



Short Breaks Service Redesign

June 2025

Background

Short Breaks Service Redesign June 2025

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is currently redesigning the Short Breaks offer in Wokingham to better meet the needs of families. Any changes must be shaped by parents, carers, and young people, so [SEND Voices Wokingham](#) (independent parent carer forum for the Borough) were asked to run this survey to ensure parent carers can feedback their thoughts and views.

The survey was open to families who currently have WBC Short Breaks as well as those who may want to access this service in the future. The survey was shared via WBC to all families currently in receipt of Short Breaks as well as via the SEND Voices Wokingham mailing list, social media platforms, and the CAN Network.

Total responses received: 48

Survey period: – 28th May - 9th June 2025

Conclusion:

The survey highlights the need for a more inclusive, flexible, and accessible Short Breaks service that caters to the diverse needs of families in Wokingham Borough. Parents emphasised the importance of trained staff, secure venues, and range of tailored activities to ensure their children can participate.

Key Recommendations from Respondents:

- More SEN-specific short breaks at the weekends and over the longer holidays.
- Venues must be accessible with trained staff and sensory-friendly environments.
- The Short Breaks offer needs to have different session lengths and times to accommodate individual needs.
- Improve communication and clarity about available services and eligibility criteria.
- Address administrative challenges with Direct Payments and ensure more availability of PAs.
- More commissioned services would be welcomed.

Key Findings:

Demographics:

All respondents (100%) are Wokingham Borough residents.

Age groups of children:

0-4 years: 2.1%

5-7 years: 27.1%

8-11 years: 31.3%

11-16 years: 35.4%

16-18 years: 4.2%

56% of the responses were from families currently accessing WBC Short Breaks

Key Findings:

Special Needs and Disabilities:

- Main disabilities include autism, ADHD, GDD, learning disabilities, speech & language issues, epilepsy, and mental health challenges.
- Many children have a range of disabilities.

Preferred Times for Short Breaks:

- Weekends and school holidays (summer/Easter) are the most preferred time.
- Challenges include fatigue after school and the need to maintain routines.

Session Length, Frequency & Size:

- Parents prefer flexibility in session length and frequency based on individual needs. Over 3 hours was the most preferred length of time.
- Longer sessions during holidays and shorter sessions during term time are ideal.
- The ideal group size is 4-10 children.

Travel Preferences:

- 42.2% are willing to travel 15-30 minutes, however 28.8% would travel further for a longer short break session.
- Accessibility and proximity to the venue are important due to challenges with travel.

Key Findings:

Types of Short Break Services preferred:

Top preferences:

- 1:1 Personal Assistants (75.6%)
- Holiday Clubs (68.9%)
- Sensory-based clubs (60%)
- Outdoor activities (57.8%)
- Swimming lessons (48.9%)
- Other activities include trampoline clubs, climbing sessions, dance groups, and cooking groups.
- Families would like to see services commissioned at venues like Camp Mohawk and TVAP

Mainstream Activities:

- A number of children access mainstream activities with suitable support/accommodations, but for many children this is not possible, even with support.
- Activities families would like to access include swimming, football, climbing, martial arts, and holiday clubs.
- Key to accessing mainstream activities is trained staff that can support the child, including behavioural support.

Building and Outdoor Play Requirements:

Essential features:

- Quiet spaces are key also sensory rooms, secure venues, ramps,
- Safe, secure outdoor areas with supervision
- Enclosed spaces to prevent bolting and age-appropriate equipment.
- Accessible parking is important for families

Key Findings:

Council-Arranged Short Breaks:

- 82% of families would be interested in Council arranged/funded short breaks activities. However, there is concern about the availability of places.
- 40% said council commissioned services would be better for their family.
- For some families who currently have Short Breaks Direct Payments, having a PA is very important and do not want to lose this.
- Many parents value flexibility of Direct Payments but find managing Direct Payments challenging.
- Lots of concerns about availability of short breaks places (if services was commissioned), accessibility, and administrative burden.

Financial Contributions:

- Some parents are willing to contribute financially, but cost is a concern, especially for single-parent families.

Information

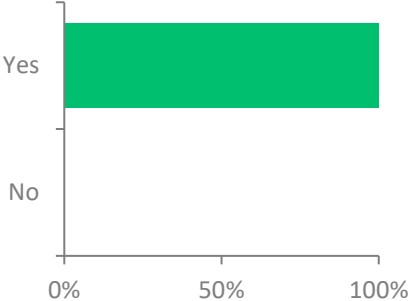
- 75% know where to find Short Breaks information

Additional Comments:

- Parents expressed frustration with limited options, long waiting lists for Short Breaks assessment, and lack of suitable short breaks services.
- Improve clarity of information/eligibility .
- Suggestions include commissioning more SEN-specific services, expanding holiday clubs, and improving b systems.

Q1: Are you a Wokingham Borough resident?

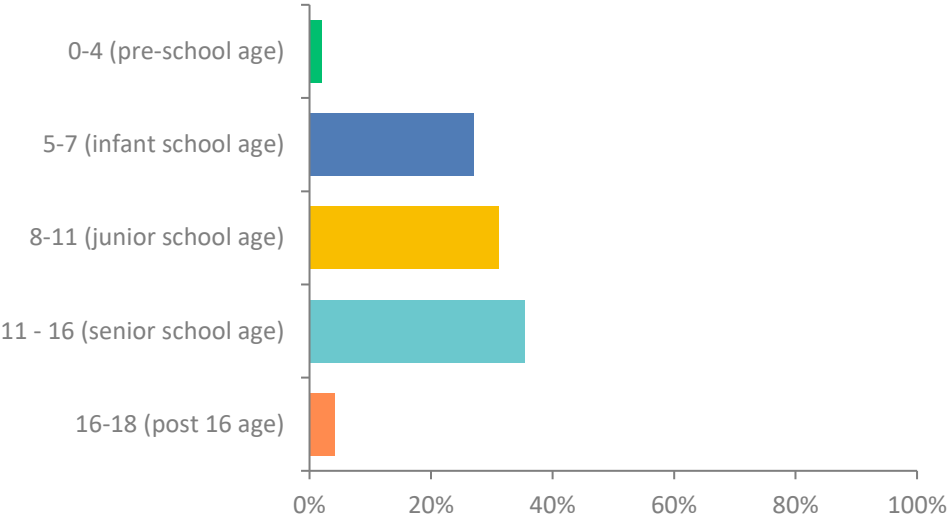
Answered: 48 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	48
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		48

Q2: What age is your child or young person ?

