

London Borough of Bexley



Short Breaks Brochure

Listening to you, working for you



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London Borough of Bexley Short Breaks - FAQs

What are Short Breaks?

Short Breaks are arranged activities to assist families with the care of their disabled children. They provide breaks for families to engage in some personal self-care, study, work or to focus their attention on the needs of other children in the household, whilst also knowing that their disabled child is engaging in an activity that they find fun and entertaining. It is the London borough of Bexley's priority to ensure that the activities available to our disabled young people are both enjoyable and beneficial.

Who are Short Breaks for?

Any child aged between 5-17 years old living within the London Borough of Bexley that has a severe or profound disability **and** an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) can register for Short Breaks. To register with us please contact the Bexley MASH team on 0203 045 5440 for an initial assessment. Lines are open Monday – Friday from 9.00am – 5.00pm.

How much does it cost?

Families are only required to pay an access fee for the half term and holiday schemes and this is set by the providers themselves. The London Borough of Bexley heavily subsidise these providers and as such, please be aware that if you are in receipt of Direct Payments, this cannot be used to cover the cost of half term and holiday scheme access fees.

How can I pay for Short Breaks?

This is determined by the service themselves. Payments can be made on the day in cash or can be pre-paid via bank transfer once your days are confirmed.

Which of the Short Breaks services is most suitable for my child?

Your Social Worker can guide you through the Short Breaks services available and advise you on which is best for your child. You can also contact Bexley CWDS' Short Breaks Co-ordinator on 0203 045 3600 with any questions.

Where can I find more information online?

For more information on our Short Breaks, you can visit Bexley's Local Offer page: [Bexley Local Offer](#)

Threshold Key Explained

All of our service providers have different thresholds for the children that they are able to cater for. In this brochure, we have used included a threshold key on the top right corner of our services pages to explain who this service provides for and when these services are available. Example:



This page explains what each key means.

In the **orange** we have noted whether the service is specialist, targeted or universal.

Specialist	Targeted	Universal
This means that the service caters to children with more severe needs and are able to take children who may need 2:1 support.	This means that the service caters to children with SEN who are more physically able as they may take children out into the community or have limited staffing so may not be able to take children who need 2:1 or 1:1 support.	This means that the service provider caters to both specialist and targeted children.

In the **green** we have noted when a service is available whether that be weekends, school holidays, summer or Christmas.

Weekends	School Holidays	Summer	Christmas
This means that the service is available on Saturday and Sunday. If it only says weekend then the service is not available outside of these days.	This means that the service available during school holidays but does not run during the six-week Summer holiday.	This means that the service is available during the six-week Summer holiday	This means that a service is usually available over the Christmas period. This is subject to change and you can contact the Short Breaks provider if you have an enquiry.

Commissioned Services

There are three playschemes commissioned by Bexley Children with Disability Service:

Bexley SNAP

CACT

Falconwood



Universal

Weekends

School Holidays

Summer

Christmas

Bexley SNAP

Normandy SEND hub, Fairford Avenue, Barnehurst, DA7 6QP
Ages 5-11

What do they offer? The chance for young disabled children to come and play with other children in a safe and caring environment. Providing the option of both an inside and outside space, SNAP creates a space for children to try themed arts and crafts and messy or sensory play. All children with disabilities can access Little Explorers sessions every Saturday. If your child has a commissioned place with Bexley Council, they can access the playschemes at an additional cost detailed below.

How can they help my child? SNAP offer a chance for children to improve their social skills, make friends and develop their fine motor skills in a fun and engaging way. They also offer the opportunity for children to be physically active or simply gets some rest.

Session Length: SNAP run 2 Little Explorers sessions every Saturday each lasting 3 hours – 9:30am until 12:30pm and 1:00pm until 4:00pm

The Holiday Scheme days run from 10:00am until 2:45pm.

Cost: Little Explorers is £7.50 per session.

Holiday Schemes cost £18 per session.

Ideal For: Children looking for a new club or activity who may also need some encouragement in interacting with other children whilst being supported by qualified, experienced staff on a 1:1, 2:1 or group basis.



