



Short Breaks Services Statement

Wigan Council

October 2011

Section 1: Background & Introduction

Paragraph 6(1) (c) of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to provide services designed to give breaks for carers of disabled children. Regulations relating to this duty, which came into force on 1 April 2011, require each local authority to produce a Short Breaks Services Statement so that families know what services are available, how these services can be accessed, and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in their area.

Definition of Disability (In accordance with the Equality Act 2010)

A person is disabled if:

- they have a physical or mental impairment
- the impairment has a substantial* and long-term* adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day-to-day* activities

* *'substantial' means more than minor or trivial; 'long-term' means that the effect of the impairment has lasted or is likely to last for at least twelve months 'normal day-to-day activities' include everyday things like eating, washing, walking and going shopping*

Definition of Short Breaks

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 opportunities to have fun, make friends and develop skills. Short breaks come in a variety of formats and each one can last from just a few hours to a few days, depending on the type of provision and the needs of the child and their family. Short breaks can occur during the day, during the evening, overnight and at the weekend and can take place in the child's own home, the home of an approved carer, a residential or community setting. 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 just be used as a crisis intervention.

2.1 Wigan Council's Vision for Short Breaks

'To develop a range of quality short breaks that children and young people with disabilities and their families want; short breaks which enable them to have the same experiences, opportunities and aspirations as other children, young people and their families. This will be achieved by having a skilled and competent workforce and working in partnership with other agencies'.

2.2 Outcomes

In consultation with children and young people and their families, the following outcomes have been identified as being important:

Outcomes for Children and Young People

- Children and young people with a disability have opportunities to enhance their social networks and friendships
- Children and young people with a disability have opportunities to enjoy themselves, have new experiences and fulfil their potential

Outcomes for Parents

- Parents have opportunities to have a break from their caring role
- Parents feel confident that the people providing the short breaks are capable of meeting their child's needs
- Parents are better able to manage the issues associated with caring for a child or young person with a disability

2.3 What the population needs assessment tells us about what services are most needed for local families who have a child / young person with a disability.

A data hub for children and young people with disabilities is currently being developed, which will bring together data from a range of sources such as the Children's Disability Register, the Aiming High Short Breaks programme, Social Care and SEN services. Once implemented, the data hub will give us more accurate data and help us to identify potential gaps in service provision.

According to data provided by the Office for National Statistics (2009), 24.1% (n= 73,866) of the population in Wigan is aged under 19 years. Based on the assumption that 1.2% of the child population is a child / young person with a disability that requires support to access universal services and or a targeted / specialist response, 886 are therefore classed as the target population for short breaks.

There are currently 600 children and young people with a disability accessing some form of short break provision which is 68% of the target group. Table 1 below shows the age range and gender of those 600 children and young people who accessed short breaks during 2010 and 2011.

Table 1

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Males 0-5 | 37 | Female 0-5 | 25 |
| Males 6-10 | 131 | Female 6-10 | 38 |
| Males 11-15 | 165 | Female 11-15 | 73 |
| Males 16-19 | 75 | Female 16-19 | 56 |
| Total | 408 | Total | 192 |

The information highlights that predominantly more males than females accessed short breaks during 2010 / 2011 and evidence tells us that nationally males are more than twice as likely to have a statement of special education needs.

Table 2

| Ethnicity Category | Number | Percentage |
|----------------------------|--------|------------|
| Pakistani | 1 | 0.16% |
| African | 1 | 0.16% |
| Any other Black background | 1 | 0.16% |
| White/Black African | 1 | 0.16% |
| Any other Mixed background | 1 | 0.16% |
| Info not obtained | 16 | 2.63% |
| Other Ethnic Group | 2 | 0.33% |
| Any other White background | 1 | 0.16% |
| White British | *584 | 95.89% |
| White Irish | 1 | 0.16% |

*includes 6 young people over 19 years

Ethnicity data suggests that 94% of the child population in Wigan are White British (School Census Data, January 2011). A similar picture is presented with regards to the disabled population as the majority of children and young people accessing short breaks are White British (96%). Wigan Council is committed to providing short breaks that are culturally appropriate and through the commissioning process, aims to ensure that services meet the racial, cultural, linguistic and religious needs of children and young people with disabilities.

Table 3 below shows the percentage of children and young people from each special school in Wigan accessing short breaks, but many attending mainstream schools are also accessing services.

