

Short breaks funding and good practice



Developing services for disabled children
through the Early Intervention Grant

What is the Early Intervention Grant?

The new Early Intervention Grant replaces a number of former funding streams including Aiming High for Disabled Children; the national programme of developments delivered between 2008 and 2011 within all local areas through partnership between the Local Authority and Primary Care Trust.

The focus of Early Intervention is to ensure that every local authority is free to focus on and invest in essential frontline service which will have the greatest impact and flexibility to respond to their local need and to produce long term successful results.

This includes continuing to invest in services for disabled children so they can have the best possible start in life, as well as providing the support they and their families need to make equality of opportunity a reality, allowing each and every child to fulfil their potential.

What is a short break?

A short break is any opportunity for a disabled child or young person to have a fun, positive experience whilst providing a break for their primary carer.

These can include day, evening, overnight or weekend activities and take place in the child's home, the home of an approved carer, or any other community setting.

The carer's break may not always be from their child, this could include a break or different activities from usual.

Which children and young people are included as 'disabled' when applying for funding?

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 defines a disabled person as someone who has:

- A physical or mental impairment, which has substantial and long-term adverse effects on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.
- Physical and mental impairments including sensory impairments such as those affecting sight and hearing. 'Mental impairment' includes learning disabilities and mental health problems.

Any child or young person who meets this definition may view themselves as a disabled person and in meeting this definition, all services are under an obligation to make 'reasonable adjustment' in order to ensure inclusive services.

This Early Intervention Grant - Short Breaks funding is aimed at children and young people for whom reasonable adjustment does not go far enough to meeting their individual needs whether this is in accessing universal, targeted or more specialist provision.

What have parents and young people told us?

Consultation to date has gained a rapid appraisal of perceived needs and tells us that young people want to have the same range of opportunities that all children and young people have available to them, with none of the barriers that currently exist.

Disabled children and young people in Kirklees want:

- A voice – to be heard
- Improved information on opportunities/activities available & how to find them
- More choice available, including activity clubs, holiday play schemes, breakfast and after school clubs music, drama, sports.
- Ease of access
- Overcoming mainstream barriers
- Specialist support including aids and adaptations
- People and places that are friendly and welcoming
- Better transport to get to places
- Quality Care & Timely provisions when needed
- Self confidence promoting activities
- Structured activities.

National Good Practice Examples

You2 Scheme, Norfolk – Supporting disabled children and young people aged 5-18 years to access local activities and provision through volunteer buddying.

The Whirligig Theatre Company – Drama and visual arts and production group for disabled and non-disabled young people aged 11 – 18 years.

Hip Hop Scheme – Day camps for disabled and non-disabled young people aged 5-14, providing opportunities for rafting, horse riding, climbing etc.

The Hamlet Centre Trust, Norwich – School holiday play-schemes are children with complex medical care needs, providing 1:1 support and nursing support within a play-scheme environment.

Transitions Summer Holiday Club, Norwich – summer activities for disabled young people in transition to adults services, providing fun activities to support independence skills and choice making.

Out and About, Tower Hamlets – activities for teenage boys with severe autism.

Able Radio, South Wales – providing volunteering and training programmes for individuals with disabilities to get involved in radio production and presenting.

Community, specialist link activities – providing opportunities for children and young people accessing specialist short breaks provision to be supported to access community activities and organisation, whether coming into the specialist setting or out in the community.

Accessible Cycling Scheme, Hull – accessible cycles available to hire within local parks for use by individuals or structured activity groups.

For more information about the Early Intervention Grant or Short Breaks, please contact:

Children with a Disability Team - 01924 326438

Integrated Youth Support - 01484 225154