to deliver Short Breaks provisions in the standard way, and many providers had to suspend their offer. Despite this, providers worked creatively to provide support to families most in need. Several provisions continued to offer services for our most vulnerable children and young people where a continued offer of support was required, with careful measures in place. Providers worked with the Children's Services and Public Health to ensure that there were robust COVID risk assessments to make sure the environments were safe and hygienic.

In partnership with LA volunteers, some providers put on alternative activities that families could access together, utilising free outdoor space for them to use for sports and games etc.

The Council was able to fund accessible outdoor toilet facilities and cleaning supplies for the activities, this allowed families to enjoy being outside and participate in activities in a safe and contained space. Families have told us that this was a welcomed break for them, in particular for those who did not have access to a garden.

Many families chose not to access these services due to concerns about risks of their children contracting COVID-19. Some providers who normally would offer transport to and from home could no longer do so, as it meant closer contact between staff and young people on minibuses. This also impacted on families who would normally rely on the transport for their child to get to and from the programmes. Overall, most provisions saw around a 50% drop in referrals during this time.

We continued to work closely with families, social workers and schools to ensure that those not accessing the services continued to be supported, including organising food deliveries and allowing families to purchase items such as toys and play equipment for the home from their personal budgets to keep their children active and stimulated.

The Council continues to work with the Short Breaks providers and the parent/carer forum to advertise their provision to ensure families who have missed out during the national restrictions are now able to engage. It is especially important to ensure young people who were not able to engage in the community are able to do so again.



Children and Young People with SEND in Royal Greenwich

To ensure our Short Breaks offer is well considered in terms of meeting the needs of young people in Royal Greenwich, we will rely on the following sources:

- general population projections
- schools data sources (e.g. SEN2)
- EHCP Data
- current take-up of Short Breaks services, including specialist individual packages of care and Continuing Care provision

The proportion of children and young people with SEND now represents 3% of the population, which used to be 2% in 2020. As of January 2022, there were 6,581 children and young people in The Council

Schools identified as having special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). This figure takes into account all the primary and secondary schools in Royal Greenwich, including special schools and represents approximately 15% of the overall school pupil population.

The overall breakdown of this picture and comparison with wider England can be found in the Council Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Strategy 2019-2024. This also includes details of SEN provision to pupils: https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/greenwich/asch/files/send_strategy_final_1.pdf