Table 3

| School | Number of children and young people on roll as at January 2011 | Number of children and young people accessing short breaks | % of children and young people on roll accessing short breaks |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| Hope | 183 | 129 | 70% |
| Landgate | 54 | 40 | 74% |
| New Greenhall | 77 | 52 | 68% |
| Newbridge | 74 | 20 | 27% |
| Oakfield | 162 | 94 | 58% |
| Willow Grove | 46 | 39 | 85% |
| Total | 596 | 374 | 63% |

Diagram 1 below illustrates the spread of those accessing short breaks, based on home address. The diagram also shows the spread of those attending special schools and those attending mainstream. As expected, there are more children and young people that attend special schools accessing short breaks. A further breakdown of the raw data demonstrates that 54% of children and young people accessing short breaks are within the top 30% index of multiple deprivation (IMD).

Table 4 below shows children and young people accessing short breaks and the locality they live in. The information demonstrates that the majority of children and young people accessing short breaks live in locality 1: Standish, Aspull, Shevington

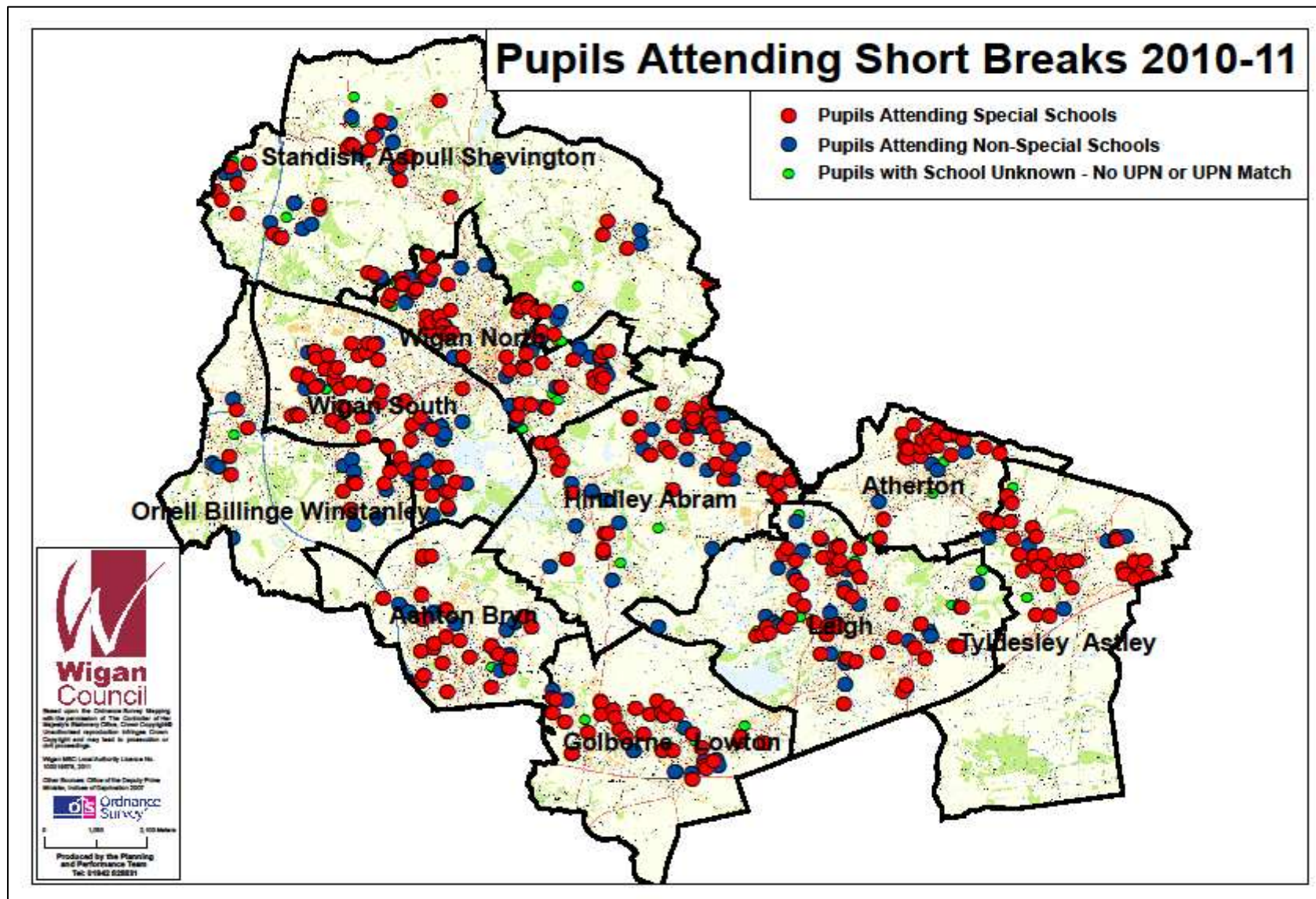
and Wigan North whilst there are less children and young accessing short breaks living in locality 2: Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley and Wigan South.

