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| |  | | --- | | SEND partnership | | New Short Breaks Activities service****Parents and carers should REGISTER NOW to secure a place for their child with additional needs and/or disabilities!****This message contains important information for schools.We would be grateful if you could also make parents and carers of children and young people with an EHCP in your setting aware of the new service and the need to register by 1 November. We are introducing a new SEND Short Breaks Activity service from **1st February 2022**. To be able to access the service parents and carers **must register** their child by **1 November 2021**.  This update provides more information about the new service, who is eligible and why families need to register their child.  Families must register even if their child already accesses Short Breaks activities.  [+ REGISTER NOW](https://localoffer.cumbria.gov.uk/kb5/cumbria/fsd/advice.page?id=_Se5o1YbvkQ)  **What are Short Break Activities?**  Short break activities are fun or educational opportunities for children and young people with SEND, allowing parents and carers of children and young people with SEND to take a ‘short break’ from caring. Children and young people who meet the eligibility criteria will be automatically accepted into the service and will be able to access a range of free activities.  The new service will provide daytime/evening activities. It does not include overnight breaks, which are dealt with separately.  **Which children are eligible to access the service?**  To be **eligible** for the new service, **all of the following must apply**:   * The child is resident in Cumbria * The child has a disability (as defined by the Equalities Act 2010) * The child has a current Education, health and care plan (EHCP) * The child is in academic year groups 1 to 13 (or equivalent)   There is a handy flow chart to help check eligibility on the SEND Local Offer website.  [+ CHECK ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ON THE SEND LOCAL OFFER](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/cumbria/fsd/files/eligibility_flow_chart.pdf)  Or copy and paste the following link  [eligibility\_flow\_chart.pdf (openobjects.com)](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/cumbria/fsd/files/eligibility_flow_chart.pdf)  Those who do not currently use Short Breaks, those who also access overnight breaks and those in receipt of direct payments **can all register for this new service**.  **How is the Short Breaks service changing?**  The new Short Breaks Activity Service takes a completely fresh approach:   * The new service has been co-produced with parents and carers. It is more dynamic and flexible, allowing the service to respond to the changing needs of children and young people. * All eligible registered children and young people will be able to use the service without the need for further assessment. * Organisations that can provide activities have applied to be added to a Provider Framework. The Framework is a list of potential providers, mapping the county in terms of area and type of activity they can provide. None of the providers have, at this stage, been contracted to provide any activities. * The **registration process** is important, as this is how we will know which families will be using the service, what their needs are, and where they are in the county. * **Only those who are eligible and have registered** will be able to use the Short Breaks Activities service. * Once registered, the Short Breaks Activities team will confirm the child’s eligibility and contact the family to confirm the registration has been successful. * Once we know which children and young people will be accessing the service, providers from the Framework will be contracted to provide suitable activities to meet those needs, in the right areas. * We will then send families a menu of available activities for their area, which they will be able to book using an online booking system. * The new service begins in February 2022, but we will send the first menu of activities in January, to give time to book. The menu of activities will be reviewed every three months, with changes made to the activities available in response to feedback and comments from children and young people who have accessed the activities and their families.   Online registration is live from **Monday 4th October 2021** to **Monday 1st November 2021** (12 midnight). Registration will not usually be accepted after this date, so it is really important that families **REGISTER NOW** for activities from February 2022.  Families will need to register for the Short Breaks Activities Service for their child **each year**, but don’t worry we will send a reminder in plenty of time.  The registration form allows families to add children, so if they have more than one eligible child they only need to complete one form. There will be another registration window in April 2022. Families becoming eligible outside of these registration windows can call the Short Breaks Activities team for further advice (see contact details below).  [+ REGISTER NOW FOR THE SHORT BREAKS ACTIVITY SERVICE](https://localoffer.cumbria.gov.uk/kb5/cumbria/fsd/advice.page?id=_Se5o1YbvkQ)  If families are unable to access the online form, they can contact the Short Breaks Activity Team who will be able to complete the form on their behalf or send a paper copy to fill in and post back to us.  + THE SHORT BREAKS ACTIVITY SERVICE EMAIL IS [shortbreaks@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:Shortbreaks@cumbria.gov.uk)  + THE SHORT BREAKS ACTIVITY SERVICE PHONE NUMBER IS 07500 577575 | |  | |