SEN Support pupils by primary need type

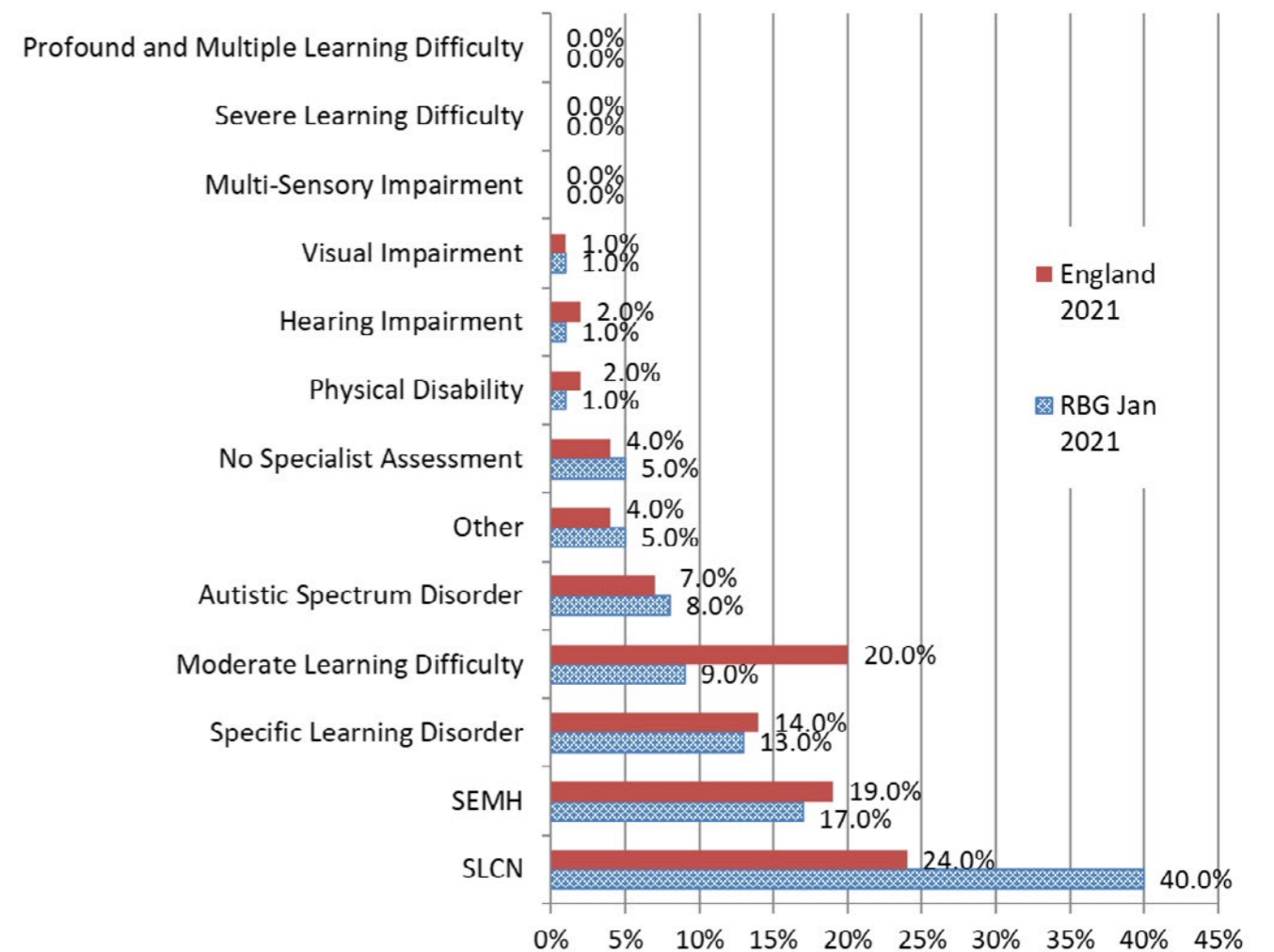


Fig 1. Primary need of SEN Support The Council pupils, 2021 Jan school census

The primary need for SEN Support for pupils in The Council is speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), this is 16% higher than the England average of 24%.

In January 2022, the total number of EHCPs within the school population was 2,180. The number of EHCPs maintained by the Council is increasing year on year.

Total EHCP maintained by Royal Greenwich (Snapshot in January each year)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	1,648	1,700	1,858	1,998	2,180

Fig 2. EHCP trend over the past five years in The Council

This figure is inclusive out of borough young people, whose EHCP is managed by The Council

SEN Support pupils by primary need type

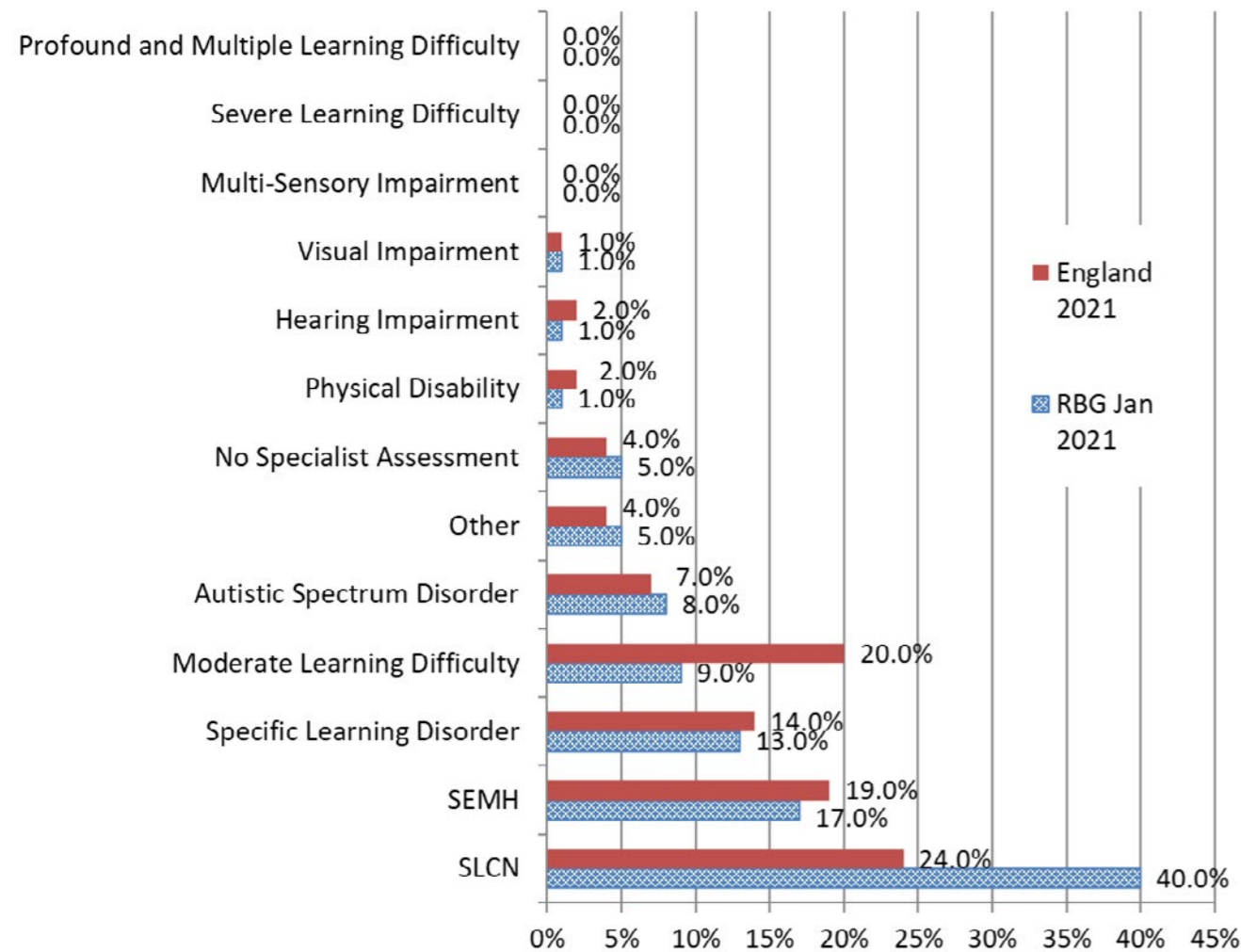


Fig 3. Primary need of The Council pupils with an EHCP, Jan 2021 school census

The most prevalent primary need for The Council pupils with an EHCP is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), standing at 46% in January 2021.

