



Bolton Short Breaks Statement

2026 - 2027

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What are short breaks?

Short breaks provide disabled children with the opportunity to have enjoyable experiences away from their parents and carers. Short breaks can also contribute to a number of positive outcomes for children, including making friends, enjoying new opportunities, and promoting independence.

Short breaks give the parents and carers of disabled children the opportunity to have a break from their caring responsibilities.

Parent information and support worker

We know that many parent/carers appreciate a personal contact at the start of their enquiries, and a "face to face" visit or a call before deciding what action to take as a family. If you would like to talk to someone who can help you to navigate the information below, you can contact our Parent Information and Support Worker via email boltonsharedcare@bolton.gov.uk. Please leave your name and contact details and they will get back to you to arrange a follow up call or a home visit.

Universal short breaks

These are available through resources in the local community that anyone can access. For example;

- Brownies
- Guides
- Drama groups
- Dancing groups
- Sport groups
- Chess club
- Computer club
- After schools clubs
- Swimming
- Art and craft groups
- Church, mosque, temple, synagogue activities for children
- Cadets

Try an online search for the above activities for local contacts e.g. leisure centres, community centres, faith groups, voluntary organisations, general access council services or schools.

The organisation providing the activity may charge while others may be free.



Universal targeted short breaks

Some universal short breaks are resources designed to meet the specific needs of a particular group of disabled children.

The [SEND Local Offer](#) provides information about a range of advice, information and support services, including activities for disabled children that can be accessed without assessment.

There is a fee for most of these services, although some may be subsidised.

AFC Masters Football Club

AFC Masters is a football club run for children and adults with a disability. The FA Standard Chartered Club runs every week with a focus on friendship and enjoyment.

To find out more...
Check the Local Offer

afcmasters.com

Search and follow on Facebook and Twitter

Day Trippers

Daytrippers (Bolton) is a parent and carer led registered charity that provides mutual support and companionship, via days out and other activities for families that have children with disabilities.

To find out more...
Check the Local Offer

daytrippersbolton.org.uk

call: **07742 693157** or **07941 747920**

Email:

enquiries@daytrippersbolton.org.uk

Breaking Barriers

Breaking Barriers is a registered charity. It is their aim to raise awareness and challenge the barriers to inclusion in society for disabled children and young people aged 0-25 years old.

To find out more...
Check the Local Offer

breakingbarriersnw.com



BLGC

The club is for young people aged 8-19 years old (21 for a young person with a disability) and runs seven days a week.

The junior club is open to all young people aged 8 to 12, while 12 to 19 year olds go to senior club. There's also a holiday club, a place to go for more fun and activities when school closes for the summer holidays.

blgc.co.uk

To find
out more...
Check the
Local Offer



Wheels for All

Wheels for All Bolton is affiliated with Cycling UK and provides people of all abilities with the chance to enjoy cycling. They were established with the help of cycling projects through the Wheels for All program a nationally recognised program that offers cycling opportunities to people with additional needs by giving access to adaptive cycles in a supportive and comfortable setting.

To find
out more...
Check the
Local Offer

wheelsforallbolton.org.uk



Octagon Theatre

Little Bridges 8-14yrs and **Bridges** 16-30yrs

The Bridges programme enables young people and adults with additional needs and learning disabilities to take part in drama and performance opportunities at the Octagon Theatre.

To find
out more...
Check the
Local Offer

octagonbolton.co.uk

Bolton Bullets Powerchair Football Club

Powerchair football is a sport providing a rare opportunity for people who use electric wheelchairs to access a fast paced game of competitive football.

To find
out more...
Check the
Local Offer

boltonbulletspfc.wixsite.com



Wave Adventure

Wave Adventure are a Bolton charity who are passionate about the outdoors and introducing people to healthy new activities. Wave Adventure organise events for individuals or groups of all ages and abilities.

To find
out more...
Check the
Local Offer

waveadventure.co.uk



Specialist short break services

Universal and universal targeted services are your first options for a short break.

We recognise however that there will be some children who, even with the best efforts of the children themselves, parent carers and service providers, are not able to have their needs met within universal or targeted services.

If your child has a severe and substantial disability and the [SEND Local Offer](#) is not able to meet their needs, they may be eligible for specialist/targeted help to provide a short break.

