

Nottinghamshire
County Council



Aim High

Enhanced Breaks Bulletin October 2009

Enhanced Breaks for disabled children and young people, and their families

Helping you get away together

Enhanced Breaks can take place at a variety of locations to meet the needs of the family. For example this year families used the Thomas Centre in Lincolnshire, the Calvert Trust in the Lake District, Center Parcs and Butlins while other families chose to rent a caravan or bungalow at the seaside.

During the summer 14 families enjoyed a family holiday with their disabled child with the help of Enhanced Breaks support.

If you think your family would be eligible for Enhanced Breaks support turn to the back page for details of how to apply.

What is an Enhanced Break?

Enhanced Breaks have been introduced to offer a holiday alternative to families with disabled children and young people.

It gives eligible families the option to take their children away with them on holiday instead of using an increased allocation at their existing residential Short Breaks unit.

During autumn 2008 families, who could

apply, were informed of this new service by the residential units where their child would normally receive a Short Break.

For 2010 Enhanced Breaks will be available to eligible families who



have a child receiving an existing overnight Short Breaks package from the Big House, Caudwell House, Minster View, Contract Care or the Children's Development Centre.



Sophie's story
What did Sophie get up to?
Find out on page 3

The chance to enhance

Last year 14 families enjoyed a holiday with their disabled child, funded by Enhanced Breaks. From the comments we've received it seems like a happy and enjoyable time was had by all. And, thanks to all the families who got in touch, we're able to share some of their experiences with you.



Looking forward to next year

We're happy to be say that most families who enjoyed an Enhanced Breaks holiday told us they had a relaxing and happy time and would like to do it again.

But, as with most new schemes, there were one or two teething problems.

A couple of families said they had a problem with late payment of the Enhanced Breaks grant which we apologise for and have highlighted for next year.

Procedures will be put into place to ensure prompt payment.

One family reported that access to the swimming pool was not, in fact, available as they had been told which was disappointing for their daughter. It is worth checking with the holiday venue when you book that they really understand what your child will need to enjoy the facilities available.

And another family would have liked to have booked a bit further in advance as they found their choice of dates was limited.

Ned's holiday diary

Our first day

It took 120 minutes to get to the Thomas Centre and we were lucky to have the biggest TV. Daddy had bought The Incredibles DVD but they already had it.

Our second day

I met David and had the greeting thing in Josie's Corner.



Our seventh day

We played Chase again and in one shot me and Emma were walking round the playbarn trying to find out who was on. Then David raced round the corner running away from Matthew.

Our eighth day

David had a few time to play with us then he left so me, Emma and Matthew played Dob until we had to leave.

Best subject: Playing Catch.

Worst subject: Getting the shooter broken.

And other families said...

There was a lovely feeling of understanding, empathy and tolerance shared between the families

Our third day Forgotten.

Our fourth day

I met Emma and Matthew and picked up Paul from the station. That night Teddy and Tedenna had their wedding followed by the doughnuts and cake.

Our fifth day

We went to a real live train place and wanted to buy HORNBY Edward in a shop for £59.00 but Mummy didn't believe I had that much...it's so unfair.

Our sixth day

Forgotten.

He was able to 'run free', his behaviour was totally accepted

George loved the open spaces, the large adapted unit, he could be himself



family holidays

Sophie's story

Fourteen year old Sophie, along with her mum, twin sisters Katie and Charly (10) and grandad (70) enjoyed an activity packed Enhanced Breaks self-catering holiday in the Lake District organised by the Calvert Trust.

Staying in a very old cottage in Keswick, fully equipped to meet

the needs of disabled people, Sophie and her family enjoyed a host of indoor and outdoor activities including a climbing wall, swimming, archery and sailing.

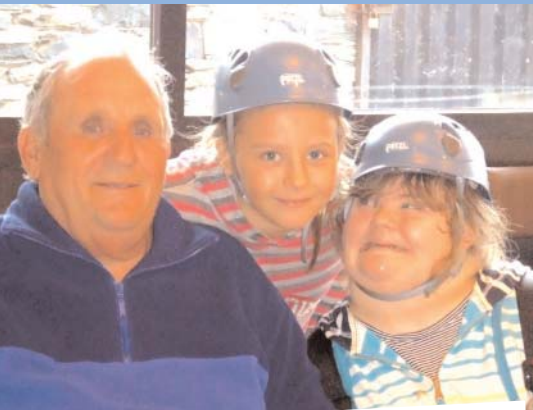
Adjoining their cottage was a fully equipped stables with hoists and equipment to enable everyone to enjoy horse riding.