	% School Roll	EHCP		SEN Support		All SEND	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Asian/Asian British	8.9%	139	8.9%	408	6.4%	547	6.9%
Bangladeshi	1.0%	19	1.2%	54	0.9%	73	0.9%
Indian	2.2%	26	1.7%	75	1.2%	101	1.3%
Pakistani	1.4%	28	1.8%	71	1.1%	99	1.3%
Other Asian	4.3%	66	4.2%	208	3.3%	274	3.5%
Black/Black British	30.2%	486	31.2%	1779	28.1%	2265	28.7%
Black African	23.4%	342	21.9%	1340	21.2%	1682	21.3%
Black Caribbean	3.0%	66	4.2%	208	3.3%	274	3.5%
Black Other	3.8%	78	5.0%	231	3.6%	309	3.9%
Mixed background	11.9%	193	12.4%	768	12.1%	961	12.2%
Mixed White/Asian	1.6%	21	1.3%	78	1.2%	99	1.3%
Mixed White/Black African	2.3%	39	2.5%	152	2.4%	191	2.4%
Mixed White/Black Caribbean	2.7%	54	3.5%	223	3.5%	277	3.5%
Other Mixed background	5.3%	79	5.1%	315	5.0%	394	5.0%
White/White British	42.7%	672	43.1%	3121	49.3%	3793	48.1%
White British	29.3%	569	36.5%	2485	39.3%	3054	38.7%
White Irish	0.3%	3	0.2%	19	0.3%	22	0.3%
White Irish traveller	0.1%	3	0.2%	7	0.1%	10	0.1%
White Gypsy/Roma	0.3%	3	0.2%	30	0.5%	33	0.4%
Other White background	12.7%	94	6.0%	580	9.2%	674	8.5%
Other background	4.3%	42	2.7%	159	2.5%	201	2.5%
Chinese	1.4%	11	0.7%	45	0.7%	56	0.7%
Any other background	2.8%	31	2.0%	114	1.8%	145	1.8%
Unknown/refused	2.0%	27	1.7%	95	1.5%	122	1.5%
ALL PUPILS		1559		6330		7889	

Fig 7 Ethnicity breakdown within The Council for children and young people with EHCPs up to 18 years of age. January 2021 school census

The changes to SEND population of young people in Royal Greenwich and the upward trend of EHCPs are likely to result in an increased demand for specialist and targeted provisions for these groups of young people.



Short Breaks Demand

Introduction

The Council provides a range of Short Breaks to CYP with SEND (please refer to Appendix E, to see full list of commissioned providers for 2021-23)

Our offer is grouped into three categories (for further details please see page 15 and refer to Appendix A):

- **targeted**
- **specialist**
- **universal**

A high portion of young people’s needs (section 5.7) can be met through universal services.

Universal services offer young people the opportunity to access a wide range of activities out in the community. Young Greenwich is the Council commissioned youth support services. It is a partnership formed of Oxleas NHS, Charlton Athletic Community Trust (CACT) and METRO charity. Young Greenwich offers a variety of services and activities for people ages between 8-19 (up to 25 for SEND young adults). Young people who are accessing targeted or specialist provisions can also use universal services like Young Greenwich to supplement their existing package.

Between 2021-22, 252 children and young people accessed their Short Breaks Core Offer through a commissioned (targeted and specialist) Short Breaks provision. This figure is comparatively lower than the previous years due to reasons stated in section 4.

Short Breaks Provision	Total
Targeted	122
Specialist	130
Overnight Short Breaks	22

Figure 4. Access of Short Breaks Commissioned Provisions between April 2021- March 2022

Between 2021-22, 275 children and young people accessed specialist Short Breaks via an individual package of care. 22 children and young people accessed overnight Short Breaks. These children and young people were all assessed as eligible for specialist provisions under Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, referrals into Short Breaks had been growing each year, with a 20% increase in registrations from 2019 to 2020. Since March 2021, the full Short Breaks offer has been resumed and we are slowly starting to see families access the service, however it has not resumed to pre-covid level of attendance.

The number of children receiving Continuing Care provision in June 2022 was 22. Most of these children also have social care specialist individual packages of care however some of these children experience barriers to accessing the commissioned Short Breaks provision. This is due to skill gaps in the support staff, who are not trained to meet the individual clinical health needs of these young people.

On the basis that disability prevalence will remain relatively constant, but the Royal Greenwich population is forecasted to grow by approximately 6.7% between 2022 and 2027, the projected demand is set out below.



