

Aiming High

Hi everyone

I am writing to you to introduce myself as the new Short Breaks Development Manager for Aiming High for Disabled Children. Our vision for short breaks is that:

“All families with disabled children to have the support they need to live **ordinary** lives, as a matter of course.”

To deliver this vision to you as families we needed to find out what short breaks disabled children and their families wanted and to make sure that:

Short breaks can be accessed easily, to find out what was already out there and who was providing it. Our next step was to put this into a plan so that the Government could see we were ready and prepared to deliver services.

After consulting with parents, carers, children and young people, you told us you needed:

- Support in the home
- Services to suit the needs of the whole family
- Access to community, sport & leisure
- Equipment & facilities in community settings
- Availability of clubs and holiday schemes for all ages
- Overnight short break provision in & away from home
- Information about services & activities

The groups and services, which we especially want to help with this funding, are:

- Children & Young People with ASD
- Children & Young People with complex health needs
- Severely Disabled Young People aged 14+
- Young people 11+ with moving & handling needs
- Children & Young People with challenging behaviour and/or severe learning disabilities
- Increase Extended Schools provision
- Increase Direct Payments

- Young disabled children under the age of 8yrs
- Developing a Short Break Unit for Young People with severe ASD
- Providing additional overnight short breaks through residential homes, health facilities and family based care
- Expanding support services in the home & community: Outreach, sitting services & buddy schemes etc
- Develop Specialist Childminding Service

The good news is that we have been told that we have the money!

What I am now doing is planning to meet with the providers of services to children with disabilities to give them the information they will need to apply for some of the funding which will enable more children and families to benefit from a short break.

With best wishes

Bernadette Dawes
Short Breaks Development Manager

