
SPECIALIST SERVICES

TARGETED SERVICES

UNIVERSAL SERVICES

Royal Greenwich also funds specialist summer activities for children and young people with complex disabilities. For young people from 11-19 Charlton Athletic Community Trust ran a summer scheme for four weeks which included a range of exciting activities including day trips to the seaside!

This year Willow Dene will be running a play scheme for two weeks for 5-11 year olds.

Charlton Athletic Community Trust also provide youth clubs and after school activities for young people from 11-25 with severe disabilities.

More information on the assessment for specialist short breaks

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The individual support package could include provision of support workers for a few hours a week, or a child minder, or a home carer. In some cases, the child or young person could be offered overnight breaks with a foster family or in a specialist residential home.

Any parent of a disabled child can request an assessment of needs - although this will not always result in additional services being provided.

In order to receive an individual support package an 'assessment of needs' must be carried out by a social worker. This assessment will include finding out more about:

If it appears that additional services are required the social worker will propose a Child in Need Plan. The decision on whether to provide a support package is then taken by the Care Package Panel. This meets twice a month and comprises of senior managers from the service teams working with the family.

- The child's disabilities and how these impact upon their daily life
- What the family need to help care for the child
- What else is available in the community to support the child and family
- Anything else that affects how the family look after the child

To apply for the additional support offered by an individual support package, telephone the Contact and Referral Team on 020 8921 3172.

What are Direct Payments?

Direct Payments are cash payments that families of disabled children can use to arrange services themselves.

These payments can offer families more choice and control over the services they receive. Families use Direct Payments to arrange support services such as employing a carer in the home at the times they need.

Families of disabled children requesting Direct Payments will go through an assessment and the decision on whether to allocate Direct Payments will be taken by the Care Package Panel. Families will be asked to explain how they plan to use Direct Payments.

Direct Payments can be received instead of the services offered by the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Families may also

choose to receive a portion of the care package through Direct Payments and the rest through the services organised by the Royal Borough.

Support is available to help families manage these payments and to find a carer. For more information, contact the Children with Disabilities Team on 020 8921 2599.

Overnight short breaks:

For children with complex needs and disabilities, there may be a need for prolonged breaks. This could be because of the nature of their health conditions and because their parents require more time away from caring duties.

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Oxleas NHS Trust's Short Breaks Service at Wensley Close

The Oxleas NHS team at Wensley Close in Eltham provide residential and home-based care for children with complex medical needs who require nursing intervention during the day or night. There are four beds in the residential unit for children

aged 5-18. The service aims to be flexible to the needs of the child and their family – parents are welcome to contact the service to discuss the support required.

For children under 5, a service is being developed for healthcare assistants to visit the family home for up to four hours a week. The child's care is planned by a nurse working with the family.

Referrals into these services can be made by parents, health professionals and other agencies. However, since this is a specialist service decisions on access are

made through the Care Package Panel to help ensure that the family is receiving the most appropriate service.

This service is commissioned by the NHS Greenwich Clinical Commissioning Group.

Oxleas NHS Trust's Short Breaks Service at Wensley Close

020 8859 7463

[www.oxleas.nhs.uk/services/service/short-breaks-service/Bungalow 2, Wensley Close,](http://www.oxleas.nhs.uk/services/service/short-breaks-service/Bungalow_2_Wensley_Close)
Eltham SE9 5AB



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Rainbow House at Charlton Park Academy

Rainbow House is a unit of residential provision attached to Charlton Park Academy. It can accommodate up to eight young people with special needs aged 11-19. Overnight short breaks at Rainbow House are only available to pupils at Charlton Park Academy.

The accommodation consists of four bedrooms – all with ensuite facilities, height adjustable beds, overhead hoists and a television. It

operates Monday to Friday during term time only. Young people staying at Rainbow House can participate in a number of after-school activities.

Places at Rainbow House are for Charlton Park Academy pupils with complex and high-care needs. Families applying for overnight short breaks at Rainbow House will require an assessment and then allocation through the Care Package Panel.



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Demelza South East London

The Demelza South East London Hospice provides overnight and day-care breaks for children with life-limited or life-threatening conditions.

Demelza's hospice has six bedrooms and is well-equipped with sensory and soft-play rooms, a computer room, an arts and crafts room, and an outdoor play area with specialist facilities for children using wheelchairs. There are no charges to families for the services.

Families can refer themselves to Demelza through using the contact details above or they can be referred by a practitioner working with them. Demelza South East London is an independent hospice mainly funded by voluntary donations – this service is not commissioned by the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Demelza South East London

020 8859 9800

www.demelza.org.uk

5 Wensley Close
Eltham
SE9 5AB

CASE STUDY

Bart is 15 years old and lives in Eltham with his mum, Deb*. Bart has complex medical needs and attends overnight short breaks at Bungalow 2, Wensley Close and at Demelza. He is happy at these places and Deb can relax knowing that he is well looked after by the staff.

