

Short Breaks case study – Lily Low

Lily is 12 years old and lives with her mum and older brother. Lily has dyslexia and needs some additional support at school with reading and writing. She sometimes feels frustrated by the difficulties she has in English class and needs some additional time during examinations on account of her dyslexia. She is able to participate in the same types of activities as her peers.

Current Service	Future Service
<p>Lily and her family can access universal services.</p> <p>Lily’s parents are not aware of the Buzz Network Short Breaks offer.</p> <p>Lily’s parents don’t currently know about the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Local Offer Webpage on the Southampton Information Directory Website.</p> <p>The recent Joint Local Area SEND Inspection report highlighted that the SEND Local Offer online tool is outdated and has some gaps and that very few parents know what the local offer is, relying on front line practitioners to signpost them to services.</p>	<p>Lily will continue to access universal services.</p> <p>The Local Offer will be updated and publicised widely to enable families to have easy access to information on the suite of mainstream clubs and activities in and around Southampton, including school breakfast and after school clubs, school holiday activities and events, as well as information on processes, pathways and support services available in the area.</p> <p>Lily’s parents (all families) will be able to find out more at the forthcoming Southampton Local Offer Live Event running on 10th March 2018.</p>

Short Breaks case study – Malak Medium

Malak is 6 years old and lives at home with his mum, dad and two younger siblings. Malak received a diagnosis of autism and ADHD last year. He can be very energetic and is not always aware of dangers around him, being very unpredictable in his behaviours. He has found the conformity of school difficult as he is getting older now that the curriculum has moved away from play based activities. He has recently undergone an assessment for an EHC (Education, Health and Care) Plan and his parents are considering whether his needs might be best met in a special education provision once he has finished infant school. They have recently been awarded the middle rate care component for DLA (Disability Living Allowance) and the low rate for mobility.

Current Service	Future Service
<p>Malak’s family are signed up to the Buzz Network where they have access to news and updates on services available.</p> <p>Malak attends specialist play schemes which allow the family breaks from their caring responsibilities on Saturday afternoons and during school holidays.</p> <p>Malak attends a swimming group once a fortnight, commissioned specifically for children with additional needs. Malak’s family would like him to attend this group more regularly but it is a very popular activity for families so available sessions have been shared out to enable all families who would like to benefit from this offer to do so.</p> <p>Malak’s family also received a one off personal budget of £400 this year, intended to support Malak to access further activities that are of interest to him. Last year they received £600 but due to the increasing popularity of this option, the amount has been reduced to enable other families to receive this too. His family are required to set up a separate bank account and provide the short breaks team with evidence for all of the spend of this money, proving that it has been used for short breaks. Malak’s family feel that this is a lot of hassle for such a small amount of money which is likely to reduce again as more families join the network.</p> <p>Malak has a Buzz Network card which can be used as evidence for concessions at a very select number of places of interest e.g. Marwell Zoo.</p>	<p>Malak’s family will continue to receive news and updates through the Buzz Network because the family are in receipt of DLA.</p> <p>Malak’s family will receive a new Short Breaks card that will be recognisable by a broader range of places of interest whilst also offering a range of discounts and concessions negotiated across the city.</p> <p>Malak will still be able to access play schemes and grant funded community based activities e.g. swimming sessions.</p> <p>Malak’s family will no longer receive the one off Buzz Network personal budget of £400 a year. However, Malak will now benefit from being able to access a greater range of enhanced/adapted mainstream activities near to his home (Southampton) that can support his needs.</p>

Short Breaks case study – Maddie Medium

Maddie is 8 years old lives at home with her parents and 3 siblings. She has a diagnosis of ADHD and also has sensory processing difficulties which means she can find some environments, particularly those that are crowded, with bright lights, very overwhelming. This can sometimes result in behaviours that challenge. Academically Maddie is very able, and with some additional support, behaviour strategies and reasonable adjustments in school, she is able to manage well in a mainstream settings. Her parents report her behaviours at home to be challenging as the home environment does not have the same structure as school and that is difficult to give her the attention she requires as there are 3 other siblings. Maddie qualifies for the low level for the care component of DLA.

