



Short Breaks Update

Adults with Learning Disabilities

ISSUE 3: Short Breaks Update July 2009

This year we are working to transform Short Breaks for adults with learning disabilities.

What has happened since the last update?



The Short Break Transformation Steering Group has been set up to oversee the work of the individual project groups. These groups are undertaking changes to current services and the development of new services. Our work over the last few months has mainly been around planning but here is an update to keep you informed.

Development of a new Short Stay unit

In our last update, we told you that the new short stay unit to replace Batley Road will be on Lawefield Lane. We have used the information that current services users and carers gave us about how they would like their new building to look. We have also consulted with community nurses and Occupational Therapists to provide a brief for the architect of what our vision of the new building should look like.

The new unit will have four bedrooms - each with en suite facilities. In the next issue we will tell you more about how this is taking shape.



Changes to the Short Stay Unit at Normanton

There have begun to be some environmental changes to the short stay unit in Normanton. It has been re decorated and the garden is being landscaped. There are still some more changes to take place. These changes will give people more choices and access to more suitable facilities during their stay.



Short Breaks Newsletter

Shared Lives

The Adult Placement Team has now changed its name to Shared Lives. This is a part of a national change and the name was chosen by service users, families and carers.



We have begun to consider to how we can enable people with more complex needs to access the scheme. One plan is through adaptations to properties. Another is introducing a 'Contract Carer Scheme' where there will be paid carers who will live in an adapted bungalow to meet the need of people with mobility needs or disturbed sleep. The planning is in the early stages but this is an innovative idea to provide more choice for people in how they would like to receive their breaks.

What else are we doing?

Carers have asked us to develop an information service so that service users and families can find out more easily about short breaks. It is envisaged that this will be available as we implement our plans to transform services.

The new short breaks allocations policy - what does it mean for you ?

In previous newsletters, we have informed you of the new policy about how many short breaks nights you are entitled to. The new policy was implemented at the start of 2009. Initial feedback from carers about the policy was that it is fairer to all and clearer about what you're entitled to.

In this article we will explain what the policy says and what this means for you. A full copy of the policy has been included with this newsletter.

Who can have a short break?

To be eligible for a short break the person with learning disabilities must:

- Live in the Wakefield District.
- Be aged between 18-65
- Have a significant learning disability
- Fall within the critical or substantial priority levels of the Fair Access to Care Services Policy.
- Be living with family member/carers or in full time Adult Placement (Shared Lives).

What will my allocation be?

The number of nights allocated will be decided according to the needs of the person with a learning disability and their carers following the completion of a Community Care Assessment and a Carer's Assessment.

There are three bands from which short breaks can be allocated:

- Band one: 24 nights (including a maximum 11 premium nights)
- Band two: 36 nights (including a maximum 16 premium nights)
- Band three: 56 nights (including a maximum 24 premium nights)

Can I have all my nights on a weekend?

No. The weekends are the most popular times to have a short breaks with short break services so to make it fair each allocation has a limited number of 'premium nights' i.e. a Friday, Saturday or Sunday night.

Are there any instances when I may get more than the new banding system?

Yes, in exceptional circumstances for example:

- Severe and immediate risk of the home situation breaking down.
- In an emergency for the carer when they have to leave the family home.
- Ongoing need for regular and very frequent short breaks spread evenly throughout the year because of very complex and/or challenging needs.

What short breaks can I have?

You and your care manager will be able to discuss which short breaks would best suit the person you care for. Some examples of short breaks are going to be use of a short breaks unit, staying in a Shared Lives carers' home, opportunities for days or evenings out, or holidays and outings using individual budgets.

When will the changes happen?

When you next have your annual review with your care manager they will use the policy, Community Care Assessment and Carers' Assessment to work out how many nights you are now entitled to.

What happens if the number of nights allocated goes down from what I have now?

There are some people currently who have more than the maximum number of nights allowed. For these people the care manager will assess if the same level of support is still required. If it is, then they will help plan support that will ensure that the person with learning disabilities' support away from home provides them with routine and familiarity. An example may be using Shared Care where someone lives part of the week with their family and part of the week with a paid carer (or another family).

What if I am not happy with my allocation?

First of all we suggest talking to your care manager to see if they can help. If you're still not happy service users and carers have a right to use the Council's Complaints procedure. Please visit www.wakefield.gov.uk for more information on our complaints procedure.

For more information on the policy please contact::

Rebecca Squirrell on 01924 303164 or
Catherine Lacy or Lisa Willcox on 01924 303570

Alternatively contact your CTLD care manager:
Community Teams for Learning Disabilities, Normanton 01924 302400
Community Teams for Learning Disabilities, Outwood 01924 303485



Short Breaks Update

Do you want to know more?

We will continue to send out an update every 4 months to keep you informed about progress.

If you have any comments on this newsletter, or if you would like to be involved in having a say about changing and shaping these services.



Please call **Catherine Lacy** on **01924 303570**

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