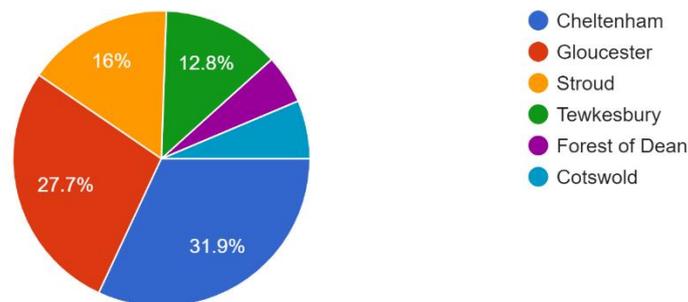


# Gloucestershire Action Group on 'Short Breaks' care for children and young adults results of the questionnaire – March 2021

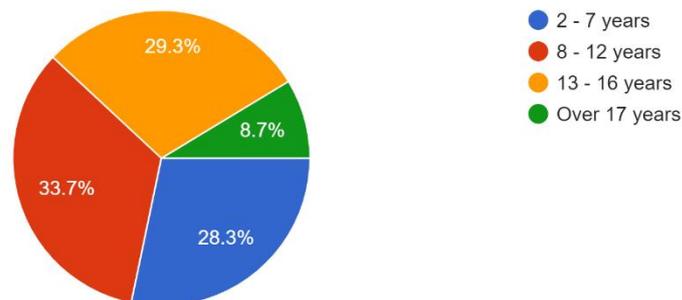
1) Please tell us where you live?

94 responses



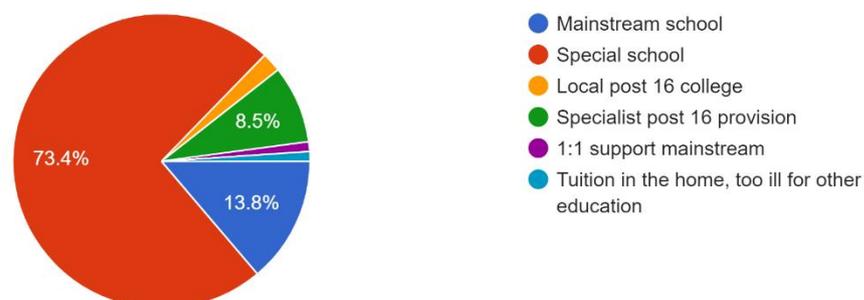
2) Please tell us the age of the child / young person?

92 responses



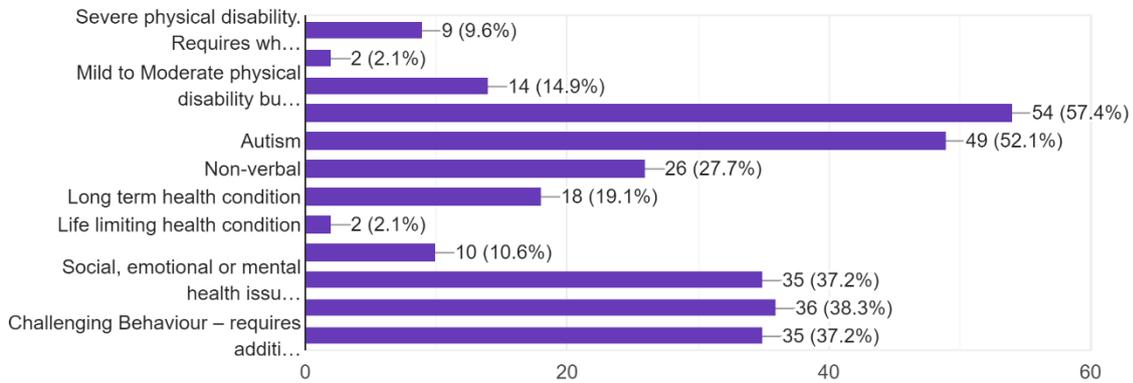
3) What kind of education provision does the child / young person attend?

94 responses



4) Which of the following descriptions apply to your child (Please tick all which are relevant)

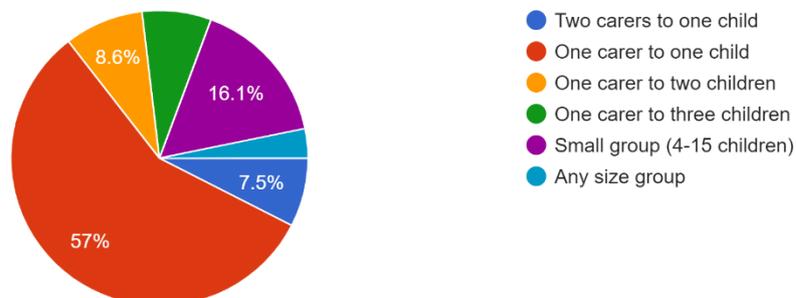
94 responses



- Severe physical disability – 9
- Wheelchair user who can transfer – 2
- Mild to Moderate physical disability but ambulant -14
- Moderate to severe learning disability – 54
- Autism – 49
- Non -Verbal – 26
- Long term health condition – 18
- Life limiting health condition – 2
- Sensory impairment (vision/hearing) – 10
- Social, emotional or mental health issues – 35
- Sensory issues – requires sensory environment or minimal stimulation – 36
- Challenging Behaviour – requires additional support – 35

5) Please tell us the level of support normally required by the child / young person, whilst on short breaks?