In 2010 Bart underwent spinal surgery and Deb needed increased assistance with his personal care at home. The Children with Disabilities Team suggested to Deb that the family could receive Direct Payments to help them arrange extra support.

The Care Package Panel considered their case and Bart and Deb were then allocated a set amount of Direct Payments. Deb approached a carer who was already familiar with Bart and asked whether she would be interested in working with Bart in their home in the mornings and evenings.

The carer agreed to this and Deb organised for her to be paid for the work through the Direct Payments allocation. The Children with Disabilities Team help Deb with putting the Direct Payments to good use.

The arrangement has been a great success for the family. Deb now plans to use the Direct Payments to pay for the carer to receive further training so that she can support Bart with more of his medical needs. This will also mean that Deb can leave Bart at home with the carer for longer while she goes out to do the shopping, to have lunch with friends, or to recharge her batteries somewhere!

*not their real names

Sports and Leisure

Better Leisure Centres

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) manages the Better leisure centres in the Royal Borough. GLL provides all sorts of sports and leisure activities.

The majority of activities are open to all Royal Greenwich residents when paying an entrance fee. Concessionary price options are available via the Greenwich Card Higher Saver membership.

The Eltham Centre is Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) accredited – meaning it has been recognised by the English Federation of Disability Sport for its commitment to supporting people with disabilities. The centre is proactive in providing inclusive facilities, activity and customer service.

Some examples of the activities that disabled children and young people may find can meet their needs at Better Leisure Centres:

Greenwich Leisure Services
020 8317 5000
www.better.org.uk

Holiday Play Schemes

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- Children can make new friends, try a new sport, win a crazy challenge, enjoy the themed weeks and have lots of fun.
- Suitable for ages 5 to 11.
- Takes place at the Waterfront Leisure Centre (on Woolwich High Road, SE18 6DL).
- Additional support for children with special needs should be discussed with the centre in advance (please phone 020 8317 5010).

Junior Fitness

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- Introducing young people to safe use of gym equipment.
- Suitable for ages 11 to 15.
- Inclusive Fitness Gym equipment is available at the Arches Leisure Centre, the Eltham Centre and the Waterfront Leisure Centre – contact the centre for more details.

Disability Swimming Clubs and Lessons

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- A dedicated service providing a smaller pupil-to-teacher ratio than standard, swimming lessons for the disabled are available at the Eltham Centre and at Thamesmere Leisure Centre.
- One-to-one sessions are available at a premium – please contact your local Better Leisure Centre for more details.

Sports and Leisure

Charlton Athletic Community Trust

Charlton Athletic Community Trust

Youth services are provided by Charlton Athletic Community Trust (CACT) on behalf of the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Many of these are universal services but CACT also runs a number of services targeted towards disabled children and young people.

The targeted services are run by experienced staff who will

work to accommodate the individual needs of service users – including those with complex needs and challenging behaviour. They will review care plans and hold discussions with parents and carers to help ensure that the service can cater for the disabled child or young person.

CACT plans to increase its provision of short breaks and of integrated sessions in the

Royal Borough. Its staff have received training on disability awareness and on working with children and young people with conditions such as autistic spectrum disorder and profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Charlton Athletic Community Trust

020 8858 0626

www.cact.org.uk

There is a charge for the CACT activities – these differ depending on the particular session. For more details contact Charlton Athletic Community Trust on 020 8858 0626.

Youth Club (SEN session)

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- Dedicated SEN session at Avery Hill Youth Club for young people (aged 13 to 24) with special needs.
- Takes place on Tuesdays from 7 to 9.30pm.

Charlton Athletic Ability Counts Club

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- Football and other sports-related activities for disabled children age 8-16.
- Non-disabled siblings are also welcome.
- Takes place at Charlton Athletics's Training Ground (Sparrows Lane, New Eltham, SE9 2JR).

Charlton Upbeats

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- Sports club for those with Down's Syndrome.
- Welcomes a wide range of ages – from those age 5 through to adults.
- Non-disabled siblings can participate.
- Takes place at Charlton Athletic's Training Ground on Saturdays from 1 to 2.30pm.

Transport



Parents and carers are encouraged and expected to transport their children to and from short break services. We understand that transport can be a barrier for families so we work with short break providers so that they can sometimes offer assistance with transport.

For example, Greenwich Toy Library runs a transport service for the use of families attending its short breaks who would otherwise have difficulty in getting to the activities.

A consultation exercise carried out with parents and carers revealed that many felt it was better for the Royal Borough to invest money in short break services rather than spending a large portion of it on transport costs.



I know that transport is an issue for some parents, but if spending money on transport means that fewer children can attend short breaks I would rather that we have to make our own way there.

Parent



Siblings and short breaks



The Royal Borough of Greenwich and partner organisation understand that families often appreciate activities available for both their disabled children and their non-disabled siblings.