Current Service	Future Service
<p>Maddie’s family could currently access the Buzz Network but have chosen not to because then enquiring, they established that the play scheme element of the offer, is primarily aimed towards supporting children/young people with complex or multiple needs.</p> <p>Maddie would like to attend the same clubs as her siblings but mum has been told that she cannot join because there will be a requirement for more dedicated staffing to support Maddie’s additional needs. The personal budget would not cover this and currently the staff in the settings are not trained to support young people with ADHD. Mum can’t get Maddie to any of the Active Nation sessions which are grant funded through the Buzz Network because the timings of these clash with the clubs that her other children attend.</p>	<p>Maddie’s family will continue to be eligible for support through the Buzz Network because the family are in receipt of DLA.</p> <p>As part of the new proposal, mainstream activities/clubs will be able to apply for funding to support with things like increasing staffing levels or for financial help to cover the cost of training for staff to learn skills and strategies to enable them to support clients with SEND and ultimately become more inclusive. This will expand the clubs and activities available to families in Southampton and give more opportunity for children with additional needs to take part in activities in their communities with their mainstream peers.</p>

Short Breaks case study – Sally Substantial

Sally is 14 and lives at home with her mum and dad and two younger siblings. At age 11 Sally was diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome, a high functioning form of autism. She has recently received a diagnosis of anxiety through CAMHS and has started taking medication for this. She is academically very able but her condition has impacted on her attendance at school. She struggles with change in routines, transitions, and in her social communication. She gets frustrated when she cannot communicate her needs successfully or has had an unexpected change in her routine and this often results in the presentation of behaviours that challenge. These behaviours can include high levels of aggression towards herself (self-harm) and others, specifically mum and staff supporting her at school.

Current Service	Future Service
<p>Sally has been open to social care teams for short term intervals when her aggression has been so severe that it has presented as a safeguarding concern (significant risk of serious harm to self or others).</p> <p>Sally and her family can access the Buzz Network for non-assessed short breaks but the amount of money available through a personal budget at this level is not felt to be enough to enable the family to employ a support worker to enable the building of a positive and trusting relationship with Sally. The family used to use one of the commissioned one2one services but due to staff turnover, the worker kept changing and this led to an escalation in incidences of challenging behaviour.</p> <p>There are play schemes available but Sally’s parents feel that these are for “more severely disabled children” – they do provide Sally with a peer group and feel that the other children would be very vulnerable if Sally attended. Sally says that she just wants to be able to do the same things as other girls her age.</p> <p>The only way to get more Short Breaks is through JIGSAW (Children with Disabilities Tram) but a referral has previously been made to this team and Sally does not meet the criteria because she does not have a learning disability.</p> <p>Sally’s family feel at crisis point.</p>	<p>Sally will continue to be open to social care teams in periods of increased risk to self or others but the relevant social care team will be able to complete a short breaks assessment tool as part of their input. This request will go to the short breaks panel which will assess in detail the longer term support that the family require to enable them to continue to sustain caring for Sally’s complex needs.</p> <p>If eligible, Sally’s family will be given a Personal Budget for the purposes of enabling the family to have short breaks from their caring responsibilities, and enabling Sally to take part in meaningful and relevant social activities of her choice.</p> <p>A personal budget is a clear, upfront amount of money identified by the Local Authority that can be used to arrange short breaks. The amount depends on an assessment of individual needs and can be managed in a number of ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct payment – Examples of how this can be used include; To employ a person who can care for Sally overnight, in the home or in the community, to pay for play scheme sessions or other activities and days out or to purchase specialist activities that enable improved access to activities in the community. 2. An arrangement whereby the LA holds the funds and arranges the support 3. Third party arrangements – where the money is paid to an individual or organisation to manage on the families behalf. 4. A combination of the above. <p>This will be reviewed at least 6 monthly by the Short Breaks Team.</p>

Short Breaks case study – Charlie Critical

Charlie is 7 years old and lives at home with his mum and older sister Chloe. Charlie was born prematurely and suffered brain damage at birth leaving him with complex disabilities. He has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. He cannot sit unaided, he has no movement in his legs or right arm and has only very basic communication skills. Charlie relies on adults for all of his care needs including feeding, washing and dressing. He doesn't sleep well so mum is up frequently in the night with him to adjust his position or attend to his care needs. This has a significant impact on mum as a lone parent.

