Support Services including Short Breaks

For children and young people with disabilities and their families who require support over and above that available through universal and community services.

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
The Service for Children with Disabilities is a specialist service for children with disabilities aged 0-18 years and their families.

The service comprises teams which have relevant knowledge, experience and skills to work with disabled children and young people. They work closely with other services such as health, education and community organisations. Referrals can come directly from families or professionals.

Children and young people supported by the service will have a permanent and substantial physical and/or learning disability including profound multiple disabilities, disability associated with complex health problems or severe sensory disabilities and be in need of support services.

To receive a specialist service your son or daughter is likely to receive additional support at school normally with a Special Educational Needs statement (if school age), Disability Living Allowance for care at the high or middle rate, and have a disability which has a substantial effect upon them and their family being able to live an ordinary life impacting on a number of the following areas; mobility, awareness of risk/danger, communication and understanding, behaviour and independence.

Should your child not meet the Services’ criteria you will be advised of other services which may be of benefit to your child.

- **Range of support services available:**
  - Advice
  - Sign posting to relevant agencies
  - Information about support groups or community activities
  - Details of specialist short break activities (formerly known as Respite) which can be accessed without referral from the service.
For those requiring a greater level of support, an assessment will be completed by a Social Worker. Following identification of a particular need, the following short break services may be offered:

- Short breaks (home based care) where a child/young person visits the carer’s home for a number of hours or for overnight stays
- Individual support where an agency carer or outreach worker supports the child/young person in their own home, supervises them in the community or assists with an activity
- Activity/play schemes during school holidays and on Saturdays
- Direct Payments (Managed by parents or available to young people aged 16 and 17 years to purchase their own care packages)
- Residential short breaks
- Others as appropriate

**Home Based Care**

Most children enjoy time away from their family, and opportunities to make new friends and enjoy new experiences. Disabled children are no different. Bringing up children requires time, patience and energy. Most parents welcome some time to themselves, whether it’s to have an evening out, or just a couple of hours during the day.

Croydon recruits, trains, and supports people who can share some of their time with a disabled child or young person. We offer day care or overnight breaks with approved short break carers.

Home based care is where a child/young person visits the carer’s home for a number of hours per week or for overnight stays.

Most of our home based carers will have previous experience with children/young people who have a disability and may have worked in schools or related care services. They are assessed in a similar way to foster carers to ensure that they have the right personal qualities and facilities within their home.
Individual Support (previously known as domiciliary care)

One to One individual support is provided by an agency or outreach worker in the community or family home to support the child/young person with their personal care, play, leisure activities, independence skills etc. It is intended to offer the child a chance to develop, socialise or take part in a community activity such as swimming, sports and leisure activities and give the parent a break. It increases opportunities for youngsters to be included in activities that interest them including universal activities open to all children.

Activity Schemes

There are a number of Schemes, available to children/young people with disabilities, managed by the Resource Team Service for Children with Disabilities.

- **Summer Schemes and Half Term Schemes**
  Schemes take place during school holidays. Over the summer holidays the scheme runs for 3 weeks. During other holidays activities are available for a number of days each week.

  The scheme for secondary school age youngsters is held at Shirley High School. The one for primary school age children is held at Oasis Children’s Centre, Shirley Park.

- **Saturday Schemes**
  The Saturday Schemes run during term time only; on alternate weeks for the different age groups listed above. The scheme for secondary age youngsters takes place at the Peppermint Centre in Valley Park. The scheme for primary age children takes place at Oasis Children’s Centre, Shirley Park.

  The schemes offer activities and social opportunities for children with a wide range of disabilities and are open to children/young people referred by the Service for Children with Disabilities.
**Direct Payments**

Direct Payments provide parents with the opportunity to arrange care and services for their child instead of receiving a direct service from the local authority.

Following an assessment, direct payments can be used in a variety of ways to promote flexibility and choice for families. This may include:

- Short breaks
- Nursery placements providing specialist support for your child
- Personal assistance to enable your child to attend an activity, club or sporting activity
- Personal care etc

Once an assessment has been completed and the number of hours of support allocated, an amount is agreed to fund this support. Parents can use direct payments to employ their own personal assistant or directly purchase support.

