

Draft Freedom of Information Request to all Local Authority

Please find below our FOI request regarding services commissioned by the local authority for disabled children and their families.

1. How many disabled children and young people are in your local authority area? –

[The Children Act 1989, states that - “a child is disabled if he is blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from mental disorder of any kind or is substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disability as may be prescribed; as per “development” means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development; and “health” means physical or mental health”].

	Number
a) Total Number of disabled children and young people 0-25 years in local authority area	
b) Of those included in the number above, please could you tell us their ethnicity below	
Asian	
Black	
Mixed heritage	
White	
Unknown	

We have searched the census data 2021 and the dataset only offers total number of disabled people for Derby, it is not broken down into ages, and there isn't a 'disabled children' variable. So, the answer is we don't have the information.

2. How many **families** with disabled children accessed short breaks between April 2023 and March 2024 (by family we include disabled children or young people 0-25, or their family member such as their parent carer or sibling).

Between 1 April 23 and 31 March 2024 - 403 children/families received a short break delivered by our Community Short Breaks & Residential Short Breaks services. Combined for 0-18 year olds. The children's department does not hold 19-25 year olds data as they transition to adult social care at 18 years.

3. Overview of short break services in your local authority area

Question	Number
a) The total number of short break services in your area for disabled children and young people and their families aged 0-25 years - 0-18 yrs	6 Within the current Community Short Break commissioned

	framework there are 4 service providers and the alternative cash payment offer (CSB Grant) for families who prefer to procure their own activities, plus our in house residential overnight short breaks service
b)The total number of individual spaces available in your area for disabled children and young people and their families aged 0-25 years	Capacity is variable - this is assessed by providers as we refer into them. They manage their own capacity based on appropriate groupings and child's needs – e.g. age/complex health needs/complex behaviour

4. Of the short break services counted in question 3a and 3b, how many services and places are available by age group.

Age group	Number of services	Number of Individual Spaces
Disabled children and young people <5 years	6 – see Q3 above	Unknown as above
Disabled children and young people 5-10 years	6 – see Q3 above	See 3b above
Disabled children and young people 11-15 years	6 – see Q3 above	See 3b above
Disabled children and young people 16-18 years	6 – see Q3 above	See 3b above
Disabled children and young people 19-25 years	None within CSB framework	See 3b above

5. Of the short break services counted in question 3a and 3b, how many services and places are available for family members

a)

Family Member	Number of services	Number of Individual Spaces
Disabled children and young people 0-25 years 0-18 years only		
Parent Carers	NA Families choose community short breaks for respite, so they do not ask to attend unless sometimes to settle their children in which is always accommodated	NA
Sibling	Siblings only attend if they also meet the criteria to receive a short break	

b) Do all the services above include parent carer drop off or are parent carers required to stay at the session or service whilst their disabled child or young person or their sibling attends?

Y - all services are drop off – except for the Grant, which is used at the discretion of the family, so they might attend activities with them or use the grant to pay for extra nursery hours or 1-1 swimming lessons etc and drop them off

6. Ethnicity

a. Of the short break services counted in question 3a and 3b, how many services and places are targeted to families with disabled children or young people from black, asian, or mixed ethnic minority groups.

Services	Number of services	Number of Individual spaces
Black	None are targeted – universal services open to all ethnic minority groups	
Asian	As above	
Black or Asian mixed heritage	As above	

b) Please could you provide the ethnicity of families using short break services between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024

Services	Number of services	Number of Individual spaces
Black	See (4) above	18
Asian	See (4) above	65
Black or Asian mixed heritage	See (4) above	31
White British, White Irish, White European	See (4) above	217
Other	See (4) above	2

7. Of the short break services counted in question 3a and 3b, how many services and places are available to families with disabled children or young people with the following needs:

Services	Number of services	Number of Individual spaces
Communication Needs (such as Makaton, BSL, communication device)	5	Variable – as above
Gastro Needs (eg PEG fed)	1	Variable – as above
Oxygen requirements	1	Variable – as above
Wheelchair needs (self propelling or requiring support)	5	Variable – as above
Sensory needs (such as sensory rooms or quiet areas)	5	Variable – as above
Hoist needs	3	Variable – as above
Personal care needs (such as help toileting or washing)	5	Variable – as above
Dietary needs (support with eating or drinking and specialised food)	5	Variable – as above
Medication needs	1	Variable – as above
Cultural or religious needs (in terms of food preparation or prayer rooms)	5	Variable – as above

8. Of the short break services counted in question 3a and 3b, what type of organisations are commissioned to provide short break services for families with disabled children or young people out of the local authority area:

Services	Number of services	Number of Individual spaces
Out of area short break services	None	None

9. Of the short break services counted in question 3a and 3b, how many services and places are commissioned for families with disabled children or young people out of the local authority area:

Organisations	Number of services	Number of Individual spaces
Local authority provided	2	278
Private organisations	1	8 received a short break via provider in the community through a private organisation (funded by DCC)
Independent		
Community Interest Company or Group		
Charity	2	117 received a short break via provider in the community through a Charity (funded by DCC)
Hospice		
Voluntary Organisations		
Faith or religious based organisations		

10. Of the short break services counted in question 3a and 3b, what times or days are services or places available for families:

Days / Times	Number of services	Number of Individual spaces
Weekdays – daytime	5 during school holidays	varies
Weekday – evening	5	Varies
Weekend – daytime	5	Varies
Weekend - evening	5	Varies

11. Of the short break services counted in question 3a and 3b, how many services and places are available only with direct payments:

Services	Number of services	Number of Individual spaces

Direct Payments only – we do not currently offer direct payments in the Community Short Breaks service	0	0
CSB Grant (cash payment)	0	208

12. Could you tell us the process you have in place with the services that you commission to monitor or review short break sessions with low attendance.

We review attendance monthly using data provided by service providers. Low attendance is investigated, and other services may sometimes be offered if family chooses to go with a different provider (capacity allowing)

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire