



Bury Council Children's Services Short Break Statement

April 2015

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1 Introduction

The Children & Young Person's Act 2008 made the provision of short breaks a statutory duty for all local authorities from 1st April 2011.

The regulations cited in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 underpin every local authority's short break offer to disabled children and young people and their families. Every local authority must provide services designed to assist carers in their area by giving them breaks from caring in accordance with these regulations.

All Local Authorities are required to publish a Short Break Duty Services Statement.

2 The Statement: what is it and who is it for?

This Statement sets out how the Council will seek to meet the Short Breaks duty as set out in the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011. This section of the statement summarises paragraph 6(1)(c) of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 which requires local authorities to provide services designed to give breaks for carers of disabled children. A copy of The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/short-breaks-for-carers-of-disabled-children

The Regulations requires the Council to produce a short breaks services statement so that families know what services are available, the eligibility criteria for these services, and how the range of short breaks is designed to meet the local needs of families with disabled children.

The statement is primarily for parents and carers of disabled children aged 0 to 18. It will form the basis for a continuing dialogue with families and ensure that we 'buy and provide' the range of short breaks which families' value and need.

The regulations require Councils to publish and keep the statement under review. This Statement revises the previous Statement produced in October 2011. It was produced after further consultation with parents and young people was undertaken on the Council's behalf by Bury Parents Forum, by using information from review and monitoring of provision and from Bury's Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA).

3 Disability and 'short breaks'

What is a disability?

We use the Disability Discrimination Act definition of disability to ensure that we meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 and Equality Act 2010.

"a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities."

Disabled children and young people often cannot do many of the things that most children their age can do. For instance they may need additional support to

complete daily tasks or socially in order to spend time with friends, or going out to youth clubs or groups. However it is fundamental that childhood should be fun and a time of nurturance and positive expectation.

What is a 'short break'?

Short breaks form part of the 'Local Offer' for families of disabled children.

They provide opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to spend time away from their primary carers, and provide opportunities for their parents and carers to have a break from caring responsibilities. This is important for all families whether the children are disabled or not. They provide an essential opportunity for parents and carers to have a break, and allow disabled children and young people to have different experiences - places, people and activities. It is our aim that Short Breaks will contribute to keeping disabled children safe and healthy, enabling them to enjoy new activities, make friends, and have new learning opportunities, as well as preparing teenagers for adulthood.

Short breaks can include day, evening, overnight, weekend or holiday activities that take place in the child or young person's own home, the home of an approved carer, a residential or community setting. Short breaks range from supporting children and young people with disabilities to access universal services, through to providing specialist services at a local and regional level.

Short breaks might include the following:

- The child or young person attending one of the many youth clubs, play schemes or activity groups that are available for all children.
- A support worker taking the child or young person out, or helping in the home - the worker may be employed directly by the family, or provided by the Council or by another agency.
- The child or young person spending time at a specialist group or club or at a specialist short break centre.
- Day care in the child's own home and elsewhere
- Overnight care in the child's own home and elsewhere

4 How our statement was reviewed

In Bury this Statement has been reviewed by the Children's Commissioning Team and Children's Disability Service, working in partnership with the Bury Parent Forum, young people and professionals from social care, health, education and the voluntary sector.

Who is responsible?

The lead officer responsible for preparing this statement is Karen Whitehead, Strategic Service Manager who reports to Jackie Gower Assistant Director. Any queries on the process for producing the statement should be addressed to either m.p.dhokia@bury.gov.uk or c.groves@bury.gov.uk

Publication and Review

The Regulations require the Council to keep the Statement under review. It is proposed that this Statement will be reviewed on a 3 yearly cycle. The statement reflects consultation undertaken with parents by Bury Parents Forum. Parents, disabled children and young people will continue to be fully involved in this process – helping us decide who should deliver our short breaks in Bury. We are committed to ensuring that parents are equal partners in the design of our services. We want Parents and young people to help us monitor the quality of all of our short breaks and help decide what we change and what we keep on an ongoing basis.

The Short Breaks Service Statement will be published on [The Bury Directory](#) website which also provides details of Bury's Local Offer. All professionals/practitioners working with disabled children will have access to the statement, it will be made available by Bury Parents Forum, in our Special schools, and copies will also be given to the SENCOs in all of Bury's schools.

