

# Short Breaks

**Update** Spring 2013

Issue ③

Welcome to the new issue of the Walsall Short Breaks for Disabled Children Bulletin

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## Short Breaks Activities February 2013...

This is what  
you told us...

My Child enjoys the socialising with other children, sailing, tri biking, climbing, rope walking and archery.  
*Parent of child who attended Aldridge Airport*



I always have a lot of confidence leaving my child at Mary Elliot Holiday Club as I know he is very well looked after and they meet his needs. I particularly like the fact that he can go swimming while attending this scheme.

*Mum of child who attended Mary Elliot Holiday Club.*



Walsall Council



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Email: [bradburya@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:bradburya@walsall.gov.uk)

# Children's Disability Team

The Children with Disabilities Team will provide support to disabled children under the Walsall Child and Family Framework with level 3 high risk needs, following assessment using the Framework for the Assessment of Children and Their Families.

Regular co-ordinated packages of support will be provided including short breaks and direct payments; in addition to targeted programmes and support and signposting to access universal services.

The types of Short Breaks currently offered by Walsall Children's Services are:

- Eldon House (Bluebell House) – Residential Short Breaks Service
- Short Breaks Fostering Services
- Action for Children – Holiday play schemes, after school clubs and buddying schemes.
- Home based family support
- Specialist holiday and after school activities
- Direct payments
- Home based specialist medical care in conjunction with Health service

Parents, carers and young people can refer directly and speak to a duty worker on the number below.

The Children with Disabilities can also complete carers' assessments in conjunction with an assessment of the child.

The team also work with children and families under the Child-in- Need model, and also children where there are safeguarding concerns to implement change prior to child protection intervention.

Professionals and agencies referring to the team will complete a Children's Services, Child in Need and Child Protection Referral Form available on [www.wlscb.org.uk](http://www.wlscb.org.uk). Signed parental consent must be obtained if referring unless there are immediate child protection concerns, in which case contact us on 01922 654634. Our address is; Children with Disabilities Team, Education Support Centre, Field Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, WS3 3JF.

# New Developments

## Eldon House

### Fantastic news...

After a number of unforeseen delays we are very pleased to announce that the new building is now finally complete. Whilst It has taken a lot longer than anticipated, however I'm sure once you see the end result you will agree that it has been well worth the wait. The contractors have done a superb job. Handover of the building from the contractor to children's services will take place towards the end of February and this landmark point will signal a flurry of activity by the Eldon Team.

The next stages will see us concluding the process for registering our new service with Ofsted and of course the fitting out and equipping of the building in readiness for opening.

We will shortly be planning per opening visits for children and families using the service and the fact that the

building will be accessible by our team will mean that we can begin to familiarise the children with their new surroundings. It is difficult to pinpoint an exact date where we will transition to the new building as the Ofsted registration process does not have an exact timescale. In the interim it will be business as usual at Eldon but with much anticipation as we get closer to this exciting new start.

Finally, over the past few months we have reached a decision that we will be moving away from the Eldon name for our service. New building, new location, new name.

I was hoping to announce our new service name in this newsletter however as I am awaiting final confirmation that the chosen name has been registered we will make this announcement shortly.

**Regards Glen and the Eldon team.**



# Short Breaks Co-ordinator

**We now have a full time Short Breaks Co-ordinator. He is Aaron Bradbury and can be contacted on 01922 655723."**

I am so excited to be working with children and families. I do hope that parents and children keep in contact with me and let me know what types of activities they would like for the short breaks and how we can work together to accomplish this"

We are also working to recruit our own pool of short breaks sessional workers to extend the range of

provision. Our aim is to offer some different activities they may have not been offered previously and you will have started to notice this on the Spring Activities programme of activities. If there are activities you would like to see on the programme please contact us with your ideas. We can then approach prospective providers to discuss commissioning these services. Some of the ideas we are currently working on are: A bid to Sports England, to improve sports facilities at Bloxwich Leisure Centre. Parent run support groups. Nurturing Programme, After school media club, Trampolining and Rebound Therapy sessions and Swimming sessions.