Contact Details:

Email: admin@bexleysnap.org.uk

Tel: 01322 334192

Website: [Home - Bexley Snap](#)



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Targeted

School Holidays

Summer



CACT (Charlton Athletic Community Trust)

Cleeve Meadow School, Sidcup

Ages 12 - 17

What do they offer? Fun, positive experiences and activities throughout the year. Sessions take place during school holidays. Activities vary and are subject to change but include cinema trips, mini-golf, trampolining, bowling and trips exploring outdoor spaces such as parks and zoo trips. CACT also have access to Cleeve Meadow school for hub-based sessions such as sports (indoor sports hall), arts and crafts, games and music therapy.

How can they help my child? CACT offer the opportunity to access a range of activities and trips alongside making friends, learning new skills and increasing independence for young people to start their transition to adulthood.



Session Length: 5 hours

Cost: £15 per session

Ideal For: Young people looking for a new club or activity who may also need a bit more support to access the community alongside a group of their peers and qualified, experienced staff members.

Contact Details:

Email: Steven.bannan@cact.org.uk

Billy.Holdsworth@cact.org.uk

Tel: Steven - 07984 732506

Billy - 07972 668653

Website: <https://cact.org.uk>





Universal

Weekends

School Holidays

Summer

Christmas

Falconwood

33-47 The Green, Welling DA16 2PA

Ages 5 - 17

What do they offer? Falconwood Short Break Service (Ofsted registered) is situated in the London Borough of Bexley. It is a service where children / young people with disabilities and / or emotional and behavioural needs have overnight stays, giving their parent(s) / carer(s) a break.

How can they help my child? Falconwood is centred around the child / young person and their family. Staff are skilled in enhancing participation, preventing challenging behaviours and reducing risk. Staff have a range of experience in supporting complex needs such as Epilepsy, Autism, gastronomy feeding, global development delay and challenging behaviour.

At Falconwood, children and young people are supported to maintain their existing interests and hobbies as well as developing and creating a supportive environment to develop new hobbies and new experiences. We explore a broad range of creative, intellectual, physical / social interests and skills to ensure the children and young people accessing our service have fun while meeting their desired outcomes.



Session Length Term Time and Saturdays: 3:30pm on day 1 – 9.00pm on day 2

Session Length Non-Term Time and Sundays: 11.00am on day 1 – 9.00am on day 2.

Ideal For: Families in need of overnight respite for their child(ren) with disabilities.

Contact Details:

Email: mandy.kennedy@aspens.org.uk

matthew.eagle@aspens.org.uk

Tel: 020 8303 7995

Website: [Children's short break and overnight service](#)



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Other Services

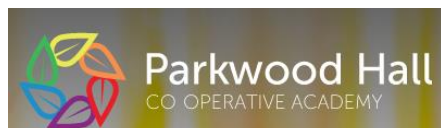
There services are not commissioned by Bexley Children with Disability Service but are accessible to eligible candidates:

Treetops

Inspire

The Anchor SenFriendly (TAS) Centre

Demelza



Targeted

Weekends

School Holidays

Summer

Christmas

Treetops

Parkwood Hall Co-operative Academy, Beechenlea Lane, Swanley,
BR8 8DR

What do they offer? A fun but controlled environment for young disabled people to interact with their peers through various entertaining, staff-led activities. Young people have the chance to take part in both indoor and outdoor scheduled events, spending time in a place they recognise with more freedom to explore and engage. Your child does not need to be known to Bexley Children with Disability Services in order to access Treetops. However, Bexley are able to spot purchase places for children known to us, if your child attends Parkwood Hall Co-operative Academy and has an allocated Social Worker in our team.

How can they help my child? Children will be familiar with their surroundings and will be at ease. Some of the staff will know the children quite well and will best be able to support them in every way that they need. This means that details regarding behaviour patterns and health needs are readily available and your child will be protected and feel safe.

Session Length: Treetops run over school holidays and provide day sessions. If your child has residential stays, please contact Treetops for further information.

Ideal For: Children who attend Parkwood Hall who require daytime respite during the holidays and prefer to be with staff that they recognise in a familiar environment.