Table 4

| Locality | | Number accessing short breaks | *Population 0-19years | % of those accessing short breaks in locality |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Standish, Aspull, Shevington & Wigan North | 156 | 16828 | 0.93 |
| 2 | Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley and Wigan South | 102 | 14274 | 0.71 |
| 3 | Hindley, Abram, Ashton and Bryn | 113 | 15361 | 0.74 |
| 4 | Leigh, Golborne and Lowton | 142 | 17153 | 0.83 |
| 5 | Atherton, Tyldesley and Astley | 84 | 10886 | 0.77 |

* source: ONS 2008 mid year estimates

Diagram 1



Type of Disability

It is difficult to obtain an accurate estimate regarding the types of disability due to the varying sources of data available, the lack of a consistent definition and the different categorisations of disability. Data obtained from the Children's Disability Register, the Parent Network and Aiming High regarding the impact of the disability shows that 31% are affected in their learning, 13% are affected physically, 13% are affected behaviourally and emotionally and 5% have sensory needs. Thirty eight percent are unknown. Please note that some children are affected in multiple areas. It is proposed that a greater focus is placed on appropriate categorisation and coding of the needs of children and young people as the Data Hub is developed to obtain more accurate information.

Types of Short Breaks

Based on consultation, families have told us they want more activities available during the school holidays, at weekends and afterschool. Generally families want a range of options such as day care in and out of the child's own home, support to access mainstream activities, overnight breaks, opportunities for families to take breaks together and breaks that last longer than one or two hours. Section 3 covers the range of short break services currently available in Wigan.

2.4 How consultation that has taken place with disabled children, young people and their families and with the voluntary sector has influenced the assessment of need

Children and young people with disabilities and their families have been consulted on numerous occasions throughout the life of the Aiming High programme. Such as via:

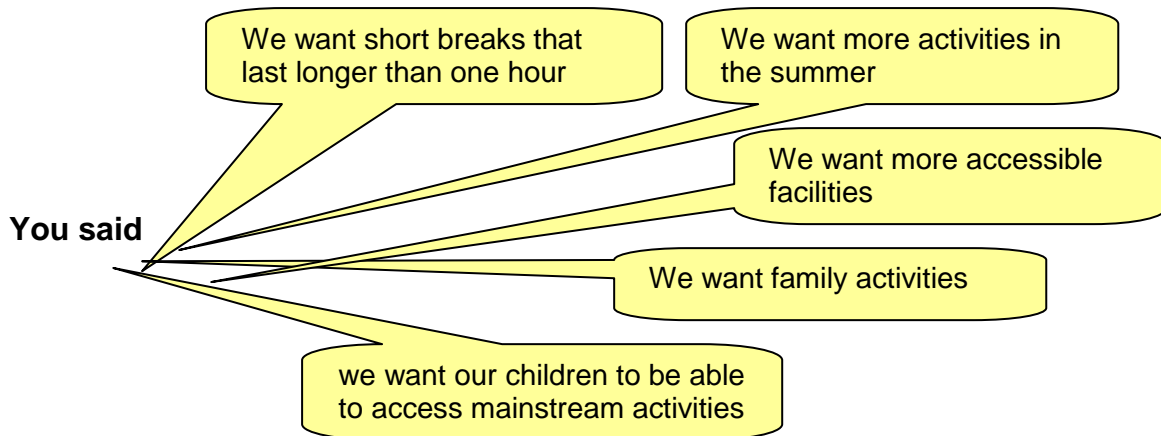
Parent Carer Forum

Aiming High Parent Network

Questionnaires to parents and professionals (statutory and voluntary)

Conferences and events

When questioned, children and young people have tended to respond in terms of the types of activities they would like. Families however have tended to respond in terms of types of short breaks and when they most want them to be available. This information has been crucial in commissioning the services that are now available.



And we did this

2.5 How we are ensuring that these services improve outcomes for local disabled children, young people and their families

Services are commissioned to deliver against the outcomes identified by children, young people and their families. Each service is required to comply with monitoring requirements which includes collecting impact data from children, young people and their families. We also conduct independent reviews to determine if the services that families are receiving continue to meet their needs.