## Snap Cannock

**Our Special Needs Adventure Playground is designed specifically for children with special needs and has been running successfully in Cannock, Staffordshire since June 2003.**

Complete with outdoors adventure play equipment, including an aerial runway, cycle track with specially adapted bikes, a sand pit (with diggers), and indoors soft play area, craft room and a multi-sensory room it is the only one of its kind in the Chase and West Midlands areas

### Opening Times

Monday	10am - 3pm 3pm - 6pm	Toddler Session (Term Time only) After School Session
Tuesday	10am - 3pm	Toddler Session (Term Time only)
Wednesday	10am - 3pm 3pm - 7pm	School / Group Bookings After School Sessions & JIGSAW (5pm-7pm)
Thursday	10am - 3pm	School/Group Bookings only
Friday	10am - 3pm 4pm - 7pm	Open Session & School/Groups Party Bookings
Saturday	10am - 4pm 4.30pm - 6.30pm	Open Sessions Party Bookings
Sunday	10am - 11.30 am 12pm - 4pm 4.30pm - 6.30pm	Party Bookings Open Sessions Party Bookings

### Contact Us

Email: [info@snapcannock.co.uk](mailto:info@snapcannock.co.uk), Tel: 01543 579286.

Address: S.N.A.P. Special Needs Adventure Playground,  
Pye Green Road, Cannock WS11 5RW.







**Walsall Council are pleased to announce the programme of short breaks taking place over Easter. Information on how and when to book a place is provided below.**

## Introduction

**Short breaks form part of a continuum of services, which support children with disabilities and their families.**

Short breaks are provided to give disabled children and young people enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, thereby contributing to their personal and social development and reducing social isolation.

Short breaks also allow parents and families to have a necessary and valuable break from caring responsibilities.

In Walsall families have told us that they would most welcome short breaks provision during the main school holiday periods. This includes the summer holiday weeks, Easter and Christmas holidays.

The provision is designed specifically around the needs of children and young people with

disabilities. Families who receive Disability Living Allowance at middle or high rate for care and/or mobility can apply for places on the different schemes. It is important that you book places responsibly and if you cannot make a booking you must cancel your child's place so that another child can go.

**To register for a place on any scheme please call the Children with Disabilities Team on 01922 654634 on the indicated dates.**

### Scheme 1: Outdoor Pursuits at Aldridge Airport

**Who does it deliver short breaks to?**

**Children with physical disabilities/long term conditions aged 8-18**  
**Children with challenging behaviour aged 8-18**

**What does the scheme include?**

Provision of outdoor adventurous activities at the Aldridge Airport Outdoor Activity & Sneyd Water Activities Centres.

The activities will include:

- High ropes course, climbing, abseiling, low ropes, archery, and orienteering.
- Abseiling and rope course elements uniquely designed for wheelchair users.
- Cycling in local areas on our new adapted bikes and introducing the new bikeability programme.
- Rambling and walking in the local parkland surrounding the Airport site.
- Subject to weather conditions, Access sailing including the new 303 sport single handed dinghy & Wayfarer dinghy, canoeing, kayaking, bell boating at the Sneyd centre.

Parents are to transport to and from the Aldridge and Sneyd centres subject to weather.

**For more information contact Jeff Moore on 01922 744637.**

**Venue:** Aldridge Airport Outdoor Activity Centre Off Bosty Lane, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0QQ

**When is the scheme taking place?** 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th April 9:00 – 3:30pm

**When do I register for a place?** 25th February 2013 – 22nd March 2013

## Scheme 2: PEARL Project ~ Physical, Educational, Activity, Recreational & Leisure project

**Who does it deliver short breaks to?**

**Children with physical disabilities/long term conditions aged 8-18  
Children with ASD/ challenging behaviour aged 8-18**

**What does the scheme include?**

The activities will enable children/ young people to enhance social interaction with each other. The scheme will provide a safe environment for children to develop skills, have fun and enjoy a variety of full day activities

Young people have helped shape the activities offered and these include:

Bowling, Ice Skating, Seaside trip, Chester Zoo, Ludlow Castle, Conkers.

