



Norfolk County Council

Your views on our proposal to change our approach to Short Breaks



**Some of the things in this paper
are not easy to understand.**

**You may need help from
someone to read it.**



The law says Norfolk County Council must provide Short Breaks for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

We offer Short Breaks to children and young people who:

- live in Norfolk
- aged between five and 17 years old
- Are disabled, physically or mentally, and find it hard to do daily tasks by themselves



Short Breaks gives children the chance to take part in out of school activities.



Short Breaks also give parents and carers a break.

Some examples of Short Breaks activities are:

- After school clubs
- Summer clubs
- Weekend activities
- Days out
- Residential activities

The types of activities children do can depend on what they like doing and what their special needs and/or disabilities are.



We need to make some changes to how we work with families to decide what Short Breaks children get and how they can use money given to them for Short Breaks.

We need to make these changes because lots more children and families need Short Breaks.

We need to make sure our service works for everyone who needs it.

We have already talked to families and other people we work with to help us think about what changes we should make.

Now we want to hear what you think.



At the moment, we use a questionnaire to find out what Short Breaks a child or young person needs.

A questionnaire is a set of questions to find out useful information.

We use information from the questionnaire to decide how much money a family needs to pay for activities for their child.

Then we give the money to the parents or carers to spend.

They can choose which Short Breaks activities they will buy for their child with the money.



Families are usually given Short Breaks money on a bank card. This money can only be used to pay for Short Breaks for the child, not the entire family.

How Short Breaks could change

We plan to use a new way of working with children and families.

Our main idea for change is to work more closely with families to find the right activities and support and put these in a Short Breaks plan.

This would mean we are thinking about the right activities and support for children first, instead of only giving families money.

To make this change work we will do lots more work to make sure clubs and activities can include children with special needs and/or disabilities.

This means there would be more activities to choose from closer to home.

We are also thinking about paying for new activities in lots more local areas so children don't have to spend lots of time travelling to find the short breaks activities they need.





All this means:

- The amount of money families get on a pre-paid card could change because we are providing more commissioned activities and support
- Families could get a Short Breaks plan which is a mixture of activities and money instead of just money.
- Children and families would be able to choose the activities and support they would like in their new plan.
- They would also still be able to choose how they spend the money given to them.
- For the first time parents and carers would be able to use Short Breaks money for activities for the whole family to enjoy together.
- This is instead of only being able to spend it on activities for the child with special needs and/or disabilities.
- There won't be any change to access to specialist care and support.



Who would be affected and how

Short Breaks packages will not change until a family's next review. This is the same as what happens now.

Children who can get Short Breaks, and those whose parents or carers will apply to use the service in the future, would be impacted by the changes we are thinking about.





We would like to hear your views on our proposed approach.

A white survey card with a grey border. At the top, the word "Questions" is written in bold black text. Below it are two teal speech bubbles, each containing a white question mark. The first question is "1. What do you think about it?". Below the question are three checkboxes with corresponding labels: "Good", "Bad", and "Not sure". The "Not sure" checkbox is checked with a blue checkmark. A hand holding a black pen is shown marking the "Not sure" option.

You do not have to answer all of the questions, only the ones you want to.



Please send us your response by **2 August 2023**



Please send your survey back to the address below. You do not have to put a stamp on the envelope.

**Short Breaks Freepost Plus
RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk
County Council, Ground floor
– south wing, County Hall,
Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1
2DH.**



You can also tell us what you think via our website:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/shortbreaks



Or you can send an email to haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk.

1. Do you currently, or plan in the future, to receive funding from Norfolk County Council for Short Breaks for your child(ren)?

Please tick one box

Yes

No

Not sure

Prefer not to say

Proposal one:

A new approach to the way a child and families' needs are assessed – we want to use a new system to match support directly to the needs of the child and family, rather than match the support to a set budget.

The direct payment amount currently received by a family may change due to how the new package is put together.

Importantly, the overall package will be designed to meet the needs of the child and families. Short Breaks packages will not change until a family's next review (as is the current system).

