

Reading Families' Forum

A voice for families of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities

COFFEE MORNING 10th February 2023 via Zoom

Children's Social Care and Breaks for Parents

The following joined Fran Morgan and Ramona Bridgman from Reading Families' Forum and three other parent carers:

- Albina Brahilika, Team manager Children and Young People's Disability Team (CYPDT)
- Leonard, Senior Social Worker;
- Chelsea and Jo short breaks workers from CYPDT.

If your child has a disability, you can refer your child for a social care assessment from the Children's Single Point of Access (CSPOA). Call 0118 937 3641 and press Option 1. Families can contact CSPOA even if they are not sure what the support they need but would like to discuss this. CSPOA will triage and refer to the appropriate team for an assessment. CSPOA have 3 working days to decide if an assessment is needed.

Some supports can be accessed without making a referral to CSPOA. This includes short breaks, which are activities that a child can enjoy while their parents or carers have a rest. Find out more on Reading's Local Offer <https://bit.ly/3lwpM2y> or telephone 0118 937 3777 OPTION 2



If you make a referral to CSPOA, you can request a Child in Need assessment which is also called a Section 17 assessment. This assessment might lead to supports such as overnight short breaks at Cressingham or Direct Payments to pay a Personal Assistant to take a child out.

Once the child has been allocated a Social Worker to make the assessment, the assessment should take up to 45 working days.

Short Breaks – Brighter Futures for Children has a short break statement which you can read here <https://bit.ly/3yOU2cc> There are 3 levels of short breaks.

Reading Families' Forum

A voice for families of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities

Level 1 is universal services – mainstream activities open to all. Me2 Club can provide a volunteer to support children with additional needs at organised mainstream activities. [Me2Club – Me2 Club](#)

Level 2 are part funded activities set up for children with additional needs such as Make Sense Theatre, Chance to Dance, Reading Football Club (multi-sports), Lego Club and Reading Play.

Level 3 requires a referral to CSPOA and includes Cressingham as above or Direct Payments. Pinecroft is a children's home that provides shared care for disabled children with very complex needs. There are also a range of care agencies that can visit the family home.



Parents said:

- There are a good range of short breaks above at Level 2.
 - One parent's child had been referred to child to CSPOA 2 -3 months ago but not heard anything. Albina will chase.
 - Another parent had been approved for Direct Payments 4 months ago but has only just got the payments this week.
-
- The drop in sessions regarding Direct Payments are difficult as some parents work full-time.
 - Families would like more information about setting up a contract with a Personal Assistant. The Local Offer has a information about employing a PA which includes a link to an example contract <https://bit.ly/3mTAUH8>

RB 18/03/23