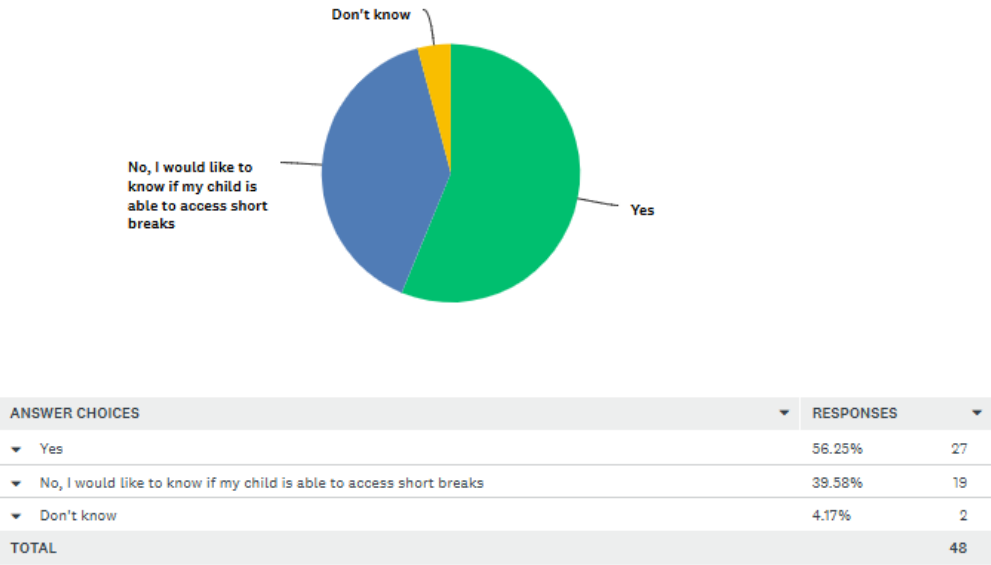
Answered: 48 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-4 (pre-school age)	2.08%	1
5-7 (infant school age)	27.08%	13
8-11 (junior school age)	31.25%	15
11 - 16 (senior school age)	35.42%	17
16-18 (post 16 age)	4.17%	2
TOTAL		48

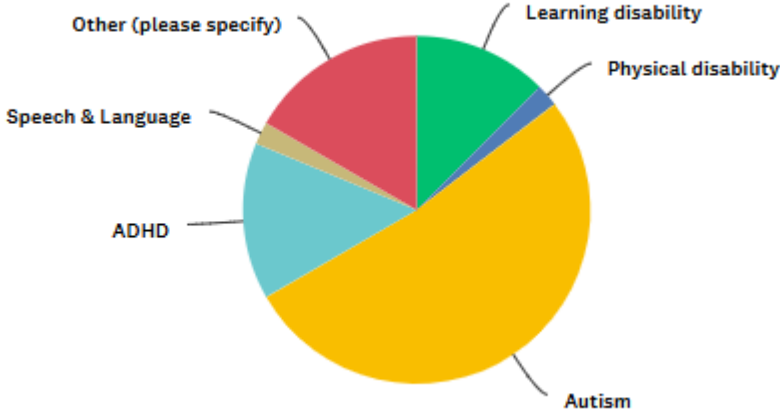
Q3: Does your child or young person currently receive Short Break from WBC? (this includes Short Breaks Direct Payments and/or attending Bridges or Saturday Club)

Answered: 48 Skipped: 0



Q4: What is your child or young person's main special need or disability ?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 0

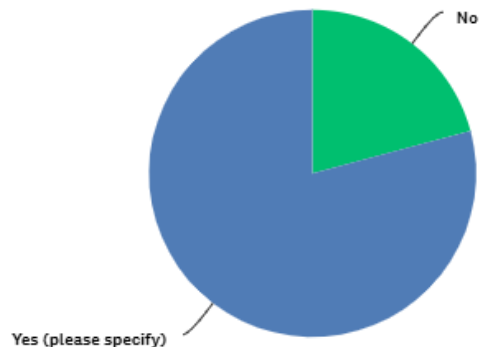


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Learning disability	12.50%	6
▼ Physical disability	2.08%	1
▼ Autism	52.08%	25
▼ ADHD	14.58%	7
▼ Visual impairment	0.00%	0
▼ Hearing impairment	0.00%	0
▼ Mental health issues	0.00%	0
▼ Speech & Language	2.08%	1
▼ Other (please specify)	16.67%	8
TOTAL		48

Other disabilities include:
Downs Syndrome, epilepsy, speech & language, SEMH, genetic condition

Q5: Does your child or young person have any other special needs or disabilities ?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 0



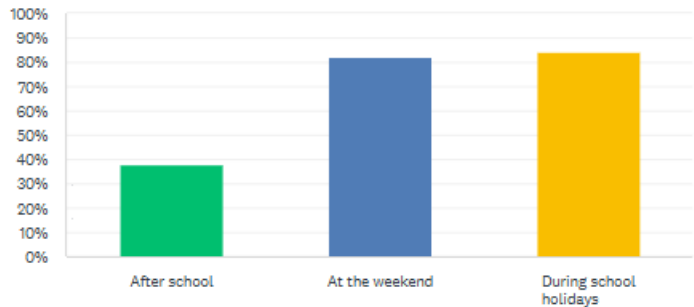
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ No	20.83%	10
▼ Yes (please specify)	79.17%	38
TOTAL		48

Other disabilities include:

ADHD (12)
Non-verbal (2)
GDD (8)
LD (9)
Speech & Language (2)
Behaviour (1)
Autism (13)
Medical (2)
PTSD (1)
Physical disability (1)
Continence (1)
Tic (1)
Epilepsy (1)
Afrid (1)
Dyslexia (1)
Genetic (1)
Hypermobility (3)
Deaf (2)
Visual impairment (1)
Mental health (9)
SPD (2)
Undiagnosed (1)

Q6: What times of day are best for your child to attend a short break? (please tick all that are suitable)

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
After school	37.78%	17
At the weekend	82.22%	37
During school holidays	84.44%	38
Total Respondents: 45		

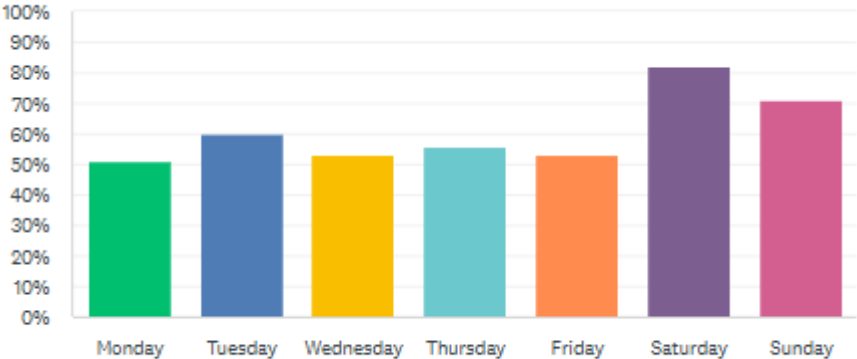
Q6: Please let us know what other times would be best for your child to attend a short break session?