2. How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to change the way families' needs are assessed?

Please tick one box

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

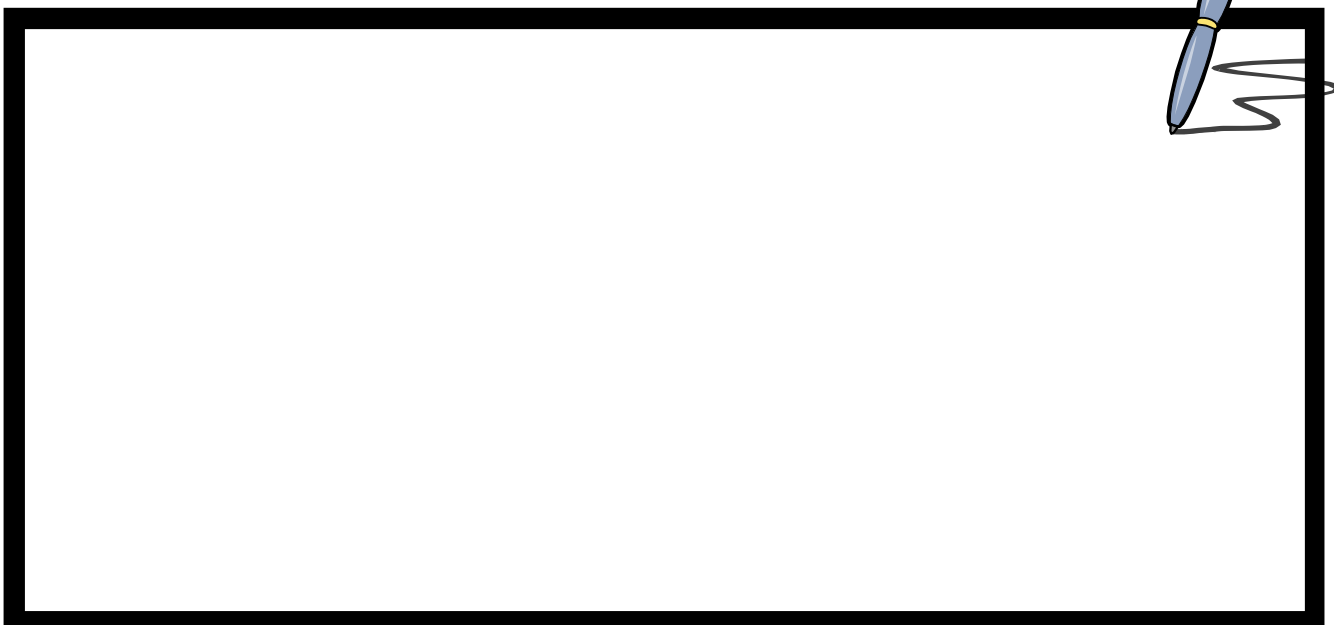
Prefer not to say

As a result of our proposals, the short breaks package could be delivered in a different way, which could result in direct payments for families potentially increasing, remaining the same or decreasing due to some services being paid for directly by the Council.

We aim to increase the availability of community activities which will be inclusive, lower cost or potentially free to help families use their funding on a wider mix of activities closer to their homes.

3. How do you think this proposal might affect you?

Please write your answer in the box below:



A large empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for writing an answer. In the top right corner of the box, there is a small illustration of a blue pen with a yellow band, positioned as if about to write.

4. How far do you agree or disagree with the potential change in Short Breaks direct payments being given to families, with the understanding that there should be an increased amount of inclusive, low cost or free community-based activities closer to home?

Please tick one box

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Prefer not to say

5. How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to give people the flexibility to use their Short Break funding to pay for other family members (adults or children) to attend activities alongside their child with special educational needs and disabilities.

Please tick one box

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Prefer not to say

6. How, if at all, do you think our proposed approach may affect you?

Please write your answer in the box below:



A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for writing an answer. In the top right corner of the box, there is a small illustration of a blue pen with a yellow band, positioned as if it has just finished writing a squiggly line.

Proposed approach:

Offer increased support (funding, training and otherwise) to community activity providers, so that they can offer more inclusive opportunities for children with a range of needs. This will ensure families have more access to community Short Breaks which may be closer to home and that there are enough providers to meet the increased number of families needing Short Breaks.

