

Short Breaks Newsletter

Hello

My name is Becky Durrant and I am the Short Break Co-ordinator at Bracknell Forest Council. I will be sending newsletters every 6 weeks with details about our short break services as well as useful information, support and advice.

If there is anything specific you would like to see covered in these newsletters or you would like to talk about short break needs for you and your family or a family you work with please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

We can talk through options and I can signpost you to other helpful resources and organisations.

Please call me on 01344 352733 or email me at

short.breaks@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Kind regards

Becky Durrant

Short Breaks Co-ordinator

What is a Short Break?

A “Short Break” refers to services designed to provide vital support to children and young people with disabilities and their parents, carer and families. The purpose of a Short Break is to:

1. offer parents or carers a valuable break from caring responsibilities allowing them some time to recharge their batteries or to spend time with a partner or other children
2. provide children and young people with disabilities the same opportunity as other children to enjoy different experiences, establish friendships and develop confidence, independence and social/emotional skills.

Every local authority has a duty to provide a range of short breaks to support children and young people with disabilities and their families.

The Short Breaks Service sits within the Children’s Specialist Support Team within Children’s Social Care and liaises closely with social workers and family workers to offer the best support for children, young people and their families.

In Bracknell Forest, children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 18 and their families can access short breaks if they live in the borough.

BFC Short Break Provision

To help parents/carers make decisions about the most suitable short break activities or service to suit the needs of their family/child/young person, there are three categories of services:

1. Universal
2. Targeted
3. Specialist and Crisis Intervention - available when families are open to Children's Social Care.

This newsletter will explain the Universal and Targeted offerings that are available to all families in the BFC Borough.

Please click here to read our full [Short Break Statement](#)

Our Short Breaks Statement is due for review by February 2023. Please look out for details about how you can get involved and have your say.

BFC Universal Support: The Local Offer



What is the Local Offer?

The Local Offer helps children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) and their families to make informed choices about the support and services they receive. It does this by gathering together all the information that families may need in one place. The Local Offer will continue to develop and grow as more provision, guidance and information is added. Changes will also be made as it responds to local need.

Where can you find the Local Offer?

Please click here.....

[Bracknell Local Offer Website](#)

What does the Local Offer include?:

Health and social care services
Education and transitions
Childcare and people who look after you
Post 16
Short breaks, activities and things to do
Advice and support services

BFC Universal Support: The Inclusion Fund



The Short Breaks Inclusion Fund is designed to support children and young people with disabilities to access play and leisure activities within universal and mainstream settings by funding 1:1 support. Children accessing these settings would typically require minimal supervision and have mild to moderate learning difficulties and may need some initial support

to build confidence.

Families pay the activity cost and the Inclusion Fund will pay for additional identified needs such as a one to one support worker. The priority for this scheme is to support access to out-of-school activities and/or holiday activities, such as guides, karate, dance, youth club or a holiday club.

This support can be provided for up to one day per week during the school holidays in line with our targeted provisions or once a week for a regular after-school activity

If you have a query or would like more information, please contact Becky Durrant Short Breaks Co-ordinator on 01344 352733 or email short.breaks@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

BFC Targeted Support: Kids Play and Leisure



The Council commissions a charity called Kids to provide a targeted Saturday and Holiday Club tailored to the children and young people with disabilities who have moderate to high needs and require significant support.

Eligibility for Kids is assessed through a home visit with parents/carers and child or young person by the Kids Play and Leisure Senior Practitioner to create a care portfolio for each child and ensure their identified needs can be met. It is determined in line with the commissioned contract and based on factors such as age, type of disability, level of support needs, peer group availability and potential risks.

Sessions run from 10am to 4pm and the scheme offers a variety of activities including, swimming, bowling, trips out and centre days with cooking, arts and crafts, trips to the park, messy play

Bracknell Forest Council subsidises the play and leisure scheme. The parental contribution is £20 per session. Parents/carers can self-refer to Kids, there is no need to come through the Short Break Service. Please contact Hannah Tomkinson, Senior Practitioner at Kids on 01344 453266 or email hannah.tomkinson@kids.org.uk

Award of Targeted Short Breaks Provision



Bracknell Forest Council, recently underwent a formal, competitive process to renew the contract to deliver the borough's targeted Short Breaks playscheme provision.

KIDS submitted a formal bid and we are happy to inform you that they were successful in securing the contract. They are really pleased to be able to continue to deliver the Play and Leisure Scheme and provide valuable opportunities to children and young people with disabilities in Bracknell. The new contract began from 1 September 2022.