As the employer there are a number of responsibilities in managing the short break assistance. Support in managing this is offered by ‘Disability Croydon’

📞 **020 8684 5538** 🌐 [www.disabilitycroydon.org.uk](http://www.disabilitycroydon.org.uk)

Further information and guidance for parents and carers can be found on the Department for Education website.
Residential Short Breaks

Callydown - a Croydon Council residential unit based in New Addington offering short breaks to children and young people who have complex disabilities:

• Provides care for children and young people aged 5-17 with severe learning disabilities. Some service users have associated physical disabilities and challenging behaviour

• Is registered by Ofsted to take up to 9 children at a time, 6 of which may stay overnight. However, groups of children are carefully assessed to ensure their needs can be fully and safely met. This may mean that those who are assessed as needing one to one support may come with a group of 4 children and 4 staff

• Provides care depending on the level of need, this will include personal care, promoting independence, and behaviour management.

Short Break Activities funded via Aiming High for Disabled Children

A Government initiative called ‘Aiming High for Disabled Children’ (AHDC) has provided funding to increase short break services to support disabled children and their families. Many of these can be accessed by parents directly and do not require a referral from the Service; others are accessed via the Service. Croydon has contributed to or fully funded a number of current activities already supporting children and young people in the borough and commissioned a range of new activities for 2010/11.

Activities include:

Action for Children Befriending Service
Ed Whatley: ☎️ 0207 254 9408

Barnardos Mentoring Service based at Peepul Centre South Croydon
Jen Gosnell: ☎️ 0208 651 6045

Crossroads Saturday Club New Addington
☎️ 020 8688 4499 ✉️ www.croydoncrossroads.org.uk
Croydon Hearing (CDCS) - summer activities
Clare Edobe 020 686 0049

Croydon National Autistic Society (NAS) - befriending scheme, swimming and trampoline sessions
☎ 020 8662 4663 меллисса.мускат@nas.org.uk
✉ christine.sellick@nas.org.uk

Croydon Sports Development - range of sport and leisure activities
☎ 020 8760 5592 pearl.sethna@croydon.gov.uk

Horizon Care and Welfare Association - out reach support and activities based at Cornerstone House.
☎ 020 8665 0921 horizoncareandwelfare@hotmail.com

Mencap Treetops Children’s Centre based at Portland House, Thornton Heath.
Debbie Petitt 020 8689 8170

PHAB Saturday club based at Croydon College
☎ 020 8667 9443 janine.williams@phab.org.uk

Royal London Society for the Blind
Activities for young people aged 14 + with visual impairment.
Sue Rivett www.risb.org.uk

Rutherford’s Aiming High Saturday club - based at Rutherfords School
☎ 020 8688 7560 amanda@garwoodfoundation.org.uk

Spectrum Arts Activities - drama, music and film
☎ 07906276207 spectrum@spectrumarts.org

Wheels for Wellbeing - Cycling activities based at Croydon Arena
☎ South Norwood www.wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk

Whitgift Snap - Cayman Easter scheme and an extra week during the summer holidays
☎ 020 8405 6933 www.whitgiftsnap.org.uk

Whizz Kids Ambassador’s Club - based at St Giles
Fiona McNaught 0297 7986129

Some of the above organisations may make a small charge and all will have their own access criteria and application processes.
To find out more
Duty Officer Services for Children with Disabilities
Children, Young People and Learners Department
Croydon Council, Taberner House, Park Lane
Croydon  CR9 1TP
☎ 020 8726 6400

For information about support for Parents and Carers:

PIP (Parents in Partnership)
☎ 07899 893976  ✉ pip.croydon@hotmail.co.uk  ☝ www.pipcroydon.com

Carers Contact Line
☎ 020 8649 9339  ☝ www.carerscontatcline.co.uk

‘I Count’ Disability Register
We strongly encourage parents of children and young people with moderate and severe disability, to register with the I Count disability register. This enables Croydon to have details on the numbers and needs of disabled children and young people in the borough for planning purposes. Families receive an I Count card which assists with entry to a range of activities in and around the borough.
☎ 020 8544 6164  ☝ www.lcount.org.uk