



Updates from Wokingham Borough Council's Short Breaks Services

Thumbs Up Club

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is aware that the Thumbs Up Club Committee has made the decision that Thumbs Up will not be providing a service this summer due to not finding an alternative venue, as Addington School are undertaking building work. Both through the efforts of their committee and support from WBC reaching out to school and sports and leisure facilities within the Borough, we know that an extensive range of alternatives were approached but considered unsuitable by the managers of Thumbs Up. We understand that this will be incredibly disappointing for all concerned and create challenges for many children and families.

Thumbs Up Club have approached parents/carers of children who use their service and are putting families in touch with their workers to increase the availability of Personal Assistants throughout the summer.

Officers from WBC are currently approaching other local providers to ascertain what they plan to run over the summer and to discuss if there are any ways that they may be able to increase capacity. We have also asked Thumbs Up Club to put any of their staff looking for work this summer, in touch with us. We attach some initial information about available summer provisions and will look to provide additional updates as they become available via the CAN network and the Local Offer.

This week we were also informed that Thumbs Up Club committee have made the decision that they will be ceasing to run the after-school provision from September. We have a meeting scheduled with Addington School and colleagues from our SEND department to discuss options. Again, we will provide any updates as they are available.

We recognise that the challenges this creates will be different for every child and their family and will work on an individual basis to try to support families where they require this.

Short Breaks Review

We are currently undertaking a review of Short Breaks, with a view to expanding the range of Short Break Opportunities within Wokingham.

By September 2024, we intend to have developed an options paper, (a high-level document that sets out the strategic options for ways to increase the breadth and capacity of short breaks), sought agreement from the Council's Leadership Team for the recommend approach/es and commenced a process of implementation. We are working with SEND Voices Wokingham and other partners to co-produce this work. The process of implementation will include opportunities for children and parents to co-produce service specifications to design additional or increased short break provision.

Should you need additional support beyond information sent via the CAN network [Wokingham Directory | CAN \(children with additional needs\) Network and CAN Card](#)) or what is ordinarily available on the Local Offer [SEND Local Offer \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](#), please contact your child's Short Break Co-ordinator or Social Worker. If your child is not known to the service, you can contact: Children's Social Care at [0118 908 8002](tel:01189088002) or email triage@wokingham.gov.uk

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Short Breaks Services

Children with Disabilities, Early Help and PYJS

Wokingham Borough Council

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