Current Service	Future Service
<p>Charlie is open to the JIGSAW Service, a multi-agency health and social care team for children with disabilities.</p> <p>Charlie's family is able to access multiple services through this team, including a social worker, a learning disability nurse and occupational therapy.</p> <p>Charlie's social worker has carried out a short breaks assessment through a resource allocation tool which takes into consideration the impact of Charlie's disability on both him and his family. Charlie's family have been allocated a £7000 personal budget through the short breaks assessment panel. Charlie's mum has chosen to spend £4000 on overnight short breaks at a specialist respite unit and she has taken the rest as a direct payment to employ staff to help Charlie access the community and activities that he enjoys, and to accompany the family for days out.</p> <p>In addition to this Charlie accesses specialist play schemes in the school holidays through the buzz network and mum has received an additional £400 direct payment through this service - this has been used to fund swimming lessons for Charlie.</p>	<p>Charlie will continue to be supported through the JIGSAW multi-agency health and social care team for children with disabilities.</p> <p>His family will continue to receive their assessed short breaks personal budget which is reassessed every 6 months.</p> <p>Charlie will still be able to access specialist play schemes by purchasing sessions through his assessed short breaks Personal Budget. It would be the expectation that the subsidy that Southampton City Council currently pay for these schemes will be deducted from the family's overall personal budget. Charlie's family may feel that the reduction that this would cause will have a significant negative impact on the family and may therefore have an updated short breaks assessment to account for this.</p> <p>Charlie's family will no longer be offered an additional £400 Buzz Network personal budget but there will be grants available to community organisations for adaptive equipment and activities, which will broaden the local offer of community activities that Charlie is able to access e.g. specialist swimming sessions.</p>

Short Breaks case study – Christopher Critical

Christopher is 14 years old and lives with his grandparents. He is an albino and is totally blind. This means that he has no pigments in his skin. His hair is white and his eyes are very pink. He must not go out in the sun without complete sun block. He is of average intelligence and is very sociable. Christopher learned braille from a young age with support from a specialist teacher which has encouraged him to be independent. Christopher wants to take part in everything and he has little or no fear. If he is in a new situation he uses his hands to explore. He is becoming quite strong and determined and does not like to be told what to do. Because he cannot see things he wants to satisfy his curiosity by asking questions constantly. Sometimes Christopher can be seen rocking backwards and forwards and recently he has started throwing things when he has become confused and doesn't know what is happening. Christopher's grandparents are finding managing Christopher's needs increasingly difficult as he has become older and physically stronger.

Current Service	Future Service
<p>Christopher is not currently open to social care services. A family engagement worker at his school made a referral to JIGSAW (Children with Disabilities Team) but he is not eligible because he does not have a learning disability.</p> <p>Christopher is open to a number of health services and receives support for his education through a specialist teacher for visual impairment, however, this support is not coordinated.</p> <p>Christopher and his family can access the Buzz Network for non-assessed short breaks. They currently choose to receive the £400 a year direct payment which is used to pay for activities that Christopher enjoys, such as swimming and bowling. Because of Christopher's visual impairment, his grandparents are required to accompany him to these activities which means that they do not get a break from the caring responsibilities and it frustrates Christopher that he cannot do things without them.</p> <p>There are play schemes available under the buzz network, but these are for children and young people with learning disabilities and Christopher does not feel that he fits into these. He wants to be supported in the community to help him build his independence and ultimately enable him hang out with peers.</p>	<p>Christopher will be eligible to receive services through the JIGSAW (Children with Disabilities) team where he will receive a multi-agency approach to meeting his needs.</p> <p>A short breaks assessment will be carried out and if Christopher and his families qualify for short breaks, they will receive a nominal personal budget amount which can be used to give Christopher's grandparents short breaks from their caring responsibilities, whilst enabling Christopher to take part in meaningful and relevant social activities of his choice.</p> <p>A personal budget is a clear, upfront amount of money identified by the Local Authority that can be used to arrange short breaks. The amount depends on an assessment of individual needs and can be managed in a number of ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct payment – Examples of how this can be used include; To employ a person who can care for Sally overnight, in the home or in the community, to pay for play scheme sessions or other activities and days out or to purchase specialist activities that enable improved access to activities in the community. 2. An arrangement whereby the LA holds the funds and arranges the support 3. Third party arrangements – where the money is paid to an individual or organisation to manage on the families behalf. 4. A combination of the above.