Sadly, KIDS have had to say goodbye to both Joanne Dawson and Tyler Jones.

KIDS have recruited a new Senior Practitioner, Hannah Tomkinson. Some of you may already know Hannah from Play and Leisure where she currently supports children as a play worker.

Pank Bhalla, Regional Manager for London and South Central at KIDS has shared:

"We are really pleased at KIDS to be able to continue to deliver the service across Bracknell. We have enjoyed supporting the children, young people and their families who have accessed our services. We look forward to continue with this support and with reaching out to new people.

At KIDS we are passionate about delivering a high quality service and in order to do so we need some additional support from you:

- We are reviewing our systems for collecting parental contributions, currently set at £20 per session. We will send out communications regarding this, but it is important that moving forward we receive these contributions prior to sessions taking place. The contributions are very important in us being able to afford to deliver all the services we offer.
- We ask that when we inform you of upcoming sessions you quickly book on to these, but also understand that you may not get all the sessions you wish as we have to manage the needs and expectations of all users. We will always try to deliver a fair and equitable service."

We are experiencing a significant increase in demand for our targeted Short Break Play and Leisure service and understand that families are not always able to access as many sessions as they would like. Please bear with us. We are continuing to work very closely with Kids to find ways to maximise the opportunities for children to access sessions.

After Christmas, Kids and the Short Breaks Service would like to work closely with our families, for example, through discussion, feedback and focus groups to explore ways of developing the service to ensure all children and young people

who need to, can benefit from accessing Kids Play and Leisure short break provision.

We look forward to providing a fun, positive and flexible service for Bracknell Forest families.

SEN Activities in and around Bracknell

Make Sense Theatre Creative Youth Assembly on Tuesday evenings

Weekly creative workshops exploring drama and dance for young people aged 11-25 with autism and/or learning disabilities at South Hill Park.

- Half Assembly - 6pm to 7pm
- Full Assembly - 6pm to 8pm

Tel: [0118 946 1739](tel:01189461739)

Email: team@makesensetheatre.com

Web: [Make/Sense Theatre \(makesensetheatre.com\)](http://Make/Sense Theatre (makesensetheatre.com))

Silwood Park Karate Club SEN session on Tuesday evenings

Specialist lessons for children and adults with additional needs with a number of assistant instructors who support and provide small group teaching and 1-2-1 support.

Wildridings Primary School

- Children's lessons 7pm
- Adult lessons 7:45pm

Tel: 01344 440328

Email: karate@silwoodparkkarate.co.uk

Web: Lessons | Silwood Park Karate

Coral Reef Accessible Sessions on Wednesdays

Accessible for Everyone sessions are an opportunity exclusively for customers with disabilities their families, carers and friends to enjoy Coral Reef and its iconic waterslides. Online booking only

[Buy Tickets for NEW Accessible For Everyone session \(digitickets.co.uk\)](http://Buy Tickets for NEW Accessible For Everyone session (digitickets.co.uk))

Dance Unite on Thursdays (Windsor)

An inclusive dance group open to young people ages 9 - 13 of all abilities. Led and facilitated by our most experienced SEN specialist dance teachers. This course concludes with a live performance

- 6pm to 6:45pm at 4Motion Studio, The Studio, Kardelto House, Windsor,

Tel: 01344 202425

Web: [Our Classes | 4Motion CIC](#)

Smiles for Sibs - Siblings Support Group on Thursday afternoons

A group run in both Wokingham and Bracknell to give siblings aged between 8 and 13 some 'me time', let off steam and have fun by taking part in a range of different activities.

To attend the group the family will need to become Promise Inclusion members (£15 for Jan to Dec).

The club costs £1 per evening and during the group they play games, cooking, arts and crafts. During the school holidays they organise subsidised trips as well.

Tel: 07827 340 405

Email: admin@promiseinclusion.org

Web: [Activities and Services – Promise Inclusion](#)

The Wayz Youth Club SEN sessions on Fridays

- Chillout - 5pm to 6:30pm - 12 to 16 year olds
- Hangout - 7:15pm to 9pm - 16 to 25 year olds

Tel: 01344 483596

Email: admin@thewayzyouth.co.uk

Web: [The Wayz | \(thewayzyouth.co.uk\)](#)

GEMS Social Groups

For children with or likely to have ADHD/ASD living in East Berkshire

- Bear Cubs - 5 to 10 year olds - 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 4pm
- Wolf Pack - 11 to 15 year olds - 2nd Friday of the month at 4:30pm
- Connectionz - 16+ years old - Last Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm

Activities are online or face to face in locations across Bracknell, RBWM and Slough.