Respondent's comments:

- Weekends
- During school off days, part time timetable in place.
- It would be nice to choose a time that works for us rather than fitting around what is available
- Summer & Easter holidays
- She needs to keep to the same routine
- Morning/Afternoon
- My child doesn't attend school, he has an EOTAS package, I would love to be able to use short breaks to help with gaps in his timetable and to support in some of the activities he attends.
- After school club, weekends from 10-4pm, school holidays 10-4pm

Q7: Which day is best for your child to attend a short break? (please tick all that are suitable)

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Monday	51.11%	23
▼ Tuesday	60.00%	27
▼ Wednesday	53.33%	24
▼ Thursday	55.56%	25
▼ Friday	53.33%	24
▼ Saturday	82.22%	37
▼ Sunday	71.11%	32
Total Respondents: 45		

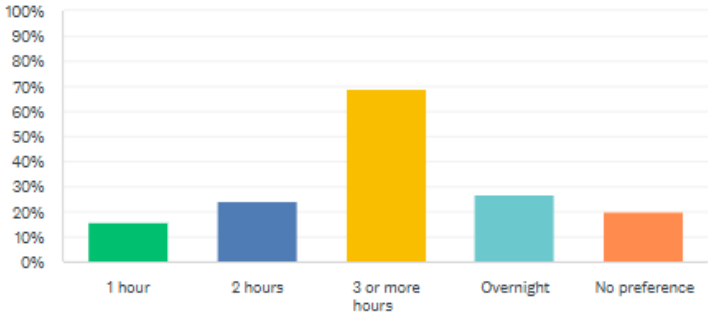
Q8: Please let us know if there are there any days or times that you and your child would find challenging to attend?

Respondents comments:

- Straight after school is more difficult as he wants to go home after school to regulate and relax.
- After school
- My child has a sleep disorder so needs to nap every afternoon. They are very tired after school.
- Everyday during school holidays and weekends during term time. Usually attends sessions between 09:00-16:00, which seems to work for us.
- No such times
- Every day and time will be challenging for my child. I don't know how they would access as nothing is made accessible for my child.
- Too tired after school in the week.
- During school hours - term time or later on in the day
- Saturday
- Sunday mornings
- After 5.30pm. Before 3.45pm on school days.
- Currently Wednesday and Thursday where they attend youth club during Term-time
- After school during term time
- After school as he is tired and attends other clubs.
- Anything outside of her current routine
- Weekdays
- Early
- Weekends would be difficult
- He really needs support during the school holidays as there is nothing available for him
- 8.30 to 9.30am (from 10 would be great)

Q9: How long do you think a Short Break should be? (please tick all that would be suitable)

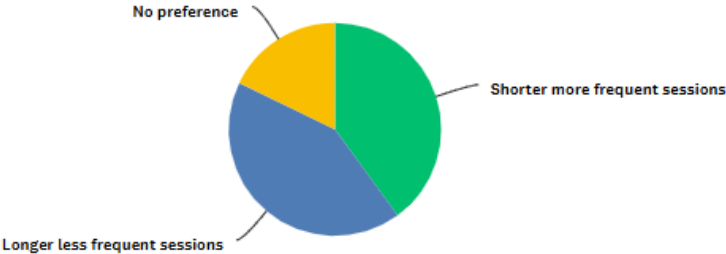
Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ 1 hour	15.56%	7
▼ 2 hours	24.44%	11
▼ 3 or more hours	68.89%	31
▼ Overnight	26.67%	12
▼ No preference	20.00%	9
Total Respondents: 45		

Q10: Would you prefer shorter more frequent sessions or longer less frequent ones?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Shorter more frequent sessions	40.00%	18
Longer less frequent sessions	42.22%	19
No preference	17.78%	8
TOTAL		45

Q11: Please let us know any other comments about the length and how often Short Breaks sessions should be

Respondents comments:

- I think short breaks need to be flexible. Some parents may need regular respite if their child is high need. Others may benefit from a break that's less regular. It also depends on the child and if they need routine to thrive. My child would struggle to just trust someone else so would need more regular input. We also don't have any family close by to help.
- Personally if short breaks are for 1-2 hours it makes it really difficult to do something meaningful with time once you have travelled too and from the venue.
- School holidays are our biggest challenge, as my child has a sibling only 2 years older and it is extremely difficult to meet both their needs.
- From 4 hours + to offer respite
- Again, I have no idea about length of time that a session would be good as nothing is made accessible for him.
- Regular sessions that my child can rely on
- We really need longer break so we can properly rest rather than just an hour here and there, but we've had significant problems finding suitable consistent PA for this so instead have used for camp Mohawk days and clubs, and 1:1 climbing lessons
- I would personally prefer a school holiday short break preferably during summer and Easter as these holidays are very long and it's hard to find activities & give the routine my daughter needs due to her complex needs. A regular holiday club would be ideal.
- Half day
- For holiday clubs and weekends longer sessions
- For after school clubs shorter sessions

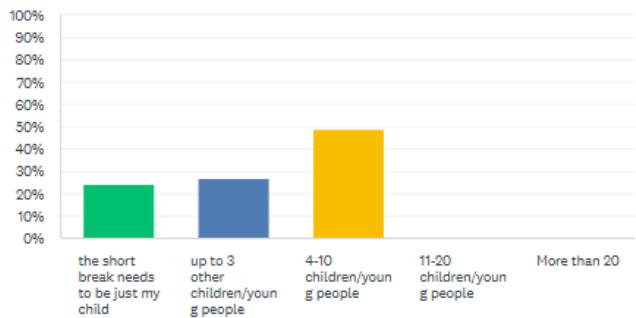
Q11: Please let us know any other comments about the length and how often Short Breaks sessions should be

Respondents comments:

- If after school shorter frequent sessions would be more helpful.
- If in the weekend or school holiday longer sessions less frequent would be helpful
- To prepare for respite takes time to settle child and ensure equipment organised.
- Ideally they should be the length of a typical school day, for the weekend this could be shorter
- Probably during school holidays would be beneficial to have longer sessions and during term-time, shorter breaks would suffice
- My child needs to keep to the same routine as now - 2hr weekday evening sessions twice a week, 4 hours on a Sat afternoon. Additional 4 hrs a week during school holidays
- Regular 3-4 hours a week in one block would be preferable
- Each kid is different and the need can vary from family to family.
- I would like him to have something on a regular, ideally weekly basis.
- The short breaks application is so hard to get, yet when my daughter was younger all I needed was a break as don't have family to help. Need to look at having more on offer and making weekly sessions that children feel comfortable doing and want to attend.
- There should be cover during school holidays when specialist school is closed and suddenly we are out of routine with no clubs or activities available to look forward to due to his additional needs
- At the moment my daughter wouldn't leave for more than an hour. However it would be nice to build up to a couple of hours then over night.
- 10-4pm would be great and after school 3-5.30pm
- I'd like to understand why our IRO refused to offer a short break/respite care when this was raised by the school nursing team when my child is clearly eligible?