Contact Details:

Email: louise.watson@parkwoodhall.co.uk

Tel: 01322 618058

Website: [Welcome to Parkwood Hall](#)



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Universal

School Holidays

Summer



Inspire Sports Skill

Marlborough School, Sidcup
Ages 5 - 17

What do they offer? Provision of activities such as sports games, dance, animal therapy, messy play, outside play, soft play with bouncy castle, bubble workshops, sensory room, swimming and adventure playground with trampolines.

How can they help my child? Inspire's aim is to provide a setting during half terms where young people will feel comfortable and safe and be able to interact with their peers that they are familiar with. A setting where parents can rely on to be running for all half terms and feel comforted knowing that their child / young person is in a place that they are familiar with.

Working together with Shenstone and Marlborough Schools and the local disability team, Inspire's aim is to create a setting where children can be independent, safe, happy and excited for the half terms!

Session Length: 5 hours

Cost: £16 per session.

Ideal For: Children/young people of Shenstone and Marlborough schools with severe or complex special needs.



Contact Details:

Email:

Dave.hall@inspiresportskills.com

Tel: 07535 062331

Website: www.inspiresportskills.com



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Universal

Weekends

School Holidays

Summer

Christmas

The Anchor SenFriendly (TAS) centre

Block E, 3 North Road, London, SE18 1BS

Ages 2 - 25

What do they offer? TAS have incorporated communication/language, Personal, Social & Emotional development and Physical Development safe pace for children and young adults with special educational needs. There are various stimulating activities within the centre and beyond to support positive outcomes for every person that uses their services.

How can they help my child? All attendees at TAS have a care plan formulated for them in liaison with other professionals that work with the child/young person such as their social work and education staff. TAS have core values of nurturing and respecting the people that use their services. They promote independence, kindness and inclusivity, welcoming people from all walks of life.

Additional Information: If your child is known to Bexley Children with Disability Services, Direct Payments (DPs) made from us can be used to contribute towards the cost of attending TAS.

Session Length: This varies according to need. TAS can be booked in blocks of hours. For more information, please contact TAS directly.

Cost: £25 per hour

Ideal For: Children who require a safe and enclosed space to engage in stimulating and/or calming activities that appeal to their sensory needs.

Contact Details:

Email: info@thetascentre.com

Tel: 0203 651 4863

Website: [TAS | TAS \(thetascentre.co.uk\)](https://www.thetascentre.co.uk)



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Specialist

Weekends

School Holidays

Summer

Christmas

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

5 Wensley Close, Eltham, London, SE9 5AB

What do they offer? Demelza work to provide a range of care provisions dependent on need for children with life limiting and life-threatening conditions. It is Demelza's priority to support families as well as children in positively contributing to each child's quality of life. There is a short breaks hospice provision available, at home care, leaving hospital (step down care) service, as well as services for pregnancy support, sibling support and various forms of therapy (art, music, creative). A full list of what's on offer can be found on Demelza's guide to services, available here: [Guide to Services | Demelza](#).

How can they help my child? Demelza is regulated by the Quality Care Commission. Their specialised and experienced registered nurses, nursing associates, health care assistants, therapists and family support team can support you with your child's complex medical needs as well as the emotional, social and practical needs of the whole family.

Session Length: Varies depending on the service you are accessing. Contact Demelza for more information.

Ideal For: Children with very complex health needs and children who have life limiting/life-threatening conditions.

Contact Details:

Email: info@demelza.org.uk

Tel: Kent – 01795 845 200

SE London – 0208 859 9800

East Sussex – 01323 446 461

Website: www.demelza.org.uk



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Home Care Agencies

These are the agencies that work with Bexley's Children with Disabilities Team. If you are interested in sourcing some extra help by yourselves, you can contact the agencies directly.