A number of the Royal Borough of Greenwich short breaks welcome non-disabled siblings and this statement aims to make clear when this is the case. A service's ability to accommodate non-disabled siblings can depend on how busy it is. Families should contact the service beforehand to check whether there will be enough space for the non-disabled sibling.

Although the Royal Borough of Greenwich commissions several short breaks open to non-disabled siblings, the principal purpose of the short breaks programme is to meet the needs of children with disabilities.

Therefore it will not always be possible for non-disabled siblings to access short break services.



What you said

How families' views shape short breaks in Royal Greenwich

The views of those who use the short breaks services are a key resource for the Royal Borough. Through working in partnership with local families, we can respond to their priorities and ensure that the short breaks available in Royal Greenwich are suitable for their needs.

Discussions with children and parent-carers have been an essential part of designing this guide. Over 100 parents in Royal Greenwich have been consulted, as well as a group of children from Willow Dene School and range of local voluntary sector organisations.

YOU SAID:	WE DID:
Parents requested an increase in short breaks taking place on Saturdays.	Greenwich Mencap were asked to develop more weekend activities and now they have two new Saturday clubs.
YOU SAID:	WE DID:
Several parents were keen to have a representative on the body making commissioning decisions for short breaks in Royal Greenwich.	A representative from Greenwich Parent Voice now sits on the Joint Commissioning Group for Disabled Children. This helps to make sure that families' views and ideas influence the commissioning process.
YOU SAID:	WE DID:
A number of parents told us they would like short breaks where their non-disabled children can join in with their siblings.	The information in the appendix to the Short Breaks Statement now makes clear when it is possible for siblings to also participate in commissioned short breaks.



I'd like to be able to choose what I want to do for myself.

Young person



It was really nice to be listened to at the early stages of the statement being re-designed.

Parent

Those consulted include:

- Greenwich Parent Voice
- The Greenwich Branch of the National Autistic Society
- Willow Dene School Parents
- Willow Dene Pupils
- Parents at Greenwich Toy Library
- Charlton Park Academy Parents

Parents said that they wanted a user-friendly short breaks

statement that gave clear information on the full range of short breaks, how these could be accessed, and what the eligibility criteria was for these services. Parents also wanted to know whether services would accept children with challenging behaviour and whether non-disabled siblings could join in the activities.

The children interviewed for the short breaks consultation requested a wide range of fun and exciting activities. They also

made it clear that they liked opportunities to have fun with their non-disabled siblings.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich will continue to discuss the content of the short breaks programme and statement with families and with the organisations providing services. This on-going conversation helps us to understand what is working well and also to identify any changes to the services that are required.

Greenwich Parent Voice

Greenwich Parent Voice (GPV) is the independent forum for parent carers in Royal Greenwich. It is funded by the government to work in partnership in Royal Greenwich.

GPV acts as the voice for local parents of children with special needs and works to inform the Royal Borough of families' views. A representative from Greenwich Parent Voice sits on the commissioning group with responsibility for short breaks. GPV also organise regular meetings and information events.

Parents can talk to GPV confidentially about any issues regarding short breaks in Royal Greenwich. GPV will then raise concerns or suggestions with the Royal Borough.

To get involved in GPV, please visit www.greenwichpatientvoice.com or email info@greenwichparentvoice.org.

Glossary

Care Package Panel

A decision-making body comprising managers from the Royal Borough of Greenwich's Children's Services and Oxleas Health Trust. It considers the cases of individual children and young people and requests for access to specialist services.

Challenging Behaviour

Behaviour that challenges those who are caring for them.

Children with Disabilities Team

The Royal Borough's team of social workers who specialise in working with disabled children and young people.

Commissioning

The Royal Borough of Greenwich chooses to fund various organisations to provide services which meet the needs of the public. This is the commissioning of services.

Direct Payments

Payments available to people with disabilities (or their families) to be used in arranging support services.

Disabled

According to the Equality Act 2010, a person is disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

Inclusion

This means making changes to how organisations plan activities to allow disabled children to take part as far as possible.

Short Breaks

Opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend time away from their main carer.

Specialist Services

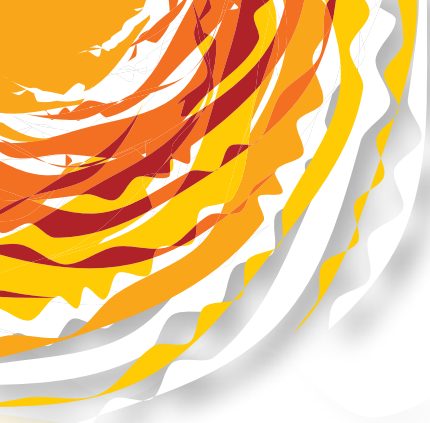
Services for disabled children with complex needs.

Targeted Services

Services set up specifically for disabled children.

Universal Services

Services available to all children.





Children's Services

Grace Taylor

020 8921 2094

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