5 Bury's Vision, Principles and Outcomes

Our vision in Bury is to provide disabled children and young people, with opportunities and experiences that achieve positive outcomes for them. It is our aim that short breaks will contribute to keeping disabled children safe and healthy, enabling them to enjoy new activities, make friends, and have new learning opportunities, as well as preparing teenagers for adulthood. By providing disabled children and young people with such opportunities, it is our aim to support parents in their role as primary carers and give them breaks to assist them to look after themselves and their wider family

We aim to ensure that families of disabled children have the support they need to live 'ordinary lives' as a matter of course.

Children and young people are eligible for Short Breaks if they:

- Are aged between 0 and 18 years of age
- They live in Bury
- They have disabilities which have a substantial impact on their life

These may include a physical or learning disability, or a hearing or visual impairment. It includes children with Autism and Aspergers Syndrome and children who may have challenging behaviour as a result of their learning disability. It also includes children who have complex needs and who may have palliative, life limiting or a life-threatening condition.

We recognise the needs of each family may vary; some families will need more support because of their individual circumstances. Therefore, in order to provide the appropriate level of support, assessments will be necessary for specialist provision. At 18 years a young person would then be assessed against Fair Access to Care (FACS) from Adult Care Services.

Principles

Disabled Children are children first and foremost. Recognising that the uniqueness of individuals means that services must be **personalised** to reflect the diversity and changing nature of their need.

Working together we will:

- Help develop young people's independence, personal and social development, friendships and opportunities to have fun, and be included in their communities;
- Listen to children and young people and enable them to share their views and ideas;
- Develop a person centred approach, whereby children, young people and families are central to assessment and planning process and are supported in making decisions about their lives;
- Work to ensure that parents and carers become equal partners in making decisions about service development and priorities; working together to "improve your quality of life";
- Look to support the quality of family life and aim to prevent family crisis through the provision of the right level of support at the right time;
- Seek to be fair, clear and equitable and that information on access arrangements is readily available to families and those in contact with them;
- Be culturally sensitive to individuals' and families' needs associated with gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, age and disability; and challenge negative attitudes and prejudices towards disabled children wherever we find them in wider society;
- Will support children with complex health needs to ensure they have the same opportunities as all disabled children;
- Ensure eligibility criteria are not applied mechanistically and decisions about services should reflect the individual circumstances and changing needs of families;
- Family's with high volume and cost packages of services should be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure the services are meeting their needs and offering best value.
- Maintaining high standards including the safeguarding of children across all service providers, through effective commissioning.

Short Breaks service outcomes

We will commission services that contribute to the following outcomes:

1. Reduction of the stress level in families caring for a child/young person with disabilities and improved emotional well - being for parents and families.
2. Reduction in the number of requests for residential or out of borough placements from families caring for a child with severe disabilities or complex health needs.
3. An increase in the opportunities for inclusive community social interaction for the target group of Children/Young people with Disabilities.
4. Improvement in the life chances of young people in being physical healthy and access to physical activities with improvements in their independence and social skills,

5. Enhancing the capacity and opportunity for young people to communicate their views and choices and be involved in decision making to impact their emotional well-being.
6. An improvement in the resilience of families caring for a child with a disability.
7. Enhanced parenting skills appropriate to the needs of the child/young person with a disability, and recognition of their role as expert in the care of their child.
8. An increase in parents/carers reporting being appropriately supported in meeting the needs of their children

Measuring the Outcomes and Impact of Short Break Services

We will ensure that our short break services focus on improving life opportunities and outcomes for disabled children and their families through continuing to develop our participation strategy with disabled children, young people and their families. We know that the views of families and disabled children are essential to support positive outcomes. Not all disabled children and their families will need the same level of support; some will need more than others because of the nature of their child's disability and their individual circumstances. We will continue to monitor and review the views of disabled children, parents and providers so that everybody feels involved and included. This will assist us with developing a cycle of continual improvement.

All funded providers will be required to give the council data about who is accessing their short breaks and the key outcomes achieved. This will give us better intelligence for the future about who gets short breaks and what their needs are.

6 Consultation and participation with disabled young people, their parents and providers

In Bury consultation of parents has been led by Bury Parents Forum who have held a number of information sharing, consultation and participation events. At these events they have asked parents of disabled young people what they want us to consider when planning and commissioning short break services. Disabled young people and their parents continue to play a key role in determining what we ask providers to do and choosing how they do it.