2.6 How much are universal services able to meet the needs of disabled children and what measures are being taken to improve access to universal services

In Wigan, It is recognised that children and young people with disabilities attending mainstream schools sometimes want to access activities with their peers rather than activities developed specifically for those with a disability. However, where they require additional support, this can sometimes be a barrier.

Wigan Council is currently offering mainstream schools the opportunity to apply for funding to pay for an extra member of staff to support a child / young person with a disability to participate in out of school activities where this has been a barrier to access. The aim of this scheme is to increase the opportunities available in this sector.

Wigan Council has developed a quality standard for private providers who deliver out of school activities, for example sports, physical activity, performing arts clubs and schemes (please note this excludes formal childcare providers). The tool is intended to raise awareness of disability and provide practical guidance and support to providers to enable them to offer a fully inclusive service. The tool will help private providers to identify training needs for their staff and will offer support in identifying

and overcoming barriers to participation that children and young people with a disability may encounter when accessing the service. Currently there is also a comprehensive training plan available to support providers.

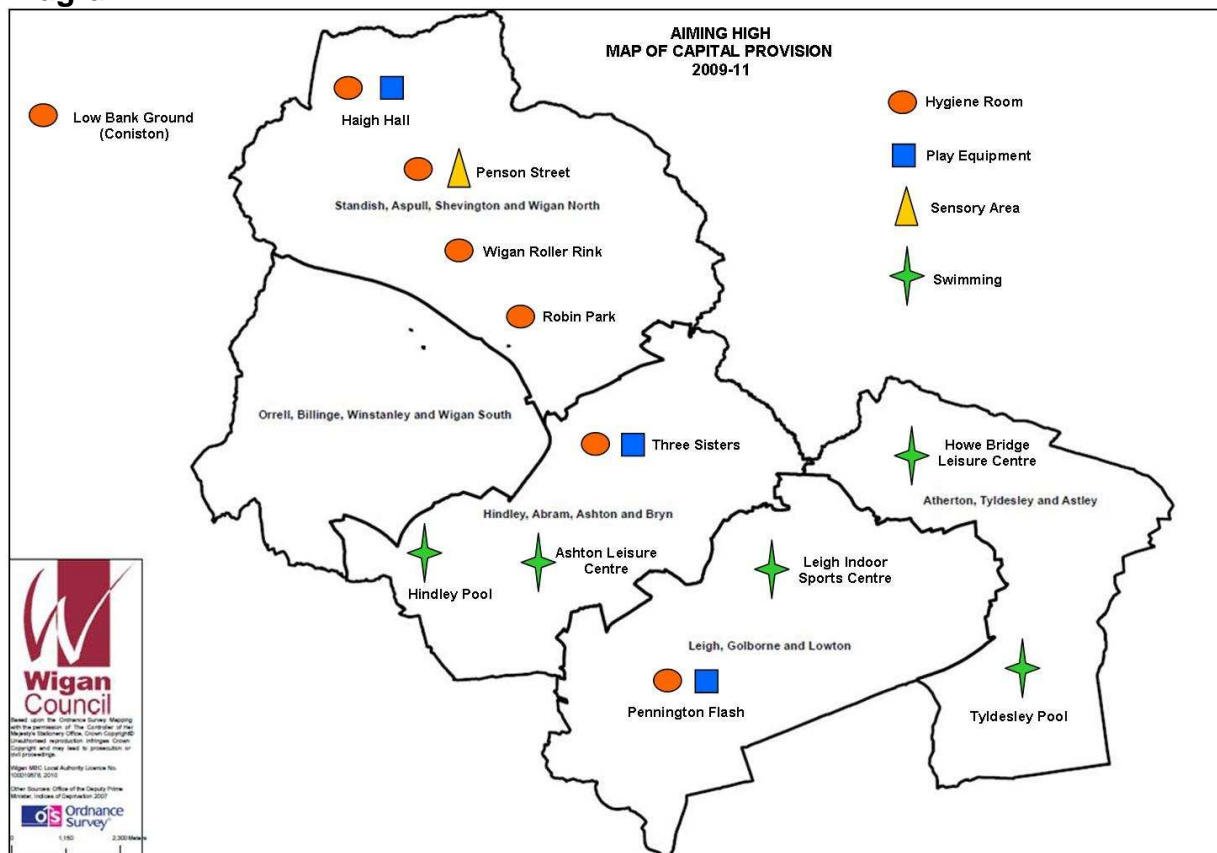
Early consultations with families also highlighted that one of the main barriers to accessing public parks was the lack of appropriate toilets with changing facilities. Families also told us that there was a lack of disability friendly equipment in parks and play areas.