**For more information contact Bob Ratcliffe on 07921 404757.**

**Venue:** Participants will be collected from a central point in Walsall and the team will provide transport to a range of days out.

**When is the scheme taking place?** 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th April

**When do I register for a place?** 25th February 2013 – 22nd March 2013

## Scheme 3: Castle Business and Enterprise College Activity Scheme

**Who does it deliver short breaks to?**

**Children with challenging behaviour/ASD aged 7-19 at Castle School, Jane Lane School or in mainstream education.**

**What does the scheme include?**

A range of activities will be available which will include:

- Art and craft activities
- Sports activities i.e. Cheer leading, football, swimming, basketball, cricket
- Healthy eating activities i.e. food preparation activities
- Day trips to Black Country Museum, Dudley Zoo, local parks etc
- Movie day
- Nintendo Wii activities
- Bowling

**For further information please contact Castle School on 01922 710129.**

**Venue:** Castle Business & Enterprise College, Odell Road, Leamore, Walsall, WS3 2ED

**When is the scheme taking place?** 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th April

**When do I register for a place?** 25th February 2013 – 22nd March 2013



## Scheme 4: KIDS Club delivered by French Squared Enterprise

**Who does it deliver short breaks to?**

**Children with challenging behaviour/ASD aged 5 -16**

**What does the scheme include?**

Dates of the Short Breaks:

April 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th & 9th.

(Morning Session for 10 to 16 year olds "Challenge and Chill")

(Afternoon Sessions for 2 to 5 year olds "Jungle Adventures")

Kidz Club is created for children from mainstream and special schools who may need support for different areas of their physical, sensory, social, emotional and behavioural development.

It works in partnership with children and their families to look at short term outcomes, focused on goals set by the children. Using an Olympic focus highlighting fitness and the Olympic and Paralympic values, it provides individual and group activities for children and young people based specifically on their skills and ideas. It consists of a physical activity programme in which children are assessed to determine their level of physical skills, and activities are planned to challenge and promote success.

There are two sessions run every day with a child attending in morning or afternoon for 3 ½ hours.

There are 12 places per morning and afternoon session.

**For further information please contact Jenny French on 07919 442303.**

**Venue:** University of Wolverhampton, Walsall Campus, Gorway Road, Walsall, WS1 3BD

**When is the scheme taking place?** 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, and 9th April

## Scheme 5: Pool Hayes Integrated Playscheme

**Who does it deliver short breaks to?**

**Children with challenging behaviour/ASD aged 3-8**

**What does the scheme include?**

Provide a range of positive activities for disabled children and young people as part of a mainstream playscheme to children aged 3-7's, with a wide range of activity sessions during the Holidays.

The activity sessions will include creative, play, physical and team activities.

The short breaks scheme will operate daily between 9.30am – 3.30pm.

**For further information please contact Wayne Palmer on 01902 368613.**

**Venue:** Pool Hayes Arts and Community School, Castle Drive, Willenhall, West Midlands WV12 4QZ

**When is the scheme taking place?** 2nd,3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th April

## "Children's Voices"

"Making new friends"

"My child enjoys being around people and being active. It is great that he can come to age appropriate activities regardless of his disabilities and this gives me time to do things with his brother and sister"

*(Parent of Chris  
15 years old)*

"I like to go outside"

"I loved it"



# Bloxwich Leisure Centre

**Bloxwich has been designed especially with families and people with disabilities in mind. The pool has a wide sloping entry, ideal for people with mobility difficulties. The pool also has a large shallow area where less confident swimmers can build up their skills.**

Bloxwich Leisure Centre is fully accessible to people with disabilities with plenty of parking. There are toilets and changing rooms suitable for wheelchair users.

