



Nottinghamshire
County Council



High Points

Short Breaks and Child Care News September 2009

Who we are and what we do

Short Breaks

Short Breaks is now the new term for 'respite care'.

The change hopefully will reflect better the positive experience of short breaks for children and young people.

DCATCH

Pathfinder

Aiming high for children with disabilities

Short breaks and child care services are recognised as key supports for disabled children, young people and their families. And as such the government's transformation programme, Aiming High for Disabled Children is backed by major public investment.

Nottinghamshire successfully became an Aiming High Pathfinder for Short Breaks in April 2008 and as an Aiming High Child Care Pathfinder in September 2008.

Nottinghamshire County Council, NHS Nottinghamshire County and Bassetlaw PCT have joined together to transform short breaks and child care provision.



To avoid duplication and make the best possible use of resources for disabled children, young people and their families close partnership working continues to develop between the two Aiming High Pathfinder projects.



Sailing away with a shipshape award

Hedley Wright and Sinead Northey have achieved the Bronze RYA Sailability award for sailing the Access boats at a joint leisure activity project provided by Pathfinder and the Youth Service.

Read the full story on page 2.

Take a Short

What is Short Breaks and what

Short breaks provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend times away from their primary carers.

They provide an essential chance for carers to recharge their batteries and to allow disabled children and young people the experience of new relationships, environments and positive activities

A short break may include day, evening, overnight or weekend activities and can take place at home, at an approved carer's home or in a residential or community setting.

Our brief

By April 2010 Short Breaks will provide a full service including:

- offering a wide range of reliable local short break provision tailored to family needs
- support for disabled children and young people in accessing activities in universal settings. These would build on and exceed Disability Discrimination Act compliance and ensure the most disabled children and young people are not disadvantaged
- overnight breaks with care available in both the child's own home and elsewhere
- significant breaks during the day with care available in the child's own home and elsewhere providing positive experiences.

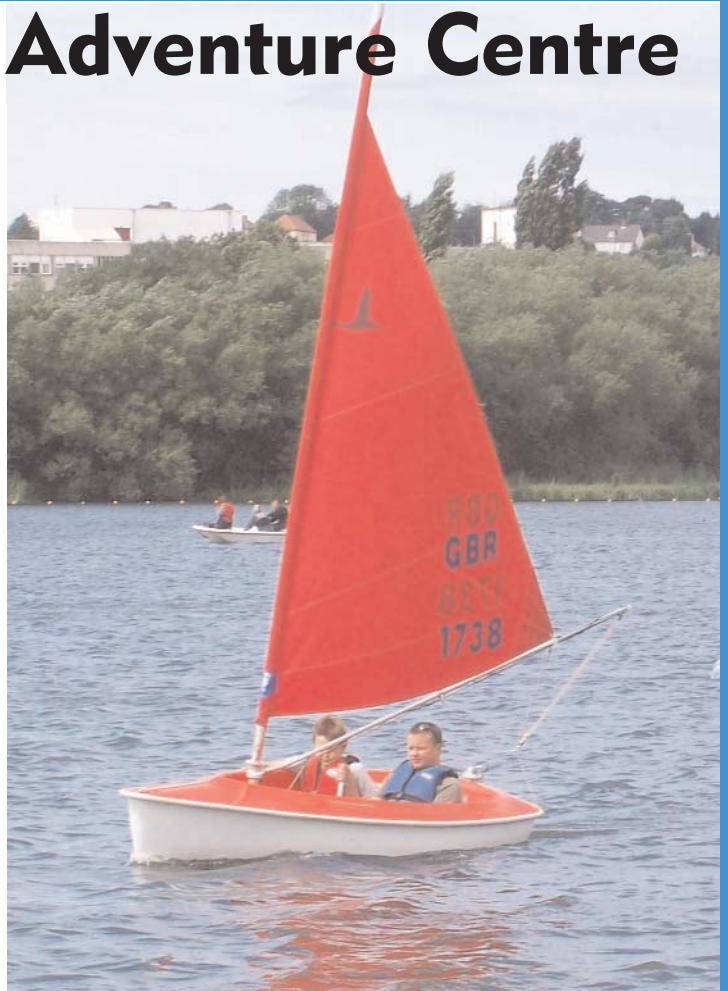
Sailability at Mill Adventure Centre

The RYA Sailability Scheme is designed to provide an achievable award scheme for young people who are unable to participate in the RYA Youth Sailing Scheme.

