

# Topic of Importance – Respite and Leisure Time

There is legal duty on Local Authorities to make the provision of short breaks available to families with Children and Young People (CYP) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), details of which can be found in Peterborough City Councils service statement

[https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/peterborough/fsd/files/2019\\_short\\_break\\_services\\_statement\\_1.pdf](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/peterborough/fsd/files/2019_short_break_services_statement_1.pdf).

## What are Short Breaks?

Short Breaks in Peterborough are available to children & young people aged 0-18. The regulations (Children

Act 1989 and Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011) define a Short Break as:

- Day time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere
- Overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere
- Educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes
- Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.

In Peterborough a range of short breaks are available but it is increasingly difficult for parent carers to access these for their CYP; whether due to lack of awareness or not meeting eligibility criteria. There is also a concern in that what is on offer is not necessarily what is required or wanted.

This particular ToI is termed Respite and Leisure Time as opposed to Short Breaks, partly as many families still refer to short breaks as respite and a desire from families for wider leisure access which may fall outside of short breaks has been mentioned.

## **What are parents telling us?**

Essentially three main themes are being mentioned by parent carers:

1. It is too expensive to provide CYP with access to family based leisure activities such as day trips.
2. Parent carers would like a break from caring which includes access to more traditional forms of respite (short breaks).
3. Parent carers want to have day trips, leisure activities and family based sessions that are fun and inclusive.

## **Where we get our evidence from**

1. Specific questions on booking forms
2. Coach Trip Feedback Forms
3. A three question survey seeking open ended responses.

## How have FVP responded

This is slightly different from previous ToI in that some data gathering was based on requests from the Local Authority to ascertain what information parent carers would like, and general feedback in response trip/ activity attendance, as opposed to via a survey after hearing anecdotal evidence from parent carers. Further to this on the coach trips conducted by FVP in July/ August three questions were asked based on what commissioners felt would be a useful tool to gain insight in o the wants and needs of SEND families. These questions were:

1. Tell me about your family?
2. Tell me about the help that has been important to you?
3. Tell me about your perfect day?

### Short Survey Responses

Of the questions asked on the coach trips there were 22 responses when taking families to Drayton Manor and 26 from families going to Skegness. The forms were all completed by different parent carers and some were completed by the CYP themselves.

Some quotes are as follows:

Tell me about the help that has been important to you?	
Help with support especially when I did my daughter's EHCP. Help with trips has been important as well as workshops family voice do.	

Tell me about your perfect day?	
My perfect day is going out with my daughter and boys especially to theme parks or the beach. I also enjoy just chilling out in my garden.	

Tell me about your perfect day?

A long day to a theme park with big rides but enough time for queues to get more than one ride. cheap days to a nice beach with soft sand and clear water. Warm day with no rain.

Tell me about the help that has been important to you?

Providing for me what I would have never been able to do

Tell me about your perfect day?

A day filled with less stress & having to worry about activities for the kids to do

Tell me about the help that has been important to you?

Making great memories, keeping kids happy and being a big family, it cost alot to do trips which are in budgit

Family voice, has been wonderful to us over the years, and have help with many things which we really apiciate.

Tell me about your perfect day?

To have nice weather, lovely family day out, as its a long 6 weeks to keep kids entertained

Tell me about your perfect day?

Stress free, relaxing, everything is in order, nothing to worry about, that would be my perfect day

Tell me about your family?

We're loud, funny and  
unloving

Tell me about the help that has been important to you?

Importance

Tell me about your perfect day?

Calming

Name (optional)

Alex

Please state Adult/ Child

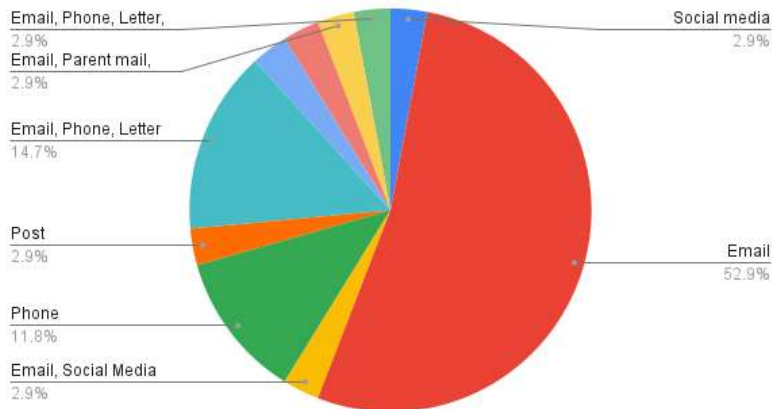
Child

## Booking Form Questions

Two questions have been asked:

1. How do you like to receive this information?
2. What information would help you meet the needs of your child/ young person with SEND?

### Preferred Communication



Of the 54 responses to the second question 36 which is over 66% wanted further information about short breaks and holiday activities. Although these were not the only choices they were the most frequent. There were also some requests for further PfA information.

## Where FVP have shared this talking point

1. FVP Website
2. FVP Social Media Channels
3. FVP E-News
4. Peterborough City Council Decision Makers

## Next Steps and Areas for Consideration

1. FVP to share this ToI with strategic partners and the wider parent carer community.
2. For FVP to devise and conduct a wider scale survey more specific to short breaks, to gather wider knowledge of the short breaks offer, and ascertain potential uptake and need.
3. For the LA to take under consideration the areas of need being identified by parent carers and explore ways to address these.
4. For the LA to look at the wider communities short breaks offer, and consider the barriers to accessing this and whether more families could benefit.
5. For the LA to look at ways of gathering wider parent carer input into the current offer and any future offer.

## Timescales

1. PCC to provide a response within three months of this being presented to the SEND project board
2. This ToI to be posted on the Local Offer and FVP website within one month of production