

# Become a **Family Based Short Break** Carer with Islington

Give a disabled child new and interesting experiences by providing a regular weekend break in your home.



# What are Family Based Short Breaks?

Family Based Short Breaks offer a regular overnight or weekend break at your home once a month (or up to 26 days or more a year) to a child or young person with disabilities. It gives the child an opportunity to meet new friends and have some fun while giving the family valuable time to relax and recharge their batteries.

The scheme provides care for children with a range of disabilities. Some may have a physical disability, sensory impairment, learning difficulties or autism. Additionally, we may have some children who have complex health needs.

Providing shared care can be extremely rewarding as you are helping the whole family. You and your own family too can benefit from establishing a positive relationship with a child with disabilities and seeing the enjoyment and delight they experience.



# What do we offer?

Choosing to become a Family Based Short Break carer is a great opportunity to learn and develop new skills and help a disabled child. We will be there every step of the way.

- Once approved as a carer, you will be offered 24 hour support.
- Specialist training and Children's Workforce Development Council training
- Regular support group meetings and plenty of help and encouragement through your own dedicated social worker.
- Carers are paid an allowance of £112 per for an overnight stay.
- A sum of money may be available to purchase essential and specialist equipment. Speak to a social worker in the team for further advice.

# Who are we looking for?

- People living in or around Islington.
- People with enough room for a child to stay overnight
- People who can be linked to at least one child for at least 26 days a year (one weekend a month)
- People who are able to care for a disabled child.



# How to apply to become a Family Based Short Break Carer

You do not need any formal qualifications or experience with children with disabilities to be a Family Based Short Break carer for Islington but you will need to be enthusiastic, patient, fun loving, flexible and ready for anything! Do not count yourself out by thinking you may not be suitable, as we welcome people from all sorts of backgrounds and lifestyles, so please get in touch.

We run regular information sessions where you can attend and find out more information. Please call for details of the next meeting. The information session provides the opportunity to hear more about short breaks schemes and ask the team any questions you may have.

Successful applicants will then be visited at their home and invited to a 3-day training course which may involve evenings and Saturdays.

Full references, medical and CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) checks will be taken up on all applicants in line with legal requirements.

The overall process from our first visit to you to your approval as a Family based short break carer can take up to six months so please be patient. It is important to consider all people who may be affected by Family Based Short Breaks, especially children already within the home. They will be considered throughout the process.

**To find out more about Family Based Short Breaks you can call free on 0800 073 0428 or look on our website [www.islington.gov.uk/fis](http://www.islington.gov.uk/fis)**

# Our placement policy

We prefer to match children and young people with families or individuals of a similar background to their own. Currently we are short of families for children of all background but we may need to ask you to look after a child different from your family.

You could be single, married or living together or in a same sex relationship. You could live in rented or owned property, with or without your own children. Single parents of both sexes are welcome. We also consider applicants from all religious backgrounds whether you are practicing or not. What matters to us is that you care about looking after disabled children and can keep children safe while learning new skills to help them.