To achieve the award participants have to sail a short course, help rig an Access boat, name parts of the boat and be aware of their own personal safety.

The project at Kings Mill Reservoir, Sutton in Ashfield, operates every Saturday afternoon providing opportunities for young people to try sailing in either standard or specially designed sailing dinghies. Individuals can either board the craft unassisted or be hoisted in, sail by themselves or with a friend. Carers can watch from the patio, which also boast a cafe.

The cost is £2.00 for two hours including all safety equipment and waterproofs. Call 01623 556110 or email adventure.ypd@nottsc.gov.uk for more details.



Break does it deliver?

Pictured from right: Short Breaks Lead Officer Anne Lobley, Sarah Wilcock, Project Lead Additional Needs, Nottinghamshire NHS, Glyn Connolly, Lead Officer Service Development



How the Short Breaks funding is being spent

You are likely to see our logo at lots of places as we have supported a wide range of services across the county including:

- over 50 percent increase in direct payments doubling the number of Contract Carers.

This scheme is highly thought of locally and nationally. It links specially trained foster carers to disabled children and young people who support them on overnight breaks

- additional funding to play and youth services to extend provision

- evening, weekend and holiday provision

- funding for community holiday play schemes

- providing a new service of flexible one-to-one support for disabled children and young people who do not currently receive any short breaks service.

What we have done so far

We have:

- organised seven Parent Provider events across the county to consult on short breaks and child care

- provided consultation fun days at special schools with children and young people from across the county

- formed working groups that parents are involved in to look at specific areas of development

- identified what services are being provided and where the gaps are so future services can be provided to meet a wide range of needs.



Next steps

To have an improved information system to enable easier access to services linked to the Family Information Service

To have improved specialist training for all staff who work with disabled children and young people

To have a more flexible and consistent sitting and

befriending and home care service

To have a range of services that offer choice for families

To work on the eligibility and pathway into short breaks and to simplify the system

To ask for more ideas about how to spend capital.

Disabled Children's Access to Child Care (DCATCH)



DCATCH Lead Officer, Jo Willis (pictured left) came into post in May 2009. Brokerage Officer Ruth Manterfield (right) came into post at the end of June and is based within the Nottinghamshire Families Information Service.

The DCATCH brief is to:

- offer an enhanced information and brokerage service to parents of disabled children and young people
- support working parents, and those seeking employment, of disabled children and young people to access child care
- address individual child care needs of families whose children are unable to access groups because of the complexity of their needs
- address individual support needs of older children and young people with disabilities in relation to their parent's employment.

Where are we now?

Over the last few months Jo has been attending a wide number of groups and meeting many disabled children and young people along with their families and professionals. This will continue to be part of her role throughout the life of the project.

Jo and her colleagues have been listening to views expressed during recent events and are working on the way forward. Priority tasks include:

- project action planning
- agreeing eligibility criteria
- producing marketing information
- commissioning providers.

Palliative and Continuing Care Project

NHS Nottinghamshire County is working closely with Nottinghamshire County Council to improve children's palliative and end of life care services.

Often the same children and young people who need short breaks use these services and the Primary Care Trust wants to make the community nursing service more accessible for families.

So far it has looked at all the services it buys. It has set up a group of key people who can advise on future needs and has started to ask service users what works well and how things can be better.

Information, kept anonymous, will be collected from service providers about the children and young people who use their services so how close these are to families' needs are better understood.

For more details email jade.atkin@nottspct.



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