Provision	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27
Universal	6,581	7,022	7,492	7,994	8,530
Targeted	781	833	889	949	1,013
Specialist	281	300	320	341	364
Specialist Overnight	19	20	21	22	23
Total <i>(rounded to the nearest whole number)</i>	7,662	8,175	8,722	9,306	9,930

Figure 6. Table of projected demand for future provision

Universal reflects total SEND cohort

Targeted reflects special school roll plus those accessing DSPs

Specialist and Specialist overnight based current assessed needs completed by Social Workers

Annual increases calculated according to Royal Greenwich population forecasted growth

There is currently a demand for Short Breaks services, for young adults who are 18 and over, as they move into adulthood. The exact figure for this cohort is not clear, as it will depend on the needs assessments required to access Short Breaks services and aspirations of the cohort and whether they want to consider a more vocational pathway.

In June 2022, there were 25 young adults between 18-25, with an EHCP who were in receipt of continuing health care, this gives us an idea of the number of young adults who may require specialist and targeted Short Breaks.

The current commissioned short break services 2021-23 has provisions available in the following age category and needs:

- **specialist Secondary (10-17/ 14-17)**
- **specialist Primary (4-10)**
- **targeted Secondary (13-17 / 14-17)**
- **targeted Primary (4-11)**
- **targeted Primary and Secondary (4-14/ 4-17)**



There is a currently a good mix of specialist and targeted services commissioned by the Council. We recognise there is a demand for more specialist primary provisions and targeted and specialist Short Breaks services for those over the age of 17.

Royal Greenwich Short Breaks Model

As part of the Short Breaks services, the Council has a Core Offer available to children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 with an EHCP.

The Core Offer means each eligible child or young person can access up to 100 hours of the commissioned Short Breaks activities. In some exceptional circumstances of specialist need, the offer is increased to up to 150 hours.

The Core Offer Model is designed to provide more flexibility and choice for families accessing Short Breaks, whilst ensuring fair and equitable access to services across the borough for a range of ages and need.

These provisions are highly subsidized meaning families need to only fund an access fee. The parental contribution must be affordable to families. Contribution can range from £2.50 per session with a cap of £10 per session for targeted provision and £20 per session for a specialist provision. We expect providers to consider concessionary rates for families who are on a low income. These costings take into account the average cost for a child/ young person to access a mainstream provision (<https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2020>).

The Core Offer means that all eligible children and young people can access a diverse range of provision including both targeted and specialist provision spread across the year.

If an assessment indicates that a family requires more support than the Core Offer provides, this may mean that more hours or additional alternative support can be put in place through individual packages of care.

All the commissioned Core Offer hours are allocated and managed by the Council Short Breaks team. Families can register by completing a self-assessment form for their child which will indicate if they are more

suited to Universal, Targeted or Specialist provision. Based on this, families then submit their activity preferences and will be allocated to the appropriate provision, taking into consideration the child or young person's age, preferred choice of activity and support needs. The expectation is for both families and commissioned Short Breaks providers to track the usage of hours throughout the year.

When a child or young person is granted an EHCP, information on the Core Offer and how to register is sent to the family by the Council SEND Assessment and Review team. The information and registration forms can also be found on the Council Local Offer website, which is shared with families when going through the EHC Needs Assessment process:

<https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/kb5/greenwich/directory/advice.page?id=1YXLOYPJdfQ>

Commissioned providers delivering the Core Offer are monitored quarterly throughout the contract period to ensure they are delivering provision in line with their contract. Commissioned providers are also notified of any training opportunities throughout the contract period, to enhance the development of their provisions. Case studies of young people accessing the provision and feedback from families are included in this monitoring process.

During the period of this strategy the local authority is looking to commission services for a period of 4 years with an option to extend annually for up to a further 2 years, subject to satisfactory performance. This will encourage providers to invest in their provision and enable families to develop trusted relationships with service providers. This will also facilitate continuity in provision for children and young people whilst also allowing the contractual flexibility to meet changing needs as they arise.

Eligibility of Short Breaks per category

Children and young people with SEND between 0 and 25 may receive a short break if they have been assessed as being eligible. All eligible children and young people will have a guaranteed offer of 100 subsidised hours to use over the year. Based on the assessment, they may qualify for targeted or specialist provisions or may be advised to consider universal services.

Universal

Universal services are those that are provided or routinely available to children, young people and their families in the Council.

Any young person in the Council can access universal services without the need for a social care assessment. Universal services may be open access or may require some form of booking onto the course. These are the borough wide provisions open to all children and young people in the Council, including those with SEND. They may include commissioned, voluntary or privately delivered provision. Some of the services on offer include under 5s play groups (Big Red Bus) and youth provisions (Young Greenwich), the latter being commissioned by the Council.

Our aim is that as many children and young people with SEND as possible access universal services in the community. When any assessment is carried out this will always be the first consideration of support.

Details of universal services can be found on the local offer page: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/kb5/greenwich/directory/service.page?id=wexIP55vqD0&familychannel=2>

This would be appropriate services for children and young people on SEN support level in schools and most of those with EHCPs who attend mainstream provision.

It is expected that universal providers have training to ensure inclusion for children and young people with SEND, including relevant safeguarding training. Reasonable adjustments are made to facilitate the access and engagement of the child in the setting and activities.