Sophie's mum commented: 'For each activity you meet at the main centre, undergo a brief training talk, get your equipment from the store that you need for the day, and then are taken by minibus to your venue.'

'It was delightful to be able to see



all three of my girls participate in such thrilling activities. 'And grandad has got to 70 and travelled all over the world but never been sailing and had the best holiday ever.'



All in all an excellent holiday that each of us could participate in fully and together

We did lots of fun activities like rock climbing, giant swing, abseiling, trapeze, sailing, canoeing, went on a catamaran, pony tracking and lots more. I highly recommend it.

By Charly Robertson

I liked the climbing wall the best. I could do it with my sisters!

by Sophie Robertson

You can do lots of different activities...I think it is the best holiday resort ever! And there is a bath with a seat in it. They provide lots of things for the disabled.

by Katie Robertson

And other families said...

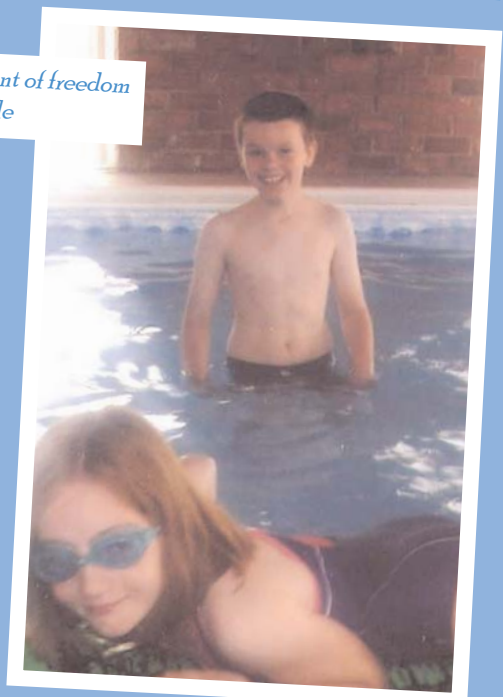
It benefited me one hundred percent because as a one parent disabled mum I was able to take two carers with us

Fantastic to have one-to-one quality time with my son for a change. It was perfect.

He did things we would not have been able to do at home

...it was great to get away and relax and spend quality time together as a family

Alex was allowed an amount of freedom that I never thought possible



Enhanced Breaks for disabled children and young people, and their families

Summer 2010

In 2009 we could only provide families receiving overnight Short Breaks at Minster View, Caudwell House and the Big House with the option of applying for financial support towards a holiday with their child.

In 2010 we intend to widen the availability of Enhanced Break support.

In addition to the above families receiving a service from Contract Care and the Children's Development Centre will be able to apply for Enhanced Breaks support.

Every eligible family will be contacted by us to give everyone a fair chance to apply. Decisions will be made in November.

Who can have an Enhanced Break?

To receive Enhanced Breaks support:

- Your child must be receiving existing overnight Short Breaks package from the Big House, Caudwell House, Minster View, Contract Care or the Children's Development Centre
- Your holiday must be

taken as an alternative to using the existing service (which has previously been referred to as a nine day break).

- Your holiday must be planned outside of school term time.
- Your holiday must benefit the well being of your child.

Holidays can be taken at any time during the year when your child is not in school.

Where can we go for our Enhanced Break?

Pretty much anywhere. Your social worker or residential unit may be able to offer advice. As an example, last year families receiving Enhanced Breaks support went on holiday

together to the Thomas Centre in Lincolnshire, the Calvert Trust in the Lake District, Center Parcs and Butlins or chose to rent a caravan or bungalow at the seaside.

How much funding will we get?

Last year we allocated funds based on the application received, the merits of each case and the number of families requesting support.

In each case we will act fairly to ensure that as much financial support as possible is provided but it will depend on how many families apply.

How do we apply?

Every eligible family will receive an offer from us to apply. Applications with specific information are easiest to deal with so when applying please state:

When you would like to go

Where you would like to go

What support you need.

To find out more about Enhanced Breaks financial support talk to your social worker or residential unit or contact the Short Breaks Pathfinder service on the numbers below.



Produced by Nottinghamshire Short Breaks Pathfinder

Email: ahdcpathfinder@nottsec.gov.uk

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