Q12: What is the ideal group size for your childs short break?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
the short break needs to be just my child	24.44%	11
up to 3 other children/young people	26.67%	12
4-10 children/young people	48.89%	22
11-20 children/young people	0.00%	0
More than 20	0.00%	0
TOTAL		45

[Comments \(14\)](#)

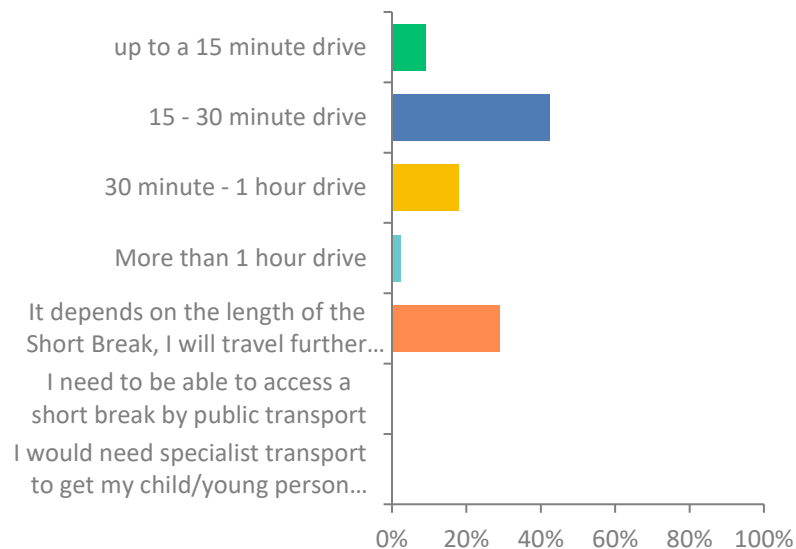
Q12: Please let us have any comments about the ideal group size for your child/young persons short break

Respondents comments:

- My child has a need for control due to his demand avoidant profile so they could struggle with other kids depending on what the activity is.
- No idea as nothing to date has been made accessible to my child.
- Maybe could manage with other children if he got to know them and it was consistent
- Totally depends on staffing ratio, he needs 1 to 1 to manage in a group
- In small groups my daughter might not need 1:1 but an adult to prompt her to do the next task. In larger groups she would need 1:1
- Small group to have social time with a 1 to 1 support
- Depending on activity, may determine the size of the group
- My child attends a special school with 10 children in her class so she could comfortably manage this
- Due to her needs she needs to be by herself.
- it is hard to keep him interested, so to have 1 to 1 engage with him in an activity he wants to do is best
- A small group would be good (similar to class size at specialist school)
- To begin with 1:1 then to build up to meet others
- Depending on size of venue really more if a bigger place

Q13: How far are you willing to travel to a short break?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
up to a 15 minute drive	8.89%	4
15 - 30 minute drive	42.22%	19
30 minute - 1 hour drive	17.78%	8
More than 1 hour drive	2.22%	1
It depends on the length of the Short Break, I will travel further if the Short Break is longer	28.89%	13
I need to be able to access a short break by public transport	0.00%	0
I would need specialist transport to get my child/young person to a short break	0.00%	0
TOTAL		45

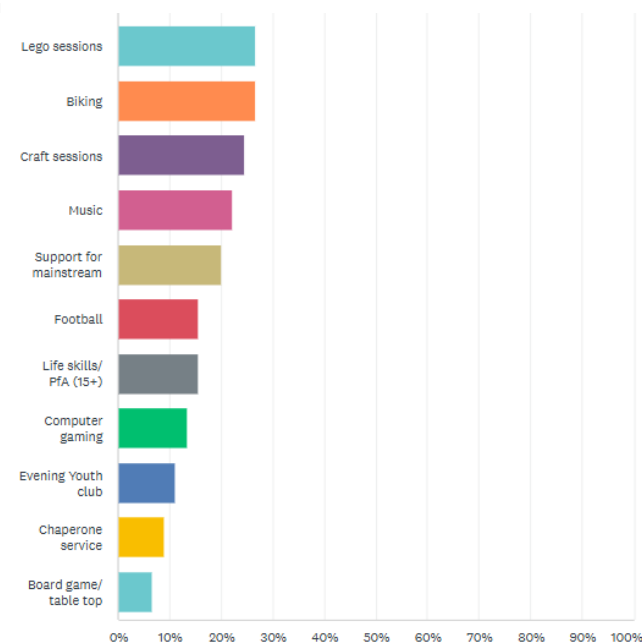
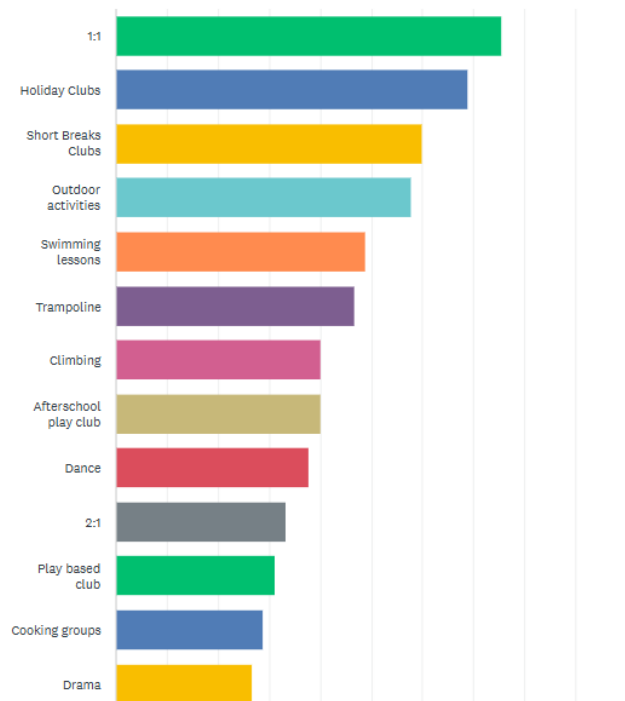
Q13: Please let us have any other comments about how far you are willing to travel to a short break.

Respondents comments:

- My son struggles with travel so anything regular would need a short travel time.
- It depends on if it's accessible and beneficial to my child.
- If short breaks are close i would be able to drive short distance if further I would driver further.
- Would prefer someone to come to come to/pick up from our house

Q14: What types of Short Breaks services would your child like to use? (Please mark all the types of services that you would like to use)

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



Q14: What types of Short Breaks services would your child like to use? (Please mark all the types of services that you would like to use)

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1:1 Personal Assistants (eg respite in your own home, taking child/young person out)	75.56%	34
Holiday Clubs	68.89%	31
Short Breaks Clubs: generally longer hours Sensory based club/activity Independence,	60.00%	27
Outdoor activities	57.78%	26
Swimming lessons	48.89%	22
Trampoline club	46.67%	21
Climbing sessions	40.00%	18
Afterschool play club	40.00%	18
Dance groups	37.78%	17
2:1 - to allow friends with additional needs to share a PA and enjoy and activity together	33.33%	15
Play based club to support play and making friends	31.11%	14
Cooking groups	28.89%	13
Drama groups	26.67%	12
Lego sessions	26.67%	12

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Biking club	26.67%	12
Craft sessions	24.44%	11
Music groups	22.22%	10
Support to attend mainstream activities eg Brownies, Cubs, swimming	20.00%	9
Football club	15.56%	7
Life skills/ preparing for adulthood club (age 15+)	15.56%	7
Computer gaming club	13.33%	6
Evening Youth club	11.11%	5
Chaperone service (age 15+) to support independence	8.89%	4
Board game/ table top play based games	6.67%	3
TOTAL		354