Tel: 0800 999 1342

Email: GEMS.4health@nhs.net

Web: <https://www.gems4health.com/>

Chance to Dance - Term time Saturdays at Martins Heron Community Centre

A dance school for students and families in the disabled community with various classes between 9am - 12:00pm held every other week on a Saturdays.

8th and 22nd October

5th and 19th November

3rd and 17th December

Tel: 07736343570

Email: sendanceclub@hotmail.com

Web: <http://www.sendanceclub.co.uk>

Bracknell Trampoline Centre on Saturdays

BTC has a team of experienced coaches on hand with a passion for working with people with additional needs to ensure everyone can enjoy the amazing feeling of bouncing on the trampoline whilst remaining in a safe and positive environment.

- Saturday at 12:30pm and 1:30pm
- Holiday courses

Tel: 07977 790337

Email: lexi.lawton@bracknelltrampolinecentre.co.uk

Web: <https://www.bracknelltrampolinecentre.co.uk/activities/special-needs/>

Pinewood Gymnastics SEND class on Sunday

Additional Needs session give children a chance to enjoy the benefits of gymnastics and all it has to offer in a smaller, quieter class. Paid termly Parents usually remain on site for duration of class.

5 to 16 year olds at 10.10am to 11:05

Tel: 01344 773 237 <https://thomley.org.uk>

Email: enquiries@pinewoodgymnastics.co.uk

Web: <https://pinewoodgymnastics.co.uk/gymnastics-classes/additional-needs-classes>

Red Kangaroo Kanga Calm Session on Sunday (Reading)

Kanga Calm sessions are specifically for those who are aged 2+ with disabilities/additional needs.

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Tel: 03333 445 933

Email: jump@redkangaroo.co.uk

Web: <https://www.redkangaroo.co.uk/>

Berks County FC Inclusive Football sessions at Cantley Park (Wokingham)

Berks County are a local community charter standard football club and will shortly be running some 'inclusive' sessions for children aged 12- 18 that struggle to attend mainstream sessions

Email: wayne@berkscountyfc.com

Disability Challengers (Farnham)

A Charity that gives disabled children and young people the opportunity to play, have fun, and make friends in a safe and supportive environment.

Supporting children and young people aged 2 – 18.

Saturdays | Wednesday Youth Nights | Half-term | Easter & Summer Holidays (Mon – Fri)

Tel: 01483 230 939

Email: FarnhamYouthscheme@disability-challengers.org

Web: [Play - Challengers \(disability-challengers.org\)](http://Play-Challengers(disability-challengers.org))

Camp Mohawk (Wargrave)

Camp Mohawk is a multi-functional day centre for children with special needs and their families, set in 5 acres of beautiful countryside, just outside Wargrave.

Throughout the year the centre provides a range of activities, facilities and natural space to encourage children with a variety of special needs to play, socialise and learn in a secure and caring environment.

Tel: 0118 940 4045

Email: info@campmohawk.org.uk

Web: <https://www.campmohawk.org.uk>

Thomley (Buckinghamshire)

Thomley is an activity centre for people with disabilities and their families/carers. It has the skills, experience and expertise in providing a wide

range of active and creative activities/workshops contributing to the development of social and general life skills to enhance the physical/emotional well-being of people with disabilities throughout their lives.

Tel: 01844 338380

Email: enquiries@thomley.org.uk

Web: <https://thomley.org.uk>

Thames Valley Adventure Playground (Maidenhead)

A charity that offers a unique range of adventurous, therapeutic and educational play activities in a safe, caring and stimulating environment, catering for both children and adults with all types of disability, however mild or profound.

Tel: 01628 628599

Email: theplayground@tvap.co.uk

Web: <https://www.tvap.co.uk>

Swings and Smiles (Thatcham)

Swings & Smiles offers play sessions for children with special needs and their whole family at their specialist centre. They have specialist play resources to enable children with a wide range of disabilities to play with siblings and other family members in a secure and safe environment.

Tel: 01635 285170

Email: office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk

Web: <https://www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk/what-we-do>

Our House (Wokingham)

Wokingham based, parent led charity providing activities, support and therapy for children with disabilities and/or additional needs and their families. They are based at Our House - fully accessible play centre, where families can meet, and all children are celebrated.

Tel: 07967 105842

Email: admin@bftf.org.uk

Web: <https://www.bftf.org.uk/>