From talking to people in Bury we know that *Parents, carers, children and young people want services that; Are positive, enjoyable and appropriate experiences for children and young people with disabilities. Children we spoke to wanted to have fun doing activities with friends such as swimming, drama, going out on trips to places like the cinema, bowling and to local parks. Some children told us they liked meeting friends at the local youth club they go to.*

Some of the themes that have emerged from this and previous consultations in relation to short break services are:

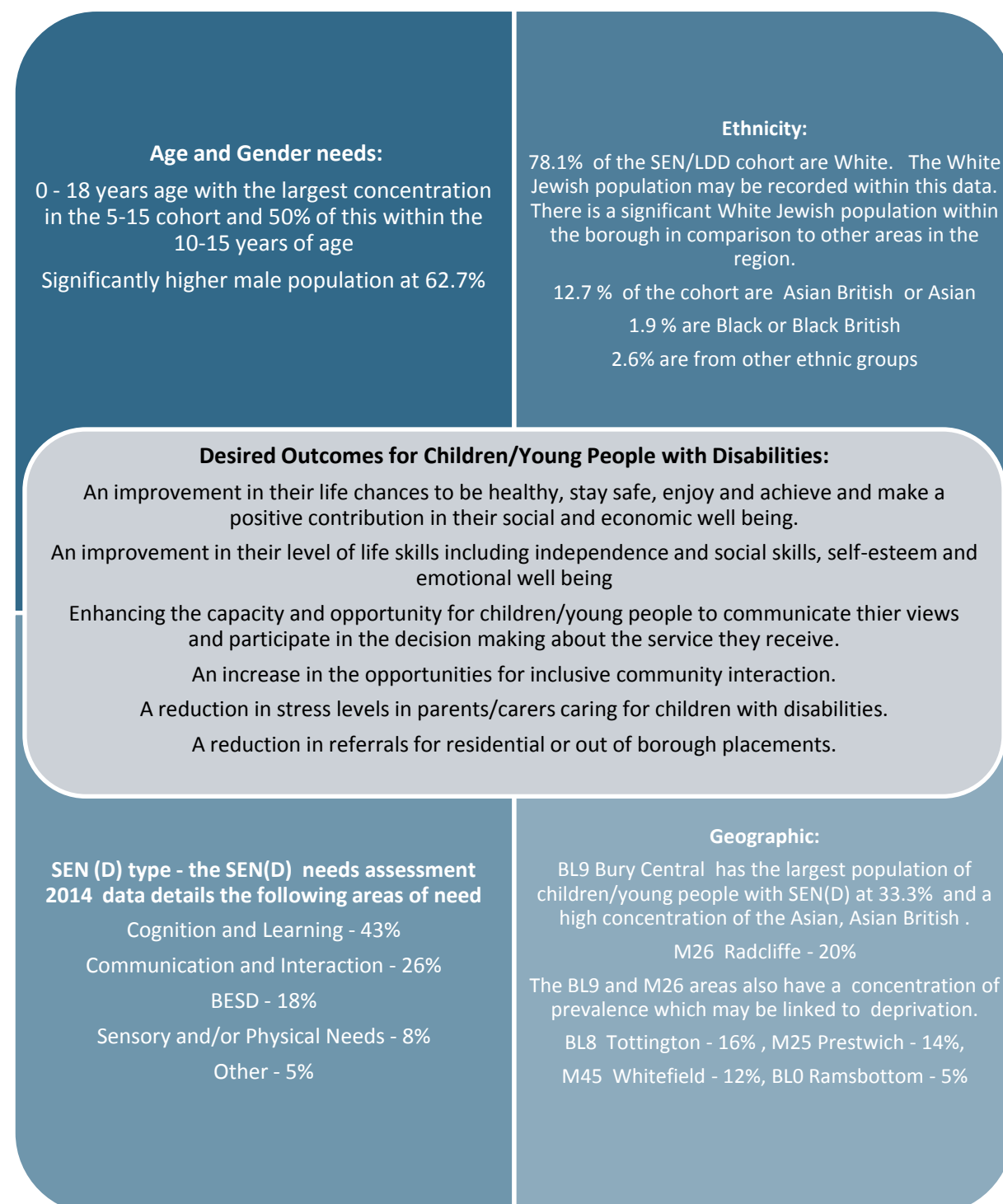
- Person centred approaches
- Effective communication