We can walk to the park! Then what?

We have to leave as soon as xxxx needs changing.

Wigan Council have made significant capital investment in developing play areas and parks by providing play equipment and changing facilities across the borough. Diagram 1 below demonstrates the geographical spread of hygiene rooms, play equipment, sensory area and swimming pools that have been provided with disability specific equipment.

Diagram 1



Please note that some of these facilities are still in development and further capital funding for 2011 / 2012 has been committed to developing provision in the Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley and Wigan South area to address the gap.

2.7 How we ensure that those families with the highest levels of need have access to higher levels of service

It is recognised that some children require a more specialist response when their needs are not able to be met through universal provision and targeted services. At present children and young people with the greatest level of need are referred to the Children with Complex Needs Team for a social work assessment.

2.8 Choice and Control

2.8.1 How much families have a choice about the services they receive and how much they receive a personalised service as defined by their own feedback.

2.8.2 How effective the support services are to enable families to make full use of direct payments.

In order to promote choice and control, through Aiming High, families were offered a one-off payment of £250.00 to purchase breaks of their choice. We are planning to offer this option again in this financial year to enable families to purchase their own short break.

If following a specialist social care assessment families are eligible for services, this may be provided in the form of a direct payment

2.9 How far transport supports access and promotes greater degrees of independence where appropriate

Wigan Council may provide transport where it becomes a barrier to accessing services. This will be provided fairly but not unnecessarily. Wigan Council will be looking at how costs can be kept to a minimum without preventing any child from enjoying a break.

2.10 How far services promote transition to adult services for disabled young people

At present there is a limited programme for young people in transition and we will aim to address this gap in the next commissioning cycle.

2.11 What is being done to improve the skills of the workforce

A Short Breaks Training Plan was launched in September 2010 to enable the children's workforce to develop skills and knowledge in order to be in a position to support children and young people with disabilities. It is acknowledged that training is not the only course of action required to enable services to become more inclusive but it is recognised that it is a step in the right direction. Since the plan was launched, it has been refined based on demand for particular courses and feedback gained from Wigan Council providers, voluntary providers and parents. The most recent information highlights the need for the following training courses: Safeguarding Children with Disabilities, Equality and Diversity, Paediatric First Aid, Communication Skills, Autism Awareness, Sign Along and Promoting Positive Behaviour. However, we will continue to seek feedback and commission training on a needs led basis.

To help improve the quality of service delivery, a Health and Safety Audit and a Safeguarding Audit have been developed to complete with all services commissioned to deliver short breaks under the banner of Aiming High for Disabled Children. The audits help to identify the training needs of staff and volunteers and an action plan is drawn up with recommended training courses that can be accessed through the Short Breaks Training Plan.

Section 3: The Range of Short Break Services Currently Available in Wigan

3.1 Crossroads Care

Crossroads Care provide one to one support for children and young people with disabilities following an assessment of need. A typical short break is 3 hours however, this can be extended dependent on the needs of the family. Crossroads complete an individual care plan for each child / young person and match the child / young person with the most appropriate member of staff. Support can be provided in the child's own home or within the community.

3.2 Parent Support, Practical & Emotional

Embrace Wigan and Leigh provide both practical and emotional support to parents who have a child / young person with a disability aged 0-19years. Practical support includes providing information regarding existing services, information on disability rights, help with the completion of forms e.g. DLA (particularly for those who may have literacy problems), advocacy and advice and support re: housing and benefits. Emotional support is provided through a peer befriending model.

3.3 Duke of Edinburgh Award / Summer Activity Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is for young people aged 14 to 19 years with a disability. Young people are given the opportunity to achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold awards alongside their peers. The award is split into four sections and includes: expedition (this is a 3 night residential), physical, service (which is about giving something back to the community) and a skills section. Embrace also provide activities for young people with disabilities aged 14 to 19 years during the summer holidays and October half term.

Activities are determined in consultation with the young people and are designed to provide variety, stimulation and learning opportunities

3.4 Landgate Outreach

Landgate House deliver an outreach programme for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). The service delivers targeted work to families in order to reduce the impact that their child or young person's challenging behaviour can have on the family. The main aim of the service is to develop communication skills within the family home to enable families, children and young people to reach their full potential. The service suggests ways of preventing the behaviour or ways of responding to it which, over time, will reduce its frequency.

