

Children's home based respite

Author: Samantha Gibbs, Respite Coordinator,
Children's Home-Based Respite Service



James Paget
University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

The service we provide

Our Children's Community Respite Service consists of a team of trained carers with relevant childcare qualifications, who provide short breaks/respite to families within your own home.

The Clinical Lead is a senior paediatric nurse, experienced in managing children with complex technical health needs and learning disabilities. Working alongside the Clinical Lead is the Respite Coordinator, who will assess for any additional bespoke training carers may need to care for their child/young person.

How is the service accessed?

The service is for children and young people aged between 0-18 years with complex conditions registered with a GP living in the Great Yarmouth and Waveney area who meet the criteria for respite.

A written referral is made to the Clinical Lead and Respite Coordinator by any professional from health, social care or education. They will have discussed the referral with you, gained consent to refer you to this service and outlined any other respite or care package you may be having, so that the Clinical Lead and Respite Coordinator can determine if this service is suitable.

After receiving a referral, the Respite Coordinator will contact you to arrange an initial home visit and assessment and determine if our service is suitable. Individualised care plans are drawn up for your child, bespoke to their needs. Any additional training for your carer is undertaken by the Clinical Lead or Children's Community nursing team, including specific escalation/emergency plans for epilepsy, diabetes or respiratory concerns written by your hospital consultant or specialist nurse.

What respite is available?

We understand the pressures of having to undertake 24/7 care of your child/young person's health needs, with professionals involved regularly.

Respite can be provided short term (such as an emergency care package) or for a number of months. Care packages are reviewed regularly by the Respite Coordinator to ensure access criteria continues to be met and the number of hours is the right amount for each family, as we understand that home circumstances or your child's needs can change.

The sessions can be given in the daytime and in the evening up to 20:00 (in some instances later sessions can be granted by prior arrangement) and can start from a few hours each week.

The Respite Coordinator will discuss with you what the best support may be for you and your family, within what the service can offer. Your wishes for your child's care are also assessed prior to each session given by your carer.

Your one-to-one carer will further provide activities and play in accordance with your child's development and abilities. Carers can take your child outside for walks or to the local park, as determined by you.

The initial assessment will also provide a risk assessment of your home environment and moving and handling arrangements for your child/young person within your home.

How is your carer identified?

Your carer is chosen for you by the Respite Coordinator, who takes into account the carer's experience, availability, personality and suitability to your needs and will be introduced to you and your child within four weeks of your care package being set up. We understand the importance of being able to build a close relationship with a carer coming into your home regularly in a professional role and your package is reviewed after three months to ensure all is well.

Your respite carer has been checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and undergoes regular Trust mandatory training including Basic Life Support, as well as Safeguarding of Adults and Children.

Carers cannot take your child out in their own cars or to their own homes as part of a respite session. However, if you wish your carer to accompany you and your child to an outside activity or therapy session then this is permitted so long as you discuss this with the Clinical Lead or Respite Coordinator first to determine suitability of transport and insurance. The Clinical Lead may refuse such requests if deemed unsuitable.

Carers may also be allowed to undertake respite sessions for you if your child is admitted as an inpatient to a local hospital. This is determined by the Clinical Lead as to its suitability on an individual basis at such time.

Contact Details

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Your Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible - talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve it, then ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care.

Before leaving please complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.

Help us transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

OUR VALUES

Collaboration

We work positively with others to achieve shared aims

Accountability

We act with professionalism and integrity, delivering what we commit to, embedding learning when things do not go to plan

Respect

We are anti-discriminatory, treating people fairly and creating a sense of belonging and pride

Empowerment

We speak out when things don't feel right, we are innovative and make changes to support continuous improvement

Support

We are compassionate, listen attentively and are kind to ourselves and each other



The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

For a large print version of this leaflet, contact PALS 01493 453240