- Positive 'no barriers' approach
- The choice of activities - quiet activities as well as sporty
- Regular everyday activities
- Consistency in the staff who support them
- Knowing that children will be met by appropriately trained staff.
- Providing choice in the staff members and opportunity to get to know them.
- Opportunities to take part in inclusive activities with non-disabled children
- Provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to develop friendships, socialise and access community opportunities.
- Preventing family crisis through the provision of timely support to meet individual family needs.
- A consistent approach to parental contributions for activity costs between service providers

7 Bury's Needs Analysis

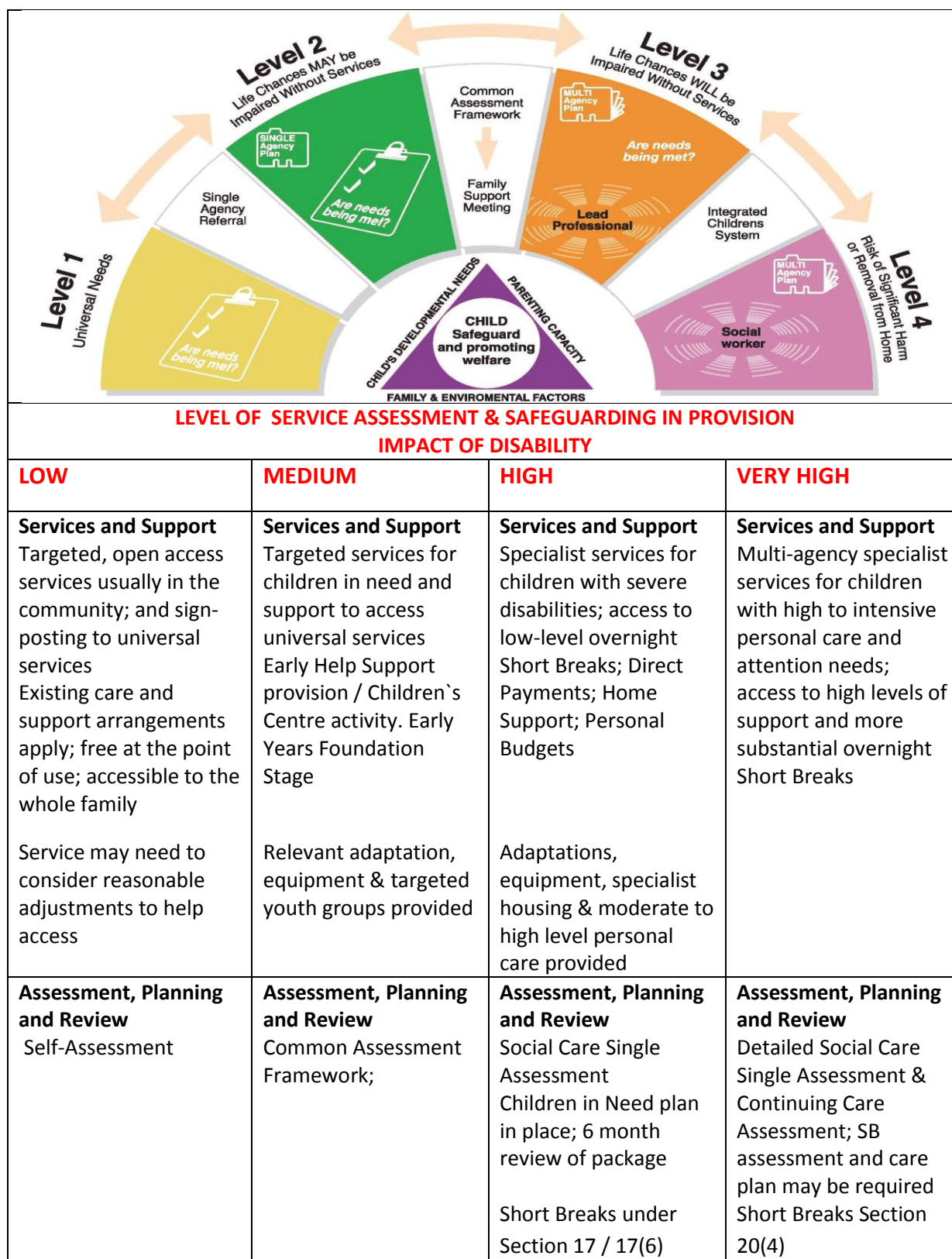
- The 2011 census data shows Bury's entire population as 185,100. There are 46,200 children and young people aged 0-19, and 56,900 children and young people aged 0-24.
- In 2014 a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Assessment for Bury was carried out. This shows that 5752 children and young people aged 0-25 have a SEN or are Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD). Key findings from this assessment are:
- A market statement was prepared in Autumn 2014 which detailed the demographics and needs of children and young people aged 0-25 have a SEN or are Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD). This statement includes data and analysis on the points above. Additionally it identifies the number of children and young people with disabilities open to the Children with Disabilities team as 308 on 23.07.2014. An analysis of the 142 children and young people aged 0-25 with disabilities who attended funded Short Breaks Opportunities in Bury was undertaken using provider contract monitoring data from November 2013 to June 2014 and included in this statement. The Market statement can be found on the Local Offer web site alongside the Short Breaks Duty Statement