93 responses

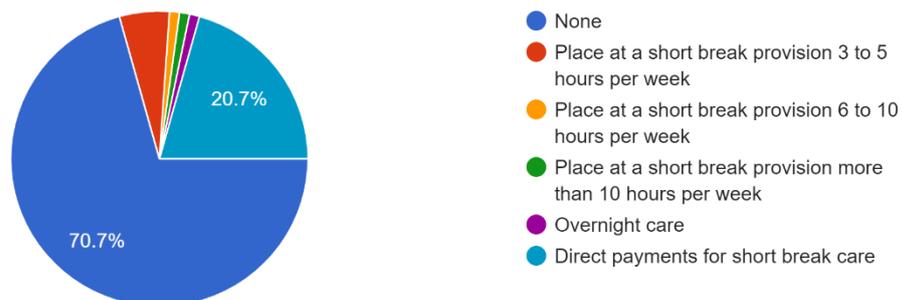


6) Please tell us the kind of activities which the child/young person would like to access. Please circle whether the activity is **essential**, **preferable** or **not required**

	Essential	Preferable	Not required
Outdoor playground	44	32	4
Forest/nature based play area	25	42	4
Swimming/water play facilities	45	39	4
Animals/gardening/farming	21	45	8
Sports and athletics, such as mixed ability rugby, RaceRunning, adapted cycling, kick frame football, wheelchair sports.	16	27	21
Indoor physical activities, such as soft play, rebound therapy, interactive climbing wall, indoor sports	37	37	5
Social opportunities, such as inclusive youth groups, scouts and guides, theatre, dance, music, cinema, interactive computer games	25	34	15
Creative/expressive arts opportunities such as art, drama, dance, singing, music performance	25	37	10
Small group sensory depleted settings	25	24	11
Small group sensory depleted settings	29	33	12

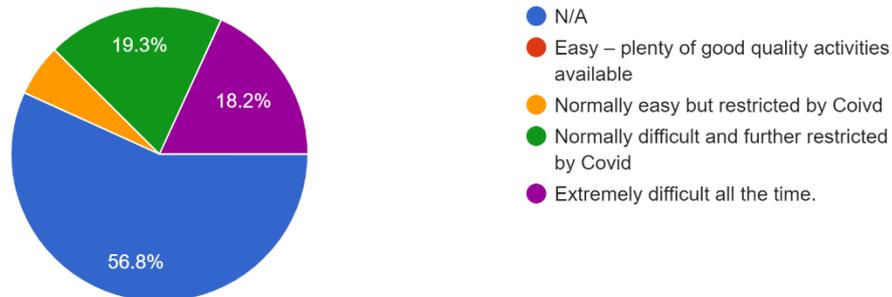
7) Please tell us whether the child/young person has been awarded short break provision by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)

92 responses



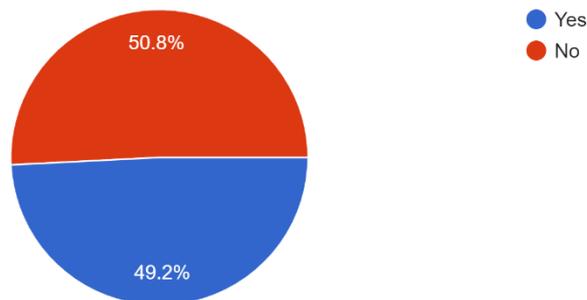
8) If the child / young person receives direct payments, how easy is it to find suitable activities for them to access with their personal assistant?

88 responses



9) Is the short breaks provision awarded by GCC adequate for the young person's needs?

63 responses



**10) If, no please tell us why it is not adequate.**

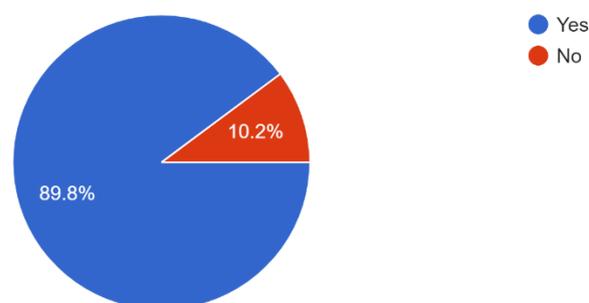
- He has never been offered short breaks. I have started the process to see if he may be eