Further to your Information request FOI64284 please find your questions and our responses below:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I kindly request the following information in relation to short breaks services for children with a learning disability in your local authority:

1) How many children aged 0-18 with a learning disability were known to social services in a) 2009/10, b) 2010/11 and c) 2011/12?

Response:
a) 2009-10 – 265. Then new Eligibility Criteria was introduced hence the slight reduction in numbers:

b) 2010/11 - 186

c) 2011/12 - 187

2) How many children aged 0-18 with a learning disability attended short breaks services, as set out in paragraph 4 ('Types of services which must be provided') of the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011', in:

i. 2009/10
ii. 2010/11
iii. 2011/12;

Response:
a) 2009-10 - 314

b) 2010/11 - 367

c) 2011/12 – 210

and what is your projection for short breaks service use in 2012/13?

Response:
Projection for 2012/13 is approx. 230

3) Do you have a short breaks services statement in accordance with paragraph 5 ('Short breaks services statement') of the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011'?

Response: Yes.

4) If you have published a short breaks services statement in accordance with paragraph 5 ('Short breaks services statement') of the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011':

i. when was it published?
ii. please provide details of your latest statement

Response: It was published in October 2011. Please see attached.
5) How many short breaks services, as set out in paragraph 4 ("Types of services which must be provided") of the ‘Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011’, closed in:

i. 2009/10
ii. 2010/11
iii. 2011/12;

Response:
1. 2009/10 – None
2. 2010/11 – None
3. 2011/12 – None

and are you planning to close any short breaks services in 2012/13?

Response:
2012/13 no closures of any short break services planned.

6) If there have been short breaks service closures within the local authority, have any alternative services been put in place for those who attended the short breaks service?

Response: N/A.

This concludes your request FOI64284.

If you require translation of the information you have been sent please do not hesitate the contact us.

If you are unhappy with the information we have provided in response to your request please write to:

Information Management Team Manager
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead
SL6 1RF

or send an e-mail to martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk

We are proud to be one of the leading authorities in England for consistently responding to information requests within the 20 working days set down by statute. Information about our performance and summaries of requests received can be found on our website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/foi_information_requests.htm

We are keen to hear about your experience with the Information Management Team here at the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and look forward to receiving any comments you have about the way your information request was processed.
Please send any feedback to the Information Management Team Manager either by e-mail martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk or in writing to the address above.

Yours sincerely

Chris Daniels
Information Management Officer
Information Management Team
Operations Directorate
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, St.Ives Road
Maidenhead SL6 1RF
Short Breaks Services Statement
Information for families with children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities

2011-2012
Positively transforming services for disabled children, young people and their families
Short Break Services Statement for
The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

1. Introduction
The provision for short breaks under the Aiming High for Disabled Children agenda has now been replaced by the Breaks for Carers for Disabled Children 2010 Regulations, which came into effect on 1 April 2011*. The regulations require each local authority to produce a Short Break Services Statement so that families know which services are available, the eligibility criteria for the services and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children and young people in their area.

1.1 What must we include in our Short Breaks Services statement?
Local Authorities must prepare a statement for carers in their area setting out:
- the range of services available
- any eligibility criteria for these services
- how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of carers

This statement must:
- be published by 1 October 2011 on the Local Authority website
- be kept under review and, where appropriate, revised
- be prepared and reviewed with regard to the views of carers in the area

1.2 How have we prepared our Short Breaks Services Statement?
This is the first Short Breaks Services Statement produced by the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM). It has been prepared by the Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) Service. Rob Wratten, Manager for Specialist Services within the LDD Service, is the lead officer for this statement.

This statement has been drafted drawing on information from parents and carers and children and young people, gathered over the course of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Short Break Programme (2008-11). It takes account of various consultation exercises and activities including the short break consultation with parents in November 2010 and the LDD Family Feedback consultation in June 2011.

We also held a formal period of consultation on the draft Short Break Services Statement during September 2011 with parents/carers, children and young people and relevant professionals and partners in RBWM. A copy of the Short Breaks Services Statement was sent to all families receiving services from the Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Service for their comments. In

(*)The short break regulations can be found in full at the following link:
addition, we held a consultation session on Saturday 10th September as part of Saturday Club at Dedworth Xtend to seek the views of families and children and young people about the Short Break Services Statement. The consultation session was attended by 12 parents/carers and 7 children and young people. All comments received from families and professionals during the consultation period have been taken into account in finalising this Short Breaks Services Statement and will be considered when planning future short break activities.

2. What is a Short Break?
Section 25 of the Children and Young Person’s Act requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children.

Short breaks are offered to disabled children and young people aged 0-18 and their families as part of a package of support provided through the LDD Service. Short breaks are provided to give:

- Children and young people with learning difficulties or disabilities the opportunity to spend time away from their parents/carers, having enjoyable experiences in new environments.
- Parents/carers a regular, planned break from the responsibilities of caring for their children.

2.1 Which types of short break services must be provided?
Local Authorities must, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide a range of services sufficient to meet the needs of carers to care, or care more effectively, including:

- Day care in the child’s own home and elsewhere
- Overnight care in the child’s own home and elsewhere
- Educational or leisure activities for children and young people outside their own homes
- Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays

2.2 Who should be considered for access to breaks from caring?
In addition and in order to meet the requirements of the regulations, Local Authorities must have regard to the needs of carers in respect of their capacity to care for, or continue to care for, their disabled child, and must provide a range of services designed to meet this need.

Local authorities must take into account the needs of carers who would:

- be unable to continue caring for their child unless breaks from caring were given or