The WAY disability programme will develop Bloxwich Leisure Centre into a hub for disabled activities. The following will be available for you to enjoy;

- 1) A learning disability physical activity club offering a range of sports and fun activities for young people.
- 2) A physical disability activity club offering a range of sports and fun activities for young people.

These will run on a weekly basis and will take place outside of school hours. The fun activities will be based on the likes and dislikes of the young people, but from previous community clubs the following have proven to be popular;

- Swimming – new 'Floatsation' swimming aids are available that provide support and independence for young people during pool sessions
  - Sports Hall activities, such as Boccia, Football, Goal Ball, Volleyball and Multi-skills
  - Creative physical activity based activities – drawing and artistic activities related to sport.
- 3) A weekly instructor led gym session for young people with disabilities. The gym at Bloxwich is equipped with Inclusive Fitness Initiative equipment, especially designed for people with disabilities.
  - 4) Disabled sports equipment, such as Floatsation swimming aids, will also be available for people to use on a pay and play basis.

Address:  
High Street, Bloxwich,  
Walsall WS3 2DA.

Telephone: 01922 710295.

## Disabilities Register

The Disabilities Register is now up and running and is a new and exciting way of keeping families of children with a disability up to date with short breaks activities, training and support groups.

It is also a good way of parents and carers knowing what is going to be advertised regarding activities at the same time. If you have not already had an application form, you are able to download one from [www.mywalsall.org](http://www.mywalsall.org) website and post back to the address given. If you are not able to access the internet you can call 01922 654634 for a copy which can be sent out to you.

## Short Breaks Statement

There is an up to date Short Breaks Statement for 2013 – 2014 and is now available on the [mywalsall.org](http://mywalsall.org) website. Please familiarise yourself with this and if you have any questions please contact the disabilities team to discuss.

## Volunteering

Have you got a few hours spare to work as a buddy alongside a child or young person with a disability. Various hours to suit you and also a training package for the right candidate. If you are interested then please contact Aaron Bradbury on 01922 6556723, [bradburya@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:bradburya@walsall.gov.uk)



# The Nurturing Programme

Parents of children with a disability face additional challenges. Family Links has collaborated with clinical psychologists to develop this handbook to help them.

- adapted Nurturing Programme for parents of children with a variety and spectrum of disabilities
- 90% of parents on the pilot programmes reported that it helped with their child's behaviour
- parents valued the strategies learned and the positive impact on all relationships within the family

The Nurturing Programme provides simple, effective tools to help adults and children:

- understand and manage feelings and behaviour
- improve relationships at home and in school
- improve emotional health and wellbeing
- develop self-confidence and self-esteem; crucial ingredients for effective parenting and learning

Adults are given tips on how to:

- build on pre-existing parenting skills
- use positive behaviour management, communication and relationship strategies
- look after their own emotional needs, so they can parent more effectively

The Nurturing Programme is a Universal Programme that:

- increases the well-being of all families
- is an effective vehicle for change in vulnerable ones
- uses ideas and products developed specifically for the UK

This is a 10 week programme and will be run from the new building, 12:30 – 2:30.

Lunch will be provided, If you would like to book onto this nurturing course then contact Aaron Bradbury on 01922 655723 or email [bradburya@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:bradburya@walsall.gov.uk)



*Family Links*

transforming schools and families

## Autism West Midlands

We are currently working with Autism West Midlands to deliver courses specifically for children with Autism.

We have also been looking at the Rising to the Challenge course for parents.

If you require any further information please visit their website:  
[www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk](http://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk)

**autism**  
west midlands

## Training

There are many training courses that can be offered to parents and carers, we would like to look into for the future. If you are interested in Makaton, PECS, Developmental Massage, or anything you have been on recently that might be beneficial to other parents and carers then please let us know.

Look out for our  
next newsletter,  
Summer 2013.