Targeted

Targeted Short Breaks are those services that are aimed at children and young people with SEND that require additional support to access provision, or who may need groups and services that are specifically designed to meet their needs.

Children and young people with SEND in the Council, aged 0-25, who may be eligible for a targeted Short Breaks provision will have an EHCP and a level of need that requires support above that which is provided in the universal offer. This would typically be aimed for children and young people with EHCPs with moderate to high levels of need associated with their SEND. They are likely to attend mainstream schools or DSPs where they need additional support to access the provision.

Children and young people requiring targeted Short Breaks are those who are substantially and adversely affected in their ability to carry out activities of daily life due to:

- social, emotional and mental health and well-being needs
- ADHD or ADD
- mild or moderate ASD without a severe learning difficulty
- mild or moderate learning difficulties
- mental health needs

Most children and young people with SEND requiring targeted Short Breaks do not require a social care assessment. Instead, those young people with SEND can access targeted Short Breaks through the Core

Offer via a self- assessment with the Short Breaks Team.

If a young person is assessed as requiring targeted provisions, it would be made available under the Children's Act 1989 rather than provision under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Person Act 1970.

Targeted Short Breaks provision would include some periods of high level of adult support to settle into the provision. They will need higher staffing ratios in the provision to facilitate their access to the activities. This may include 1:1 at times to settle the child in or for specific interventions. Providers have undertaken specific training on supporting children with a variety of needs associated with SEND and may need specialist training linked to individual needs of the children, including communication, moving and handling, behaviours that challenge, medication administration and personal care.

If a young person is eligible for targeted Short Breaks and require health support in order to access them, this is provided by the ICS of the young person's GP.

In the current Short Breaks model of the Core Offer, the majority of children and young people with SEND will be supported to have their individual needs met by their family and will be able to access Short Breaks services directly without the need for a social care referral or assessment.

It is expected that a child or young person access Targeted Short Breaks in the first instance unless there is a clear, assessed need for specialist provision.



Specialist (including Overnight)

Specialist Short Breaks services are for children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 25 living in the borough with an EHCP, who have significant levels of need requiring specialist interventions and high level of individualised support.

Children and young people who require specialist Short Breaks have severe or profound levels of need significantly impacting many aspects of their daily life, including highly individualised communication systems, complex medical needs, challenging behaviour linked to their learning needs and positive behaviour support plans.

They will likely require high levels of adult support throughout the provision to keep them safe and support their engagement. Staff will likely need enhanced skills around communication needs, understanding and responding to behaviour that challenges and managing personal care. Some young people will need 1:1 support throughout the activity and individualised plans to meet their needs.



Consultation with young people with SEND and their families

To ensure the Short Breaks Strategy and upcoming service specification is reflective of our diverse communities and takes into consideration the needs of our young people, we ran various consultation sessions with families that have used the Council Short Breaks services or are considering using the service in the future. This was done in partnership with the Greenwich Parent Carer Participation Forum (GPCPF), the Council Short Breaks Team and Joint Commissioning Team

The consultation sessions were carried out online, face to face, including coffee mornings with families/carers; the outline of the consultation, including details of the feedback, can be found in Appendix B and Appendix C.

Following this consultation, parents have told us that they want:

- activities that work on improving confidence and self-esteem and allows their child to make friends in the community.
- communication of what children and young people are doing during their Short Breaks sessions.
- the choice to purchase additional sessions using personal budgets
- ability for children/young people to choose activities when accessing a programme
- a better transition pathway for young people when they are no longer able to access Short Breaks, particularly the "targeted" cohort.
- wider range of activities for younger children (0-8).
- more provision for those with complex medical/health needs
- regular newsletters sent to families with updated information on Short Breaks services and SEND support.
- make the Local Offer more accessible/easier to navigate

- services they can feel confident in, that are reliable with appropriately trained staff equipped to care for the needs of their child(ren).

Children and young people have been part of the consultation and recommissioning process to ensure commissioned services reflect their needs and aspirations.

Some of the reasons children and young people like existing short break services are:

- enables them to learn new skills and try out new things
- they enjoy going on trips and seeing their friends

Whilst the current provision allows them to them to develop new skills, they would like to access a wider variety of activities including dance, cooking and many others. Details of feedback from children and young people can be found in Appendix C.

Children and young people with SEND between 0-25 may receive a short break if they have been assessed as being eligible. They must have EHCP or be undergoing an EHC Needs Assessment.

Assessment process for Short Breaks

In determining eligibility through relevant assessments the Council will consider the level of disability and the type of provision required to meet the child and family's need and support outcomes. They must have a EHCP or be undergoing an EHC Needs Assessment. The provision should always be included in the child's EHCP. If a child has one, it will also be recorded in a Disabled Child Support plan or Child in Need plan. Plans will be reviewed regularly to ensure it continues to meet the identified needs and outcomes.

Some children and young people up to the age of 18, have very complex health needs as a result of congenital conditions, long-term or life limiting or

life-threatening conditions or after-effects of a serious illness or injury. These needs can be so complex that universal or specialist health services commissioned by Integrated Care Systems (ICS - previously CCG's) are not able to meet the needs of these children and young people.