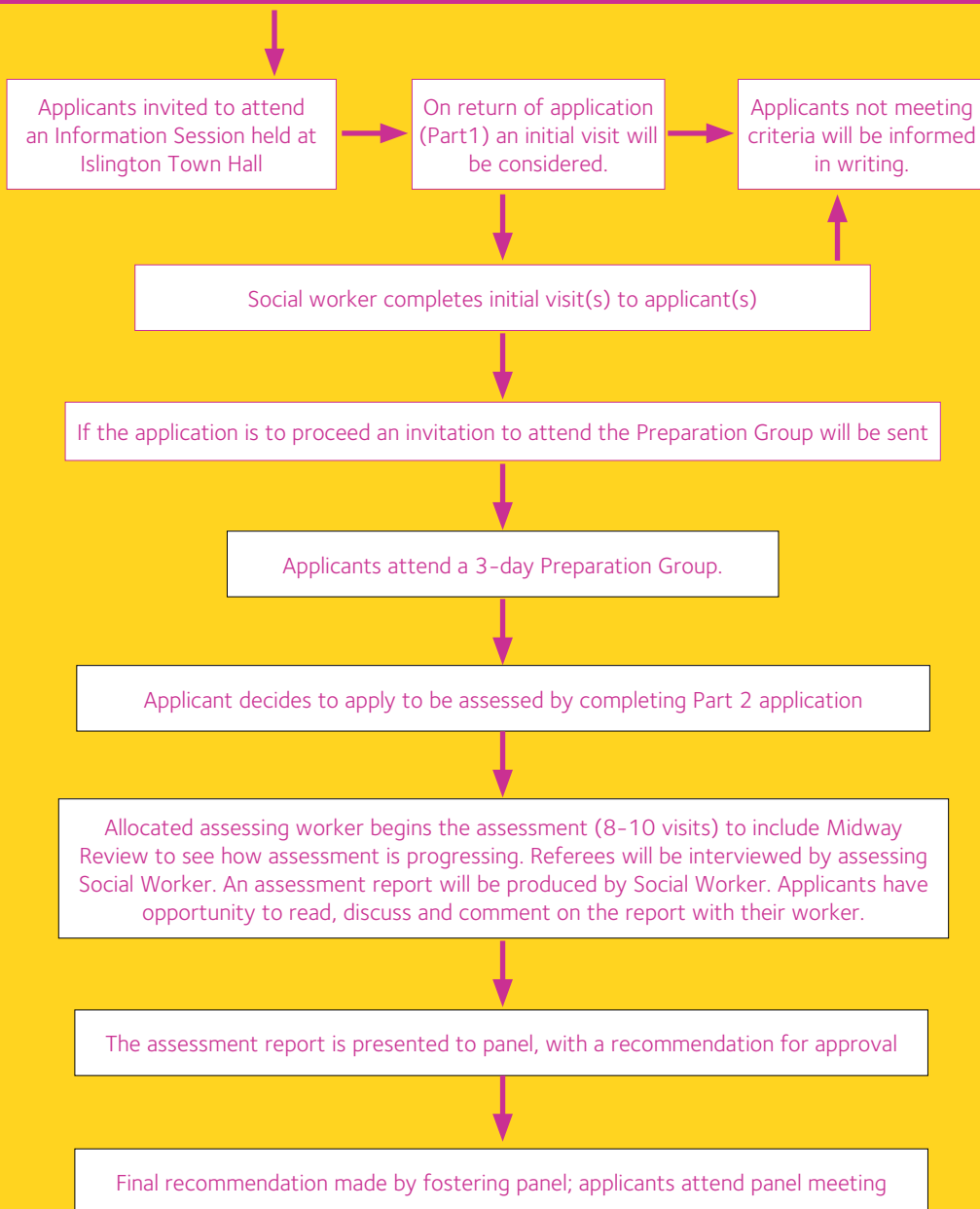
Research has shown that children might be affected by passive smoking. If you are a smoker, we are happy to have a discussion with you around this issue.





**Do not count yourself out by thinking you may not be suitable, as we welcome people from all sorts of backgrounds and lifestyles, so please get in touch.**

## Initial contact to Islington Family Based Short Breaks; Information pack sent to applicant(s)



From initial application to presentation at panel should take 6 months

N.B. Each applicant is assessed on his / her individual situation / circumstances, however Islington Fostering Service has the authority to discontinue the assessment at any time during the process; applicants will be given clear reasons in this case.

To find out more about Family Based Short Breaks you can call free on **0800 073 0428** or look on our website **[www.islington.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.islington.gov.uk/shortbreaks)**  
Email: **[fbshortbreaks@islington.gov.uk](mailto:fbshortbreaks@islington.gov.uk)**



**If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please contact 020 7527 2000.**

### **Bengali**

যদি আপনি এই তথ্য গুলো আপনার নিজ ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে 020 7527 2000 নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

### **Chinese (Traditional)**

如果你想要這資料的中文本, 請致電 020 7527 2000 聯繫。

### **Somali**

Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd macluumaadkan oo ku qoran luqadaada fadlan la xidhiidh 020 7527 2000

### **Turkish**

Buradaki bilgilerin Türkçesini istiyorsanız, lütfen 020 7527 2000 numaraya telefon edin.

### **Contact Islington**

222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR

**E** [contact@islington.gov.uk](mailto:contact@islington.gov.uk) **T** 020 7527 2000 **F** 020 7527 5001

**Minicom** 020 7527 1900 **W** [www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)



Printed on recycled paper using vegetable based inks. Published June 2010.