Community activity providers could include Scout groups, swimming classes, football clubs, netball clubs, music classes etc. For example, if families tell the Council they would like their child to attend a local activity, such as a football club, but the providers don't currently have the skills to support a child's needs, the Council will offer to provide training, advice or funding so the family can attend safely where possible.

7. Are you able to access Short Break activities in a location close/convenient to your home currently?

Please tick one box



Yes - a wide range

Yes - but not many

No - there are some available but unsuitable for my child

No - there are none available

Prefer not to say

8. How far do you agree or disagree with our proposed approach to offer increased support to community activity providers, so that they can be inclusive and children

Please tick one box

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Prefer not to say

9. How, if at all, do you think our proposed approach may affect you?

Please write your answer in the box below:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for writing an answer. In the top right corner of the box, there is a small illustration of a blue pen with a yellow band, positioned as if it has just finished writing or is about to start.

About you



Please tell us about yourself.



This will help us make our decisions.



We will keep your information safe.
We will not share it with anyone.

1. Are you answering as...?

Please tick the correct box



An individual/member of public

A partner/carer

On behalf of a voluntary/community group

On behalf of a statutory organisation

On behalf of a business

A Norfolk County Councillor

A district or borough councillor

A town or parish councillor

A Norfolk County Council employee

2. If you are responding on behalf of another organisation, what is the name of the organisation, group or business?

Please write your answer in the box below:



A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to write their answer. On the top right corner of the box, there is a small illustration of a blue pen with a yellow band, positioned as if it has just finished writing a scribble.

3. How did you hear about this consultation?

Please tick the correct box

From local media (eg. newspaper/radio)

From a social media post (Eg. Facebook post)

From a friend

From a group I belong to

From my place of work or education

The Norfolk Resident's Panel

District Council webpage

Norfolk County Council webpage

My Parish Council

From an email I received

4. Are you...?

Please tick the correct box

Male

Female

Prefer to self-describe

Prefer not to say



If you prefer to self-describe, please use the box below:



5. How old are you?

Please tick the correct box



Under 18

55-64

18-34

65-74

25-34

75-84

35-44

85 and older

45-54

Prefer not to say

6. Do you have any long-term illness, disability or health problem that limits your daily activities or the work you can do?

Please tick the correct box



Yes

No

Prefer not to say



7. If yes, which best describes your condition, or disability?

Please tick all that apply



Blind or partially sighted

D/deaf or hard of hearing

Limiting health condition e.g. heart disease, asthma, strokes, osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia and myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) etc.

Learning disabilities

Neurodiversity e.g. autistic spectrum disorders, dyslexia, dyspraxia

Mental health conditions – e.g. depression, schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorders, eating disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder

Physical disability e.g. limb disorder, amputee, wheelchair user, cerebral palsy, motor neurone disease, muscular dystrophy

Other, please write below:



9. How would you describe your ethnic background?

Please tick the correct box

Asian or Asian British

Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Any other Asian background, please describe below:



Black, Black British, Caribbean or African

Black British

Caribbean

African

Any other Black, Black British, Caribbean or African please describe below:



Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other mixed, or multiple background, please describe below:



White

English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Roma

Any other White background please describe below:



Another ethnic group

Arab

Any other Arab background please describe below:



Prefer not to say

10. Which District/Borough/City do you live in?

Please tick the correct box

Breckland

Broadland

Great Yarmouth

Kings Lynn/West Norfolk

North Norfolk

Norwich

South Norfolk

11. Do you have caring responsibilities?

Please tick the correct box

No

Yes - for children with additional needs

Yes - for older family members

Yes - other:



12. Which of the following best describes you?

Please tick the correct box

Employed (full time)

Employed (part time)

Self employed

Unemployed

Student

Looking after the family home

Long term sick

Retired

13. What is your first language?

Please tick the correct box

English

Other, please write below:



How to have your say



Fill out this consultation online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/shortbreaks



You can send this form to

**Short Breaks Freepost Plus
RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk
County Council, Ground floor –
south wing, County Hall,
Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1
2DH.**



If you need this in a
different format,
please email:

haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk



Call: 0344 800 8020