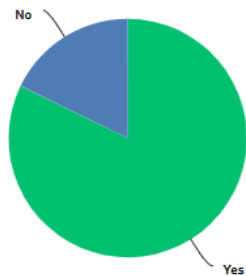
Q14: What types of Short Breaks services would your child like to use? (Please mark all the types of services that you would like to use)

Respondents comments: What

- My son needs coregulation so a safe adult that he could spend time with to give us a break would be ideal.
- Day trips to suitable venues- camp Mohawk, Tvap, Thomley,
- Please note my child doesn't want to do anything.
- Many children are familiar with camp Mohawk , short breaks could finance more days here, if they commissioned Camp mohawk to do it. Camp Mohawk are struggling financially being a charity and dependent on donations and grants. They can only provide 2 activity days (10-4pm) in summer holidays , and this was the only place I could leave my children to be properly supported. But we wouldn't always get a place as oversubscribed. If short breaks commissioned them, many children would be able to go to a familiar place with experienced staff and respite would be provided for parents. I would happily contribute direct payments to this.
- Singing and archery as can access sitting down
- SEMH specific activities like Saturday Club
- He would only attend with someone else if they were someone he got in with really well. Tennis could be another possibility, but if we need to take him to and from sessions this would eat into respite time
- Animals

Q15: Would you be interested in Short Breaks that are arranged and paid for by the Council, so you don't have to use Direct Payments? (This means the Council would fund a service, and you could book your child into it directly.)

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	82.22%	37
No	17.78%	8
TOTAL		45

[Comments \(14\)](#)

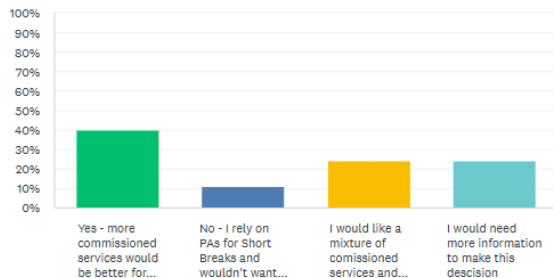
Q15: Please let us have any further comments about redirecting Short Breaks Direct Payments to support more commissioned Short Break activities.

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3

- I think there needs to be flexibility where councils pay for done core services that most kids use / like but anything else parents have the flexibility to use these where they feel it would be helpful for their family.
- Direct payment is the most challenging bit. I don't have time to organise paying
- This could result in preventing children who are not funded for the activity to access services that are currently running
- Depends on the activity. It would be nice to have less admin.
- As suggested camp Mohawk
- Im happy to book my child directly if the price of the activity but sometimes due to health issues I would need someone to take my child to the activity.
- Im happy to book my child directly if the price of the activity but sometimes due to health issues I would need someone to take my child to the activity.
- Having freedom to book his own carers helps and due to energy levels needs to be flexible
- It is impossible to find PAs so this would be better
- Not sure that would work for my child, unless the service funded is a PA/1:1
- but only if this includes PAs or 1-1's
- I would be concerned about not being able to get the booking due to perhaps being bully booked out or finding out late about opening of booking times
- I am already finding the overseeing of his EOTAS package overwhelming, despite it being paid for directly by the council. It's like a full time job on top of being a working parent and I am exhausted. I do not have the capacity to take on any more responsibility so would love for the council to directly commission the activities.
- Would prefer a guaranteed position

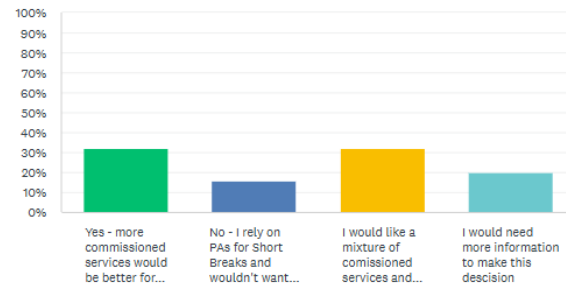
Q16: Would having more Short Breaks that are arranged by the Council – and relying less on Personal Assistants – make it easier for your child to access Short Breaks

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes - more commissioned services would be better for my family	40.00% 18
▼ No - I rely on PAs for Short Breaks and wouldn't want this to change	11.11% 5
▼ I would like a mixture of commissioned services and Short Breaks direct payments for PAs	24.44% 11
▼ I would need more information to make this decision	24.44% 11
TOTAL	45

All respondents



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes - more commissioned services would be better for my family	32.00% 8
▼ No - I rely on PAs for Short Breaks and wouldn't want this to change	16.00% 4
▼ I would like a mixture of commissioned services and Short Breaks direct payments for PAs	32.00% 8
▼ I would need more information to make this decision	20.00% 5
TOTAL	25

Respondents currently with WBC Short Breaks

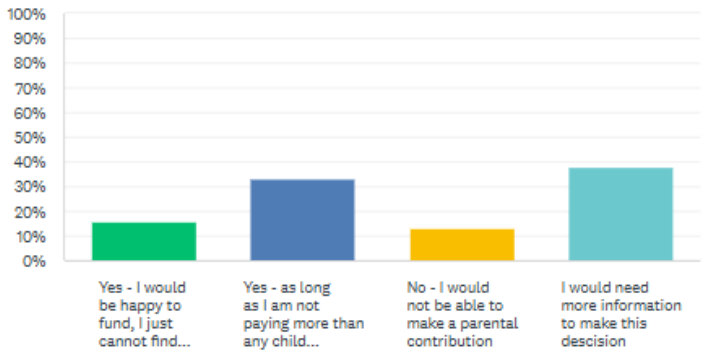
Q17: Let us know your thoughts on using Direct Payments for more activities arranged by the Council, especially if payments are currently used for Personal Assistants.

Respondents comments:

- For our family the biggest help would be a PA. As my son needs a lot of coregulation and he goes to sleep late / wakes early and we have no family help, having someone to take that pressure off and give us a break would help as it's so intense trying to regulate your child all his waking hours when he's with you.
- I don't have the time to manage payments to PAs etc. I need this done for me. Most SEN Parents don't have the time/space to concentrate
- Overall this should be fine but costs of services can change and so the direct payments would need to change in line with this
- Smoother booking system if paid via council rather than through parents.
- The questions are leading towards stopping funding personal assistants. This doesn't feel appropriate. I do not want people to lose flexibility that their child needs.
- Excellent idea if the commissioned services are appropriate. It would provide consistency for my child when PA's are hard to come by.
- I would need to have PA as I have health problems, at the sametime there are days my husband or I may be able to take our child to the activity. Unfortunately, after a wait of 1 year and a half short breaks decided not to asses my child and currently with my new diagnosis I was hesitant to apply again but with this email and survey I have hope that things are changing. Thank you.
- I expect as he gets older and able to access holiday clubs it maybe possible to combine services.
- This would be better as it is impossible to find PAs and is a large admin burden.
- Clear guidance will be needed and clear guide on using direct payments
- The company you use PayPal jet are not the most efficient.
- My daughter needs a PA
- would prefer to keep PA
- There are lack of organised group activities, especially for kids with epilepsy as most of organisers are not epilepsy trained.
- Still to utilise the service, early days
- I would like to be able to use the payments for more activities as sometimes using a PA isn't always possible so would give another option