Using the data obtained from the 2014 Special Educational Needs (SEN) Assessment for Bury, the graphic below summarises the identified needs in the categories; age and gender; Ethnicity; SEN(D) type and Geographical location from the market statement and details the outcomes which could be achieved with appropriate and sufficient services.



8 Short Breaks: Eligibility and Access

The following table identifies the levels of support that will be offered and the level of assessment that will be offered



Access to Short Breaks Services

Access to any Short Break Service is via a Single assessment undertaken by the Children with Disabilities Service. Here are some of the things we will discuss with you when assessing the short break support you need:

- The severity of your child's disability, how it impacts on their life and your family life
- If you have more than one disabled child
- The number of other children or caring responsibilities you may have
- If you or a partner have a disability
- If you have limited support within your social/family network
- If a child is 'cared for' by the Local Authority or adopted.
- If there are concerns about a child or young person's safety

Once your assessment has been completed it is then sent with a funding request to the Children with Disabilities Resource Panel. The Panel meets every fortnight and considers all assessments and requests for short break resources, then decides on the allocation of the services.

The aim of the panel is:

- To ensure a consistency of approach to all families
- To ensure support plans are in place and that short breaks service will form a part of this plan
- To effectively manage the use and development of Short Break Services.

9 The Local Offer, Short Breaks Services and Personal Budgets

The Local Offer

All our provision is set out in Bury's Local Offer and published on the internet as The Bury Directory. This Short Break Statement compliments Bury's Local Offer. The Local Offer sets out provision which is available for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, aged 0 to 25, including education, health and social care services. The Local Offer is designed to give clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available for all children and young people with SEN and disabilities. The Local Offer includes information about the services in Bury across leisure, education, social care and health. It also tells you whether you are eligible for the service, any costs and how you can access them.

For further information on the [Bury Local](http://www.theburydirectory.co.uk/kb5/bury/directory/localoffer.page) offer visit www.theburydirectory.co.uk/kb5/bury/directory/localoffer.page.

Short Breaks Services

There is a range of short breaks, which you may be able to access depending on the assessed needs and aspirations of your child.

These include:

- Targeted Services: we currently provide a range of services within the Borough targeted to children with additional needs which include:
 - Youth Groups
 - Drama sessions

- Wheels for All – cycling activities
- Football sessions
- After school clubs

Most of these services will require a parental contribution to meet the costs of activities that the child or young person seeks to undertake

- Support to the child via a Personal Assistant within the home or to do activities within the community. This support being provided either via a Direct Payment or a Care Agency
- Short Breaks Carer Scheme - where children stay overnight with a carer in their home
- Activity schemes – within holidays and across the year – catering for children with complex ASD, complex

Personal Budgets

The SEN Code of Practice requires that where disabled children and young people are offered an Education and Health Care Plan they are offered a Personal Budget. Direct Payments and Personal budgets are there to enable disabled people to manage their own care, choose how they lead their own lives and control the services they need.

Parents and professionals should work together to agree how to support the child or young person to meet their outcomes as identified in the Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP). Children and young people should be included in this process. If everybody agrees that a Personal Budget is the best way forward, this will be written into the EHCP, subject to meeting the Personal Budget eligibility criteria.

The SEND Code of Practice tells us that Local Authorities and their partners “should develop and agree a formal approach to making fair and equitable allocations of funding and should set out a local policy for Personal Budgets.

Eligibility for a Personal Budget is:

- A child or young person must have an EHCP.
- It **must** be agreed that the allocation of a Personal Budget is the most effective way of meeting the child/young person’s outcomes as identified in their EHCP.
- It should be noted that without exception the Local Authority and its partners **must** ensure that public funding is used appropriately and provides value for money.

Further information is available on the Local Offer web site. Within these arrangements we will seek to ensure there is there sufficient support for families to navigate the process and use their payments effectively.