In accordance with the National Framework for Children and Young People's Continuing Care 2016, the ICS is required to commission a specific care package of health interventions to ensure that the health needs of all children and young people with very complex health needs are met. This is known as Continuing Care Provision (CC) for under 18s and Continuing Healthcare for over 18s.

To determine whether a child would require CC, an assessment is completed by the Continuing Health Care Team at Oxleas. The team will draw upon information from a number of health professionals, responding to the views of the parent and child, will determine whether the child meets the requirements of CC. This information is presented at the Joint Funding Panel who review the evidence, the assessor's recommendations and will reach a decision on the level of care needed for the child or young person. A care package will then be developed and costed appropriately, delivered and reviewed yearly.

Children with complex needs may also require support from other services like Short Breaks and will need to access services to meet their educational needs. At the Integrated Panel, these needs are discussed together to ensure that each child is in receipt of the social care, education and health support they require to achieve their desired outcomes.

Decision-Making for specialist Short Breaks packages of care is informed by a statutory social work assessment. Following a statutory social work assessment, the local authority must decide which of the needs that have been identified require an intervention. It will be necessary to provide a service where a failure to do so would cause significant harm to the child or family.

If the services assessed as necessary are available through the local offer or other existing community resources, then the local authority may not need to make any further provision.

When a service is required, it can be provided either through the Children's Act 1989 or the Chronically Sick and Disabled Person Act 1970 depending on the needs of the child and the provision being made (please refer to Appendix D for further details).

Children assessed as requiring Continuing Care provision due to their complex health needs must be included in the Short Breaks provision and are most likely going to require specialist provision based on their complex needs.

We expect providers to work with families and health care teams to ensure reasonable adjustments are made and wherever possible staff access training to meet the clinical needs on site. Where highly skilled clinical interventions are required, the provider will work with the Short Breaks Team to determine the best way for these needs to be met.

Carer's Assessments for Parent Carers of Disabled Children in Royal Greenwich

Understanding the needs of parent carers is important when ensuring there are suitable Short Breaks provisions in the local area. The local authority partnered with the Greenwich Parent Carer Participation Forum (GPCPF) in the development of this Short Breaks Strategy.

Parent carers were consulted as part of the updating of this Short Breaks Strategy and in developing the specification. The GPCPF are partners in the commissioning process, involved in decision making at each stage of the commissioning process. The feedback obtained from parent carers had a direct impact on the strategy and specification.

On an individual basis, parent carers are also involved in assessments for individual packages of care.

There is a duty to complete Parent Carer Needs Assessments for persons with parental responsibility of a child with Special Educational Needs and or Disability under the CA 1989 and the Children & Family Act 2014. In Royal Greenwich, we refer to this as a Carer's Assessment. This should be completed as part of a S17 social work assessment rather than a standalone assessment wherever possible. This helps ensure a holistic understanding of the family's needs including needs for the parent carer, the child and any other children in the home.

Where a parent requests a stand-alone assessment of their needs as a carer, the allocated social work team will complete this as a separate assessment. This assessment may be completed by the Assessment and Support Service or the Disabled Children Social Work Team, depending on the presenting needs of the child.

Following a carer's assessment, the local authority must then decide whether the parent has needs for support, whether the disabled child has needs for support, and if so whether those needs could be met (wholly or partly) by services under the Children Act 1989, section 17. This decision can be taken by the social work relevant service or at the Short Breaks Panel.

Royal Borough of Greenwich has a Carer's Strategy that is currently being updated which outlines the strategic position and work to support carers of people with SEND. It is expected this will be finalised later in 2022. In the interim, more information on carers services in the Council can be found at royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200274/carers



Summary of Short Breaks Priorities for 2023-2027

Transport

The Council is committed to reducing traffic congestion, improving road safety and reducing the environmental impact of vehicle journeys by promoting independence and the use of alternative forms of travel, such as walking, cycling and use of integrated public transport. In this regard, the Council has adopted the principles contained in its Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy.

As such, the Short Breaks model does not include commissioned transportation for individual children and young people accessing the provision.

Families are responsible for providing transport for their child to and from the service venue and picking them up.

Families have fed back that they can struggle to get their child or young person to Short Breaks provision and that having transport could reduce barriers to accessing provision. Where families are in receipt of individual packages of care, they may choose to use their provision to facilitate the transportation of their child or young person to access their Short Breaks provision. Alternative, providers are encouraged to seek alternative funding to supply transport where possible.

Market Development

Based on feedback from parents/carers and our understanding of the market there are a limited number of community providers who currently offer provision for young people with SEND, particularly, under 9s provisions. Market development work will be key in driving forward improvements to the Short Breaks provision to ensure it is diverse, robust and meets local need.

The Council's SEND Provider Forum bring together current and potential providers delivering provision for children and young people with SEND in the community. This is led by the local authority and

includes all commissioned Short Breaks providers as well as other local providers. This forum provides an opportunity for providers to share knowledge and experience, working together with the local authority to address gaps in the market.

To inform the strategy and to help understand gaps in the current market and how to support existing providers and potential providers to deliver the right service for young people in the Council, a SEND Providers Forum was held on the future of Short Breaks services.