3.5 Leisure for All

Leisure for All offers a team of trained and experienced staff and volunteers to support children and young people with disabilities and complex health needs aged 3 to 19 years, to access a wide range of leisure activities across the borough. The activities include both regular and one off activities and several residential holiday breaks – taking place in school holiday time, evenings and weekends.

3.6 Peer Befriending

The peer befriending programme was commissioned to provide support to young people aged 16-19 years with disabilities to do similar activities as their non disabled peers. This has included shopping, going for lunch, going to the cinema, going for beauty treatments and just 'hanging out' etc. Where possible, young people are matched with a volunteer of a similar age. Due to increase in demand, the age range has been reduced to 10 – 19 years.

3.7 WCVYS

Wigan Council for Voluntary Youth Service provide a weekly youth group for young people with a physical disability aged 13 to 19 years. Young people are central to the development of the group and activities are determined in consultation with the group, some of which have included arts and craft, hairstyling, animation and model making, painting and outside activities.

3.8 Wigan Leisure Culture Trust

Wigan Leisure Culture Trust provide targeted leisure and sporting activities for children and young people with challenging behaviours and integrated activities for all children and young people. Activities include disability specific sports such as boccia, new age kurling, goalball, sitting volleyball, wheels for all and rebound therapy and mainstream sports including football, tag rugby, cricket and athletics and multi skill activities centred around the fundamentals of agility, balance and co-ordination.

3.9 Small Grants

Special Schools across the borough were invited to apply for a small grant to deliver extra curricular activities.

3.10 Ladies Lane Residential

Ladies Lane provide overnight stays and short term care for children and young people who have severe learning disabilities and some of whom may have complex needs. There are 5 beds available at Ladies Lane and most children and young people stay between 1 and 4 nights consecutively, to ensure fair access to services. The service is available to children and young people after a full assessment of needs has been undertaken by a social worker.

3.11 Family Network

Family network recruit and train short break carers to provide a range of services to children and young people with a disability following a social work assessment.

Services provided include:

- Sitting service; providing support within the child's own home
- Day care; providing support in an approved carers home
- Overnight stays; providing overnight stays within an approved carers home

3.12 Direct Payments, CYPs

Following a social work assessment, the assessed need of a child or young person can be met either by the provision of a service or by the provision of a direct payment in lieu of that service. Direct payments enable families to have more control, choice and flexibility in how their child's needs are met e.g. the person providing the support, the timing of the support. Parents / carers must be willing and able to manage direct payments.

3.13 Home Care

Home care services are for people who need help with personal care such as washing and dressing, assistance going to bed and getting out of bed. Home care services are provided to families whose child has an assessed need that can be provided by that service.

These may include children who without support:

- are at risk of going into care
- their parents may not be able to continue to care
- are facing immediate risk of injury
- have a terminal illness
- are vulnerable children
- are members of vulnerable families

3.14 Age Ranges Catered For by Services

| Age Range | Crossroads | Leisure for All | DoE | Peer Befriending | Landgate Outreach | WCVYS | WLCT | Hope Senior | Crazy Caterpillars | Oakfield | New Greenhall | Willow Grove | Ladies Lane | Family Network | Homecare |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|-----|------------------|-------------------|-------|------|-------------|--------------------|----------|---------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| 0-5 | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6-10 | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 11-15 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 16-19 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Section 4: Statement Summary

- 4.1 This statement has been developed through the Disability Innovation Board which is a multi agency partnership consisting of the local authority (including Social Care, SEN and Early Years) and the Health Service. The named officer responsible for preparing the statement is the Service Manager Targeted Pathways.
- 4.2 The Short Break Service Statement will be available on Wigan Council's website. A summary of the statement will also be made available and distributed to all families on the Children's Disability Data Hub. The statement will be advertised and a link provided in the Children's Disability Newsletter, the Wigan Governor and Borough Life.
- 4.3 The statement will be monitored on a quarterly basis using short break information that is routinely collected by the local authority. The statement will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with stakeholders to inform the commissioning process and to ensure that the services we provide continue to meet need. The first review will take place in preparation for the next commissioning cycle which starts on the 1st April 2012.
- 4.4 The Council is currently re-designing some services to ensure that children and young people who require support are able to access services in a timely and co-ordinated way. The development of the 0-19 Gateway and Targeted Disability Pathway will support this.