Agency	Contact	Agency	Contact
Lorablooms Care Ltd	Tel: 0208 591 4877 Email : lorablooms1@gmail.com	Mulier Care Solutions Ltd	Tel: 0208 320 1169 Email: eric@muliercare.co.uk
Crossroads Care South East	Tel: 01322 336086 Email: d.tobin@crossroadscarebexley.org.uk	Exclusive Allied Services Ltd	Tel: 01322 275439 Email: babatunde@exclusivecareservices.co.uk
Peculiar Care Homes Ltd	Tel: 0208 320 1010 Email: info@peculiarcarehomes.com	De Vere Care	Tel: 0208 418 4949 Email: bheena.natarajan@deverecare.com
Supreme Care Services Ltd	Tel: 0208 545 0030 Email: rebecca@supremecare.co.uk	Hope Superjobs Ltd	Tel: 0208 553 0827 Email: info@hopesuperobs.co.uk
Blue Ocean Services Ltd	Tel: 0208 690 8333 Email: blueoceanserv@aol.com	Unique Personal	Email: grace@unique-personnel.com
St Christophers Home	Tel: 07984 426082 Email: shade arise2@gmail.com	Contact Professionals	Tel : 0208 835 7030 Email: hamdi@contactprofessionals.co.uk
Hudson Procurement Group (Rose Care Services)	Tel: 0203 051 2217 Email: dan@hudsonprocurementgroup.co.uk		



Bexley's Local Offer



What is the Local Offer?

The Local Offer is a website produced by Bexley council where we post various activities that take place throughout the course of the year. The Local Offer is regularly updated and you can view activities, events and training available.

Can I use my direct payments for activities that I like from the Local Offer?

Direct Payments can be used for activities as long as the child will be doing these activities alone. In any case where the activity is a parent and child offer, direct payments cannot be used. If the activity is a commissioned service, Direct Payments cannot be used as Bexley already heavily subsidise these costs. If unsure, it is always safer to please contact your social worker.

Where can I find the Local Offer?

You can follow the link here: <https://www.bexleylocaloffer.uk>

Or search Bexley Local Offer in your search engine.

For more information regarding the local offer can be sent to localoffer@bexley.gov.uk or you can call 0203 045 5677.

How To Use your Direct Payments

You can use your Direct payment in 2 ways:

1. You can pay for your child to access activities
2. You can employ a support worker or carer (PA) to work with your child

1. You can pay for your child to access activities

There are many activities that you can use with your Direct Payments funding here are just a few examples:

Sports Clubs
Dance / Drama
Horse Riding
Swimming
Music Lessons
Gymnastics
After School Clubs
Holiday Clubs
Martial Arts
Brownies / Rainbows / Girl Guides
Beavers / Cubs / Boy Scouts

The rate for activities is £8.80 per hour.

If the Direct Payments are not enough to cover the activity you choose, you will need to top up the rest by yourself or find another activity that fits into the available funds.

2. You can employ a support worker or a carer to(PA) work with your child

This option has a few more rules that you have to adhere to:

- You can employ a family member as long as they do not live in the same household
- If they already have a job, have a state or private pension or you will be paying your carer over £242 a week you will need to register yourself as an employer with HMRC.

We can help you register online as an employer.

Or you can register with any payroll company.

- If the carer does not meet the above criteria, then there is no need to register with the HMRC.

We can provide you with paperwork for example pay slips, timesheets, holiday forms and contracts of employment.

- As an employer you must take out employer's liability insurance, for example premier care. This can come out of your direct payment fund.
- All carers are entitled to 5.6 weeks prorated holiday pay per year e.g., two hours per week X 5.6 = 11.2 hours per year holiday pay.
- You must offer your carer a workplace pension – this can be done through a company called NEST.

The rate for employing a support worker or carer (PA) is £11.00 per hour.

(Further employment information on the next page)

If your carer does not have to pay tax then you can offer and pay them £10 per hour.

If they have to pay tax you can offer them £10 per hour but they will only receive £8 per hour – the other £2 will be taken as tax and will need to be paid to the HMRC.

You can always top up the payments to be able to pay a better rate but remember: the higher the rate, the higher the tax payable.

How To Contact The Children with Disability Team

Ensuring that every young person in Bexley with complex needs is engaged in their desired activity in the community to promote good outcomes of social interaction, engagement and independence.

If you have any questions and would like to speak to a member of our team please call and ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker on 0203 045 3600 and we will be happy to assist you.