Q18: Would you be willing to contribute financially towards a Short Break for your child (parental contribution)?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes - I would be happy to fund, I just cannot find anything they can access at the moment	15.56%	7
Yes - as long as I am not paying more than any child accessing a universal service e.g. the cost of attending a SEND holiday club would be the same as attending a mainstream holiday club	33.33%	15
No - I would not be able to make a parental contribution	13.33%	6
I would need more information to make this decision	37.78%	17
TOTAL	45	

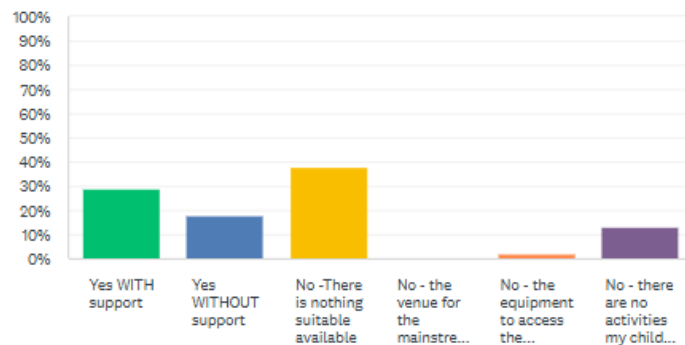
Q18: Please let us have any other comments about parental contributions to Short Breaks

Respondents comments:

- I think for a club the same cost as a mainstream would be ok but I don't think parents should have to pay for a PA. We'd be using a PA to prevent us burning out and give us the bandwidth to continue working a supporting our child.
- We do pay for additional services for our son but these are not included in our short breaks package.
- Limited offerings from WBC. other camps are out of the borough are subsidise for residents and/or available to us
- I would like to know why I have to fund when it should be provided to meet his needs.
- Happy to contribute DLA payments, though much of this is used for necessary assessments that the LA have not provided in order to get my child appropriate support in school
- I would be happy to contribute if the activity is discounted for our children, but if I end up needing to pay all activities there is no point for the support.
- Willing to book on and pay if a holiday club is truly accessible
- We already have to pay expenses/mileage so would not be prepared to pay any more
- At the moment we already pay expenses ourselves, so would prefer not to fund further
- Only if it gave me the capacity to increase my hours at work. Due to my son being on eotas I have had to reduce my hours and each month is a struggle financially.
- Unfortunately as a single parent carer I don't have spare funds to contribute
- Single parents like myself would struggle with this

Q19: In the last 12 months, has your child taken part in any mainstream activities like swimming lessons, Cubs/Brownies, dance classes, or similar?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes WITH support	28.89%	13
▼ Yes WITHOUT support	17.78%	8
▼ No -There is nothing suitable available	37.78%	17
▼ No - the venue for the mainstream activity is not accessible	0.00%	0
▼ No - the equipment to access the mainstream activity is not available	2.22%	1
▼ No - there are no activities my child is interested in	13.33%	6
TOTAL		45

Q19: Please let us know about mainstream clubs and activities that your child/young person has been able to access

Respondents Comments:

- We've had to be quite careful with what we pick but my son does judo and swimming. We've had to put a lot of accommodations to enable him to access these and the settings know him well. He would not be able to access these without. We've had to leave many other clubs because of this and he was even kicked out of his school Lego club
- No mainstream clubs could meet our sons needs. He attends SEND swimming and SEND dance class
- I would love to take my child to swimming lessons. I think she would be too tired to do after school activities like Rainbows
- With support from Me2 volunteer
- swimming but we would need a more 1:1 or smaller group setting
- We work very very hard to keep our son attending mainstream clubs. The football coaches are very understanding but he will no longer attend training and it's unfair on the other child.
- 1:1 bouldering lessons
- Swimming lessons that are 2:1
- Chance to dance, level water swimming, taekwondo
- Only one club within school time with support 1 to 1
- Yes, but he was unable to continue as he needs support.
- Just started cheerleading
- Jui jutisu with very understanding sensi
- She has only been interested in a local youth club which no longer meets. This was problematic however.
- Swimming lessons
- Yes, but even with my support his 5 years at Scouts / Cubs / Beavers has just recently ended badly. He has attended swimming lessons with no issues but we're now giving this up due to the cost.
- A young person supports the netball session and has made my child feel more at ease attending. Child won't access regular groups and activities due to anxiety apart from camp Mohawk
- He has attended cubs with a volunteer to support but whenever the volunteer leaves he doesn't have support so can't go
- BROWNIES I have to support her
- No not suitable

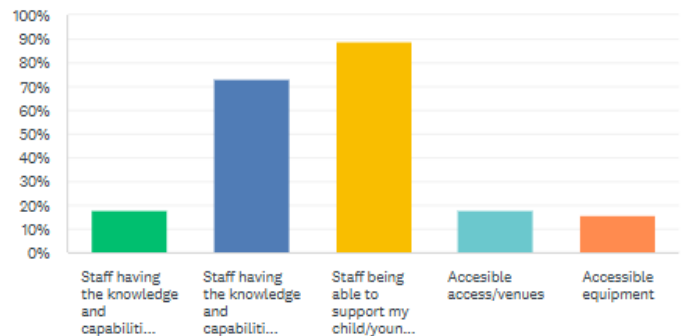
Q20: Are there any mainstream activities your child or family would like to join in with, but are currently unable to ?

Respondents Comments:

- Climbing would be lovely but having the ability to go at a quieter time at the weekend or in school holiday having a SEN session with limited numbers.
- No. I'd like my child to be involved in their SEN community not forced into a mainstream box
- Football/ sports club, Trampolining, climbing, cubs
- "Swimming lessons (SEND class or 1-1) Dance, music, sensory at weekends or holidays."
- Majority of holiday clubs
- Swimming, but it is hard to look at other activities due to the specifics of the disability
- Kickboxing, rugby, gaming, doing 'normal' pre teen things. Badminton. Tennis.
- Martial arts/kickboxing- but has been difficult to find a 1:1 and get agreement to use direct payments for this
- Looking more to the future it would be good to have some safe socialising activities
- Holiday clubs
- Climbing
- "After school clubs Holiday clubs"
- Make sense theatre sessions Holiday clubs After school clubs Sustain level water swimming lessons Sustain take wondo as we pay as well for 1:1"
- He is desperate to join football cricket a holiday club or climbing.
- Football
- Football club
- No
- Nothing specific.
- Martial Arts lessons / club
- Football
- Dance, drama. Autism makes her very anxious about going to places where she doesn't know people, even if she knows the location. Camp Mohawk is the only place she waves us off happily and goes off on her own!
- Holiday clubs and activities
- No SEN places only please

Q21: What would help your child take part in a mainstream activity? (please tick all that apply)

Answered: 45 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Staff having the knowledge and capabilities to deal with MEDICAL needs	17.78%	8
▼ Staff having the knowledge and capabilities to deal with BEHAVIOURAL needs	73.33%	33
▼ Staff being able to support my child/young person	88.89%	40
▼ Accessible access/venues	17.78%	8
▼ Accessible equipment	15.56%	7
Total Respondents: 45		