What the law says

Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989 states that a local authority must offer, so far as is reasonably practicable, a range of services which is sufficient to assist carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively. Local authorities must provide short breaks services for carers of disabled children to enable them to continue to care for their disabled child and to participate in everyday activities. They must provide a range of:

- Daytime care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere
- Overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere
- Educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes
- Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays

Short breaks are to be used as a preventative measure and should not just be available to a few families in crisis.

Who can access a specialist short break?

Specialist short break services are provided to support children in need who have **severe** or **substantial** disabilities.

A severe or substantial disability has a **significant impact** on one or more of the following areas:

- Physical ability
- Communication and understanding
- Awareness of risk and danger
- Behaviour
- Independence



These arise from one or more of the following:

- A severe or profound learning disability
- A severe physical disability
- A substantial degree of visual impairment
- Moderate and severe hearing loss
- A complex autistic spectrum condition with severe learning difficulty
- A complex medical health condition

Any request for a specialist short break would be followed up by an assessment and allocation process, as set out below.

What happens if I request an assessment for specialist short break care?

If your child has a severe and substantial disability and the [SEND Local Offer](#) is not able to meet their needs, they may be eligible for specialist targeted help to provide a short break.

An online referral form should be completed by your lead professional and sent through to the Integrated Front Door. A social worker from the Children with Disabilities Team will offer further advice and guidance and, where appropriate, complete a short break assessment (Resource Allocation System or RAS) to determine how Short Breaks could support you and your family and how they will be provided.

Statutory help for children with disabilities

Child and family assessments will be undertaken by the Children with Disabilities Team for disabled children where the impact of a child's disability is likely to prevent them from being safe or from achieving their potential. We also work with children who require complex multi-agency care arrangements and those disabled children who may need to be looked after away from home as part of their care or who are at risk of needing to become looked after due to the impact of their disability.

Professionals wishing to make a referral to the Children with Disabilities Team, please complete the online referral form via the [Integrated Front Door](#).

What specialist services may be offered?



Bolton Council has local services designed to offer a range of specialist services and support. These include:

Family based short break care, day and overnight care, in the home of an approved short break carer	Bolton Shared Care
Sessional support – sitting, befriending, social groups	Bolton Shared Care
Short break support within the family home and in the local community for children with complex health needs	Bridges Family Support Team
Domiciliary care for children with complex health needs	Bridges Family Support Team.
Specialist after school groups and school holiday provision. Play is for All holiday club	Bolton Council Youth and Play Service 4-18 years
Overnight residential short break care for young people 8-18 years old with complex health and behavioural needs	Purpose built short break bungalows, Avondale and Trackside Approach
Self-directed short break care by employing a personal assistant as an alternative to the above services	Direct Payments

Things change for children and their families, and the assessment is reviewed annually to make sure that the support provided continues to be the right support for you.

How to request an assessment for a specialist short break

If you already have a social worker, or a lead professional, speak to them in the first instance, and they will be able to carry out or request an assessment on your behalf.

You can also request support by going through the Integrated Front Door on the Bolton Council website and following the [Disabled Child Pathway](#).

We understand that many families feel a bit uncomfortable following a route that is also for children where there is a safeguarding concern.

Please be assured that your request will be dealt with by the right team.

If you would like to speak to someone about a referral, call the Children With Disabilities Duty Social Worker on **01204 331500 (option 4)**, or email **CWD@bolton.gov.uk**.

The Transition Team

Please refer to the Preparing for Adulthood section of the [SEND Local Offer](#).





The Record

It is a statutory requirement that each Local Authority maintains a “register” of children and young people with a disability. Bolton’s register is called “**The Record**”.

This record helps us to have a better insight into the number of children in Bolton we need to make plans for. It is vital for our transition and adult services and can influence decision making and spending. Inclusion on “The Record” is voluntary and you can register online via [The Record](#).

Other support, guidance and advice

Short breaks are only one part of the continuum of support you may need as a parent/carer of a disabled child.

You may require help with education, health, and other aspects of social care.

For more information, take a look at the [SEND Local Offer](#).

If you prefer to talk to someone...

Parent Information and Support Worker:

Please email with your contact number and a member of the team will get back to you.

Email: boltonsharedcare@bolton.gov.uk

Children with Disabilities Duty Social Worker:

Please contact **01204 331500** (option 4).

Or email with your contact number and a member of the team will get back to you. Email: CWD@bolton.gov.uk

The statement has been produced following consultation with representatives from:

- Parent/carers
- Children’s Health Services
- Transition Services
- Children with Disabilities Social Work Team

The statement will be reviewed annually.

January 2026