The main themes that appeared in the sessions were questions about the difference between targeted and specialist Short Breaks services. Providers want more training opportunities to deliver specialist services, to enable them to support young people with complex needs. Providers also demonstrated willingness to explore and consider extending their provisions beyond 16.

The local authority is reviewing how young people with SEND are supported to move into adulthood. This is including how services are structured and delivered for young people with SEND who have an EHCP. There is a real focus on developing social care provision, including Short Breaks, to support young people with SEND aged 16-25. Market development work is happening across the partnership to ensure that there is the right provision at the right time for young people with SEND moving into adulthood.

ICS are committed to ensuring children and young people who are assessed as requiring Continuing Care provision can access their Short Breaks Core Offer. In the recommissioning of Short Breaks provision, there will be a focus on ensuring commissioned providers have the skills and knowledge to support the children and young people's complex clinical needs.

As part of this development, we will also be working on ensuring that our Local Offer is well publicised and promoted not just amongst families but to all local providers.

Summary by tier	Key priorities and objectives
Strategic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. improve the promotion and publicity of our Local Offer and Short Breaks Core Offer to families and providers. 2. improve the uptake of the Short Breaks Core Offer ensuring more children and young people with SEND are accessing the offer. 3. ensure the recommissioned Short Breaks has a baseline offer across the age range including targeted and specialist provision. 4. ensure the recommissioned Short Breaks provision includes an offer for support for the children with SEND under 5's and 17+ 5. review how we can enable providers to offer families access to transport with their short break sessions. 6. aim to ensure the provisions are geographically dispersed across the borough to allow equal access for all families (Please refer to Appendix E to geographical mapping of existing provisions).
Universal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. review the pathways from targeted Short Breaks services to universal services, ensuring that where possible more young people who previously only accessed targeted Short Breaks, are able to participate in universal provision. 2. review how we can increase confidence of families in accessing the universal youth offer, ensuring inclusivity for children and young people with SEND. 3. increase the number of universal Short Breaks providers engaged in the SEND Providers Forum.
Targeted	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. review and re-commission all our targeted Short Breaks with a view to ensuring provision meets family and young person needs as outlined in the consultation feedback. 2. review the transitions process for young people accessing targeted Short Breaks, ensuring that young people and their parents/carers are clear on what the offer is as they leave education and move into adulthood.
Specialist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. review and re-commission all our targeted Short Breaks, ensuring families have a wide range of options, especially for the 0-9 age group. 2. develop a greater capacity for specialist overnight Short Breaks for young people with ASD and or behaviour that challenges within the borough with a view to returning young people who currently travel out of borough provisions 3. develop the homecare and community care provider with ICS to ensure suitable agency provision available for children and young people with SEND. 4. map out the social care support provision available for young people 19+ when they leave education and no longer have an EHCP. 5. support commissioned Short Breaks providers to ensure they can meet the needs of children and young people with Continuing Care

Summary

Through this Strategy it is our hope to improve these vital services to children with disabilities and their families. Our ambition is that by 2027 we will have a more diverse, local and tailored Short Breaks offer that will support our children and young people to achieve their potential. We will continue to review the progress against our priorities through the life of this Strategy. This will be monitored through our Strategic Management Group for SEND and the SEND Joint Commissioning Group.



Appendix A - Summary of provision and how to access

Tier	Description	How to access	Is an assessment needed?
Universal	<p>Activities available to all children and young people in the Council whether they are disabled or not</p> <p>Some are services commissioned by the local authority such as Young Greenwich or HAF programme, but this also includes and is not limited to community organisations such as scouts, afterschool provision, youth groups</p>	All disabled children and young people should have access to these services but may need reasonable adjustments to support their inclusion.	No
Targeted	<p>Activities specifically suitable for disabled children and young people. These children will most likely attend a designated special provision within a mainstream school</p> <p>These are commissioned by local authority and are delivered through the Short Breaks Core Offer. These include weekend and school holiday provisions for children as well as specific skill-based activities.</p>	Parents/carers contact The Short Breaks Team.	Yes, through a short self-assessment via the Short Breaks Team.
Specialist	<p>Activities for disabled children and young people with the most complex needs who are unable to access universal or targeted provision. These children will likely be attending our two special schools Charlton Park Academy and Willow Dene.</p> <p>Specialist provision will need to be aimed at children and young people that have a diagnosis of profound and or multiple disabilities and/or need lots of or an exceptional amount of support to take part in activities or carry out everyday tasks. These young people will be assessed as eligible under Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.</p> <p>These are commissioned by local authority and are delivered through the Short Breaks Core Offer. These include weekend and school holiday provisions for children as well as specific skill-based activities.</p> <p>In addition to access to the Short Breaks Core Offer, children with the most severe or complex needs may also be in receipt of individual specialist packages of care. This is determined through a social work assessment as well.</p>	<p>Due to their specialist nature, there is an assessment completed to determine level of need and most suitable provision.</p> <p>Referral to Children's Social Care via the MASH team, or if already in receipt of a specialist package, through contact with the Short Breaks Team.</p> <p>The social work assessment may be completed by the Disabled Children Social Work Team or the Mainstream social work service dependent on family circumstances and information available at the point of referral.</p>	Yes, a statutory social work assessment through mainstream Children's Social Care service or the Disabled Children Social Work Team

Appendix B - Short Breaks 2022 Parent/Carer Consultation

Below is a summary of the whole consultation process for Short Breaks Recommissioning 2023-27, undertaken by the Council with parents/carers:

A complete breakdown of parents/ carers comments is provided further in the document.