Q22: Please let us know what support or changes would be needed to enable your child to enjoy mainstream activities

Respondents comments:

- Having a buddy or someone to guide/help him who isn't mum or dad.
- Staff being aware of the appropriate strategies and language to support a child with asd with demand avoidance by the language they use, their approach etc
- She wouldn't enjoy mainstream activities
- Smaller groups, higher staff to child ratio, trained staff to communicate and support children with special needs or potentially a 1:1?
- Makaton training ideally. Able to deal with potential behavioral challenges.
- Better understanding from staff, simple instructions, more support during water activities eg canoeing, no tolerance of bullying
- toileting as our child his current on his toileting journey & encourage to take part in group activities.
- Trained staff to support child specific needs
- Someone to take him and support during the session without him being singled out. Someone who gives him confidence to do things.
- Staff having understanding of autism and neurodiversity- being neuroaffirming
- "Smaller groups, higher staff to child ratio, low arousal/sensory environment, staff experienced and knowledgeable in my sons difficulties, neuroaffirming interactions (e.g likeCamp Mohawk) "
- 1 to 1 or 2 to 1 support
- A 1:1 at all times and a venue that is completely secure
- My daughter would need 1-1 supervision and trained staff to be able to care for her complex needs
- 1:1 support as he has adhd and can't stay still and be able to listen what was said to do it
- Staff to be trained and learn about Down Syndrome. Staff to know about sensory play. Staff to send an individual questionnaire about the child before having the child attend the activity.
- Staff to be trained and learn about Down Syndrome. Staff to have knowledge about sensory needs for children and accommodating to needs through sensory play. Number of staff to be convenient in order for the adult child ratio to be productive and a child with Down Syndrome will not need to count and depend hundred percent on the 1:1 support.
- Trained 1 to 1

Q22: Please let us know what support or changes would be needed to enable your child to enjoy mainstream activities

Respondents comments:

- A member of staff who can support him and staff who are understanding of his needs. It is hugely difficult still though as the mainstream attendees do not understand.
- Mainstream would not be suitable, if rules of the games are to be followed. My child would find certain noises distressing. Also my child does not have a sense of danger.
- PDA support strategies used and understanding of behaviour and that it is communication
- Supervised with staff that are knowledgeable about my son's needs. Experienced staff.
- More understanding around trauma/attachment issues would be helpful
- He can access mainstream activities, but often chooses not to
- Meaningful support for ASD kids. Most of ASD activities/lessons are just free play. The kids learn almost nothing
- Staff members appropriately educated about special needs, learning disabilities, neurodevelopmental disorders
- Someone who understands him well and can help him manage his emotions.
- Funds and suitable areas
- A knowledge of social anxiety and how to manage this in a group activities. Avoiding situations where children pair up or anything where they may feel exposed and uncomfortable
- Friendly support staff to build a relationship in home environment pre activity
- 1-1 support needs to be readily available for children with additional needs at mainstream activities so that they can have the opportunity to participate like the other children can.
- Explain instructions slowly and encouragement to join in
- Sadly not suitable in anyway

Q23: What does your child need in a building to join in and enjoy activities fully? eg ramps, quiet spaces, or sensory rooms etc

Respondents comments:

- A quieter area to go to if needed
- Quieter sessions. Less children. Sensory rooms would be lovely. Buildings with no hand dryers on the toilets .
- Limits in numbers, sensory spaces, specialist staff
- A secure venue so that he cannot run off. Quiet spaces for time out if he's distressed and sensory rooms would be beneficial but not essential
- Quiet spaces sensory
- Quiet spaces
- a mixture of activities and toys
- We can't get him in to buildings so this question is not applicable.
- Quiet. No people.
- Low sensory environment - not too busy or echoey
- Sensory or calm space
- Complete security. No access to an open door at any time. Large spaces to run and roam freely.
- Sensory room, a safe environment where she can't escape as she has no danger awareness
- Something with adrenaline
- Quiet spaces ear defenders sensory rooms
- Quiet spaces
- Sensory room
- Outdoor play area if weather allows "
- Ramp, visual accessibility eg not too cluttered.
- Quiet space. He uses hands to move so grabs things. So handrails are good and not having things that fall on to him. Of radiators that get extremely hot.
- Quiet areas, places to climb
- Sensory rooms.

Q23: What does your child need in a building to join in and enjoy activities fully? eg ramps, quiet spaces, or sensory rooms etc

Respondents comments:

- Quiet spaces, sensory rooms, outdoor space
- Quiet/Calm space
- Understanding staff
- Quiet spaces. Not too busy an environment.
- quiet spaces, sensory rooms, fidget toys etc
- plenty of space to be active
- Adults support
- Sensory rooms
- Quiet space, help understanding the activities (reading, writing etc).
- Quiet spaces, secure building I.e no open doors
- Sensory quiet spaces
- Quiet areas
- Quiet
- It's more actually getting her to go to
- Something in the first place
- Quiet spaces, perhaps sensory rooms
- A sensory room would be helpful and a safe person he can be with who will look out for him.
- Quiet rooms, or a side room away from the main activity
- Large venue with indoor and outdoor safe spaces

Q24: Is there anything important your child needs in outdoor play areas?

Respondents comments:

- Space
- No, just needs to be supervised so that he doesn't run off and uses equipment safely
- Secure
- No
- Things to climb etc
- space, toys and park equipment (if available)
- He won't go to outdoor play areas, they are not accessible to him, his anxiety autism, adhd and other needs are life limiting.
- N/a
- No sense of danger/safety, bolts so entire area must be secured, and must be supervised e.g. climbing as will just let go!
- 2:1 support with fit carers who can run after him. Secure outdoor areas!
- Safety, an enclosed area so she can't get out as she has no danger awareness. Fun outdoor equipment for example a floor trampoline, climbing frame, bubbles that type of thing
- Space
- Safety gates
- Swings seats that support the back (baby or toddler swings seats)
- Flat surface. Rest points to sit.
- Places to climb, swings
- Interesting equipment eg scooters, woods.
- Safety
- Age appropriate equipment

Q24: Is there anything important your child needs in outdoor play areas?

Respondents comments:

- Secure space
- Trampoline
- somewhere quiet
- plenty of space to be active/climb
- Support to explain rules
- Not for his needs.
- Safe areas, closed off spaces
- Quiet safe space
- Safe, enclosed space
- Sensory seeking equipment
- Fence so they can't run off
- Play equipment swing etc

Q25: What should WBC think about the entry or exit of a building to help your child feel safe and comfortable

Respondents comments:

- The buildings can't be multifunctional as autistic children can't understand. E.g. we can't go to carnival library as the pool is there and swimming would be her preference.
- Building needs to be secure
- Locked doors or supervision
- Enclosed so no risk of elopement
- Secure doors, with access to outdoor space
- Think about the children that can't leave the house at all.
- Enough parking so can park nearby, so not too many transitions to get there
- Staggered arrival times
- That it's secure
- Handle child to parent and make sure he will not run away
- No doors that can be opened by my child.
- Have a welcoming adult that would be able to support my child when going in , as due to sensory issues she might get scared from entering a new place at the beginning.
- Automatic door
- Close parking, not loud on the way in
- That it's made difficult for my child to leave, with someone noticing.
- Key fob doors so children cannot get out without a responsible adult
- Make sure it is well staffed, welcoming, to make sure that young people feel safe
- not really, but she is extremely sensitive to fire alarms etc so being aware of this would be helpful as they can cause her to panic
- Nothing specific for his needs, though he may walk out if in a meltdown.
- Signs on doors / signs where not to access
- Safety unable to run away or leave wander off
- One way in and out
- Not near main roads incase of flight and child running off
- Not to busy with posters and bright colours. Wide so it's not crowded.
- Safety doors with fobs

Q26: Are parking and drop-off facilities important for you when choosing a venue for short breaks?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.37%	38
No	11.63%	5
TOTAL		43

[Comments \(14\)](#)

Q26: Are parking and drop-off facilities important for you when choosing a venue for short breaks?

