**Knowsley Municipal Borough Council Short Breaks Service**

**Summary**

Short breaks are intended to give primary carers of children and young people with disabilities a break from their caring responsibilities. Short breaks should equally provide children and young people with disabilities the opportunity to have fun, make friends and develop independence skills. Short breaks should be used routinely to help parents and carers to maintain and improve the quality of care they naturally wish to provide and should not be used as a crisis intervention.

**Current Offer**

**Commissioned Provider:**

Merseyside Youth Association

65-67 Hanover Street

Liverpool

L1 3DY

Tel: 0151 702 0700

Website: [www.mya.org.uk](http://www.mya.org.uk)

**Key Information**

* Groups operate across the whole of the borough – specific group information can be seen on the Local Offer and at [www.youthactivitiesinknowsley.co.uk](http://www.youthactivitiesinknowsley.co.uk)
* Groups are split into age groups - Younger (Reception age – 11yrs) & Older (11-19yrs)
* **Evening sessions** run from 5pm – 7pm **(Term Time Only)**
* **Weekend sessions** run either 10am-1pm (younger) or 1pm-4pm (Older) **(All year apart from Christmas break)**
* **Holiday provision – 2 days provision for each age group – the days run 10am-4pm** - available during all school holidays apart from Christmas.
* The **cost** of each session is set at **£1 per hour** payable to Merseyside Youth Association at each session.

**Key Contacts**

* **Short Breaks Service** – T: 07881 267543 Email: shortbreaks@knowsley.gov.uk
* **Dale Blackburn -** Manager MYA T: 0151 702 0753 M: 07841145852 daleb@mya.org.uk
* **MYA call the service ‘Choices Knowsley’ and they have a Facebook page that you can look at also.**

**WHAT NEXT?**

To access the short breaks service a professional working with you can contact the Short Breaks Support Officer to complete a request or you can contact them directly – see above contact details.

Once you have made contact with the Short Breaks Support Officer the usual process is as follows.

**Information Gathering – visiting the groups**

* The Short Breaks Support Officer will contact you by phone and arrange to meet with you and your child to complete the necessary paperwork needed to access the service.
* The Short Breaks Support Officer, with your permission, will then gather information from any other organisations working with your child including your school. We gather as much information as we can to ensure that your child has the right support, is safe and can enjoy the short breaks activities to the full.
* The Short Breaks Support Officer will then arrange a meet & greet session where you will stay with your child within one of the sessions – this is an opportunity for everyone to meet each other.
* After you have attended the meet & greet a start date can then be agreed between you and Merseyside Youth Association.

**Attending Groups**

* Once your child/young person has started within the short breaks sessions you will be given a Home Link book by MYA which will need to be brought to each session.
* MYA staff will then ensure that you are kept up to date about any activities happening within the sessions and will provide you with a regular newsletter for you to see what has been happening and about future events.
* For evening and weekend sessions your place will continue until your child’s 19th birthday unless there is a period of non-attendance.
* For holiday sessions you will usually be contacted a month before the holiday provision starts to ask you to book a place with the Short Breaks Support Officer. You will then be advised no later than 2 weeks before the provision starts if you have a place allocated. **A waiting list will also be applicable if necessary.**
* The Short Breaks Support Officer will be available for you to contact at any time.
* The Short Breaks Support Officer will be in regular contact with you to discuss any feedback about the short breaks provision.

***Short Breaks Support Officer***

***E:*** ***shortbreaks@knowsley.gov.uk***