Summary of all responses

- ☑ 73 parents completed the online survey (open from 27 April – 8 July 2022)
- ☑ 25 parents attended the virtual consultation events (26 and 28 April 2022)

Top activities that parent/carers want from Short Breaks:

- ★ swimming
- ★ music
- ★ trampolining
- ★ horse riding

Activities focusing on building confidence and independence

- ★ cooking
- ★ sensory activities
- ★ skills-building
- ★ trips and activities in the community

What parents/carers feel works well with the current Short Breaks offer:

- ★ experienced staff, particularly within the specialist provision.
- ★ activities are appropriate for the children and young people accessing them.
- ★ timings of activities
- ★ good offer for the older age groups (10-17)

What parents/carers feel a good Short Breaks provision looks like:

- ★ able to provide 1:1 support
- ★ experienced and trained staff
- ★ different options for activities
- ★ staff are trained to provide personal care support
- ★ school holiday provision, particularly in the summer
- ★ weekend and after-school activities
- ★ activities that work on improving confidence and self-esteem
- ★ providing taster days/sessions
- ★ timetables of activities provided in advance
- ★ communication of what children and young people are doing during their Short Breaks sessions.

- ★ choice to purchase additional sessions using personal budgets
- ★ ability for children/young people to choose activities when accessing a programme

What parents/carers feel could be improved with the Short Breaks offer:

- ★ more availability of spaces and less waiting time to access a programme
- ★ more range of both targeted and specialist provision.
- ★ a better transition pathway for young people when they are no longer able to access Short Breaks, particularly the “targeted” cohort.
- ★ more clarity around the core offer and hours
- ★ summer activities taking place later in the holidays, rather than the first couple of weeks.
- ★ better communication from providers and the Council around the activities and how to access them.
- ★ wider range of activities for younger children (0-9).
- ★ more provision for those with complex medical/ health needs

What parent/carers feel could be improved with communication and the Local Offer website:

- ★ regular newsletters sent to families with updated information
- ★ more regular contact with SENCOs, local disability charities, Facebook groups
- ★ make the Local Offer more accessible/easier to navigate
- ★ use social media more to promote service

Appendix C- Consultation with Children and Young People.

Children and Young People’s Short Breaks Survey 2022

The survey was rolled out online in easy read format and formed in partnership with ACE group. The below feedback is based on responses from 23 children and young people.

Children and young people have told us that they enjoy activities such as:

- ★ swimming
- ★ football
- ★ other sports activities such as tennis and basketball
- ★ spending time with friends
- ★ cooking
- ★ horse riding
- ★ trampolining
- ★ sensory play
- ★ arts & crafts
- ★ spending time outdoors
- ★ dancing and listening to music
- ★ watching movies

They also told us that they like the following about their Short Breaks activities:

- ★ having fun
- ★ learning new skills

- ★ exploring new things
- ★ being active
- ★ going on trips
- ★ seeing friends
- ★ spending time outdoors

Children and young people told us that the best way to support them is to “listen to me”, “help me understand”, “give me one-to-one support”, and “give me extra time and space”. Other key points were “talk to people that know me well”, “understand how I communicate”, and “help me get around”.

When asked what would make activities better, children and young people said:

- ★ different times
- ★ more support
- ★ more choice of activities
- ★ more activities outside

Appendix D- CSDPA Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (CSDPA) 1970 Provision in Royal Greenwich

The CSDPA applies to children/young people in the Council up to the age of 18. It is the legislation that sets the local authority duties in relation to providing specialist social care provision for children and young people with SEND.

A decision around eligibility under CSDPA can only be made after a statutory social work assessment is undertaken. This assessment may be completed by either the Disabled Children Social Work Team or the Assessment & Support Service.

Access to specialist Short Breaks, both the specialist Short Breaks Core Offer and individual packages of care, is via a social care assessment, which can be requested by parents of children and young people.

Specialist provision is put in place when the child or

young person is assessed as requiring provision under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Person Act 1970 or the Care Act 2014. This may include a range of options from access to the Specialist Core Offer, individual packages of care and in some circumstances overnight Short Breaks for the young person away from the home.

In terms of access to specialist Short Breaks intervention, a child or young person is considered as eligible for provision under the CSDPA if they have been assessed as having:

- severe learning disabilities.
- severe physical disabilities,
- severe and profound autistic spectrum disorders.
- disability arising out of serious or chronic illness.
- complex health needs.
- severe sight and/or hearing impairment.

The assessment and recommendation for specialist Short Breaks support would be presented to the Short Breaks Panel for ratification of eligibility and allocation of resources under CSDPA 1970.

Those assessed as not requiring provision under the CSDPA would be able to access the targeted provision through the Short Breaks Core Offer (See Section on Targeted provision).

Appendix E- Geographical mapping of commissioned Short Breaks services in the Council for 2021-23