Respondents comments:

- Yes my son struggles with the demand to walk
- Safe and calm and predictable parking has to be available.
- As above
- We have had incidences of bolting in car parks, running into roads. An activity without off road parking would be high risk.
- Parking
- Special needs parking would be helpful for my child
- Close to entrance as equipment needed to bring child
- Need to be able to park near. Street parking is ok.
- But would not want to be responsible for taking him to and from activities
- Disabled parking
- Needs to be easy
- Needs to have easy drop off and parking not at additional costs
- Need to have lots of car parking spaces so we don't have to park on the road
- Disabled spaces, safe parking not on road parking

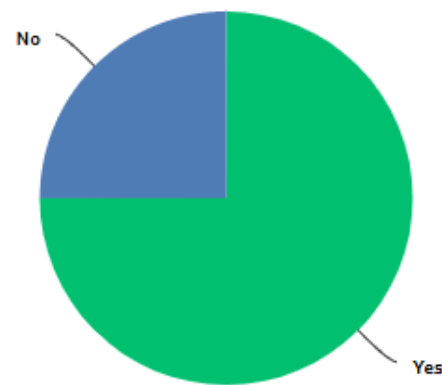
Q27: Do you know of any local buildings or places that are great or not-so-great for Short Breaks? Let us know which ones and why.

Respondents comments:

- Carnival pool/library - unable to use as detailed above. Specialist SEN places are the best.
- Coronation Hall Woodley is working well, it's local and has parking outside and access to the park. Addington school is also working well.
- Dinton could be good but isn't currently as staff not well trained in SEN
- Chance to Dance currently use Coronation hall, great location. Chapel hall- not ideal as only indoor space and small car park. The Oakwood Centre- could be an option but is open to the public but great access to outdoor space
- All that are not my home.
- Camp Mohawk, Oakwood climbing centre and outdoor activity centre - my kids really enjoyed the 3 hour aiming high sessions - Sen sessions with only 6 children and more staff. But the uptake was low as expensive £30 (equivalent to full day at mainstream holiday club) so if this could be commissioned through short breaks regularly in holiday times, and weekends, this would be amazing for my kids.
- We can no longer go to Wokingham leisure centre without great upset as they have introduced a (very loud) soft play area that is not fenced off and saying we're not going to soft play/you can't just go in etc leads to disregulated behaviour. I understand the library have stopped holding their dementia group as the noise from the unenclosed soft play was distressing, so we are not alone in finding this problematic!
- Addington early years school would be perfect for a SEND holiday club or Farley Hill village hall
- Great camp Mohawk
- St Cecilians primary school hall.
- Binfield community center but has no playground
- Bluebells in North Waltham Hants. Sebastian's Trust. Also formally Crowthorne building may still be available to view but it's being sold.
- Addington school, All saints school, Iddon valley leisure centre, Wokingham Leisure centre
- Dinton is a great place
- She likes Camp Mohawk
- St Nicholas church Sutcliffe avenue

Q28: Do you know where to find out information about Short Breaks provided by WBC?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.00%	30
No	25.00%	10
TOTAL		40

Q29: Please let us know if you have any additional comments or feedback about Short Breaks that haven't been covered in this survey

Answered: 40 Skipped: 8

- Clearer information and what you need to qualify/access short breaks
- I've covered everything I think
- I am grateful for the support, but if Wokingham council don't offer more sen only options then my child simply can't participate. Please stop focusing on mainstream activities, and appreciate that SEN children have the right to be part of the SEN community and not be forced into mainstream.
- We are currently finding it challenging to arrange short breaks when Wokingham does not fund certain providers - eg Chance to Dance. My fear is that local authority funding has a huge impact on what is available and access to spaces at special needs activities may no longer be available to the wider community if they are only allowed to accept children funded for short breaks as the funding received is quite limited.
- No
- We need to begin this process as things are becoming very challenging at home for our family. Thank you.
- Have been waiting 6 months to hear back since applying. Holiday clubs which cover 9-5 rather than 10-3 are needed
- I feel all parental contributions should be the same to make it a fair and accessible system for all.
- WBC being able to offer varied activity sessions during term time & school holidays along with after school provisions would benefit us a family greatly. We are so lucky to have Chance to Dance fortnightly now in Woodley, as previously we check availability (after Reading residents had booked) & drive over to Calcot.
- It is hard to find options for short breaks and also it is expensive.
- Nope.
- I don't.

Q29: Please let us know if you have any additional comments or feedback about Short Breaks that haven't been covered in this survey

Respondents comments:

- Also consider commissioning JAC - another local charity who have lots of knowledge and experience but local authority only using as alternative provision for education. Perfect environment for short breaks too- animals, outdoor space, indoor creative activities, and experienced and knowledgeable staff. I have occasionally sent my children to their activity days in holidays but again it is very expensive £45 for 2 hour horse experience or small animal experience- if commissioned or subsidised , it would be wonderful for respite. My son is familiar with this place as many other children through accessing as an alternative provision.
- This borough desperately needs more SEND holiday clubs - there is only 1 available at the moment at the Addington school Woodley site and their waiting list is closed for the foreseeable future. There is absolutely nothing else suitable for our daughter who has complex needs & the summer hols in particular will be a real struggle without this type of facility for her.
- Basically I would like to join this short break with my kids, but don't know how to start
- Wokingham council are failing in short breaks. They are NOT funding enough short breaks! There is not enough spaces for Wokingham children at any sen short break activity. Maybe 3 are set aside for "outside residents" by reading council. Often Reading council offer short breaks for £10.50 where Wokingham children are having to pay £60 for the exact same actually and when these "outside residents " tickets become available they are gone within minutes. Often i am checking my phone wvery 20 minutes for days on end try to get my daughter into any sen short break service. To book my neurotypical child into any class i can book with absolute ease. Why is this not the case for Priority sen children? This is Disgusting!! How the hell is that fair? Wokingham council what are you doing? This is diabolical of you! You do not have sufficient short break services for the SEN children living under your council. This is failure to them! There NEEDS to be more funding for the couple of short breaks available and there is desperate need for new services to become available to book with the same ease is it for any other child under Wokingham council. What a shambles this service is. It is essential that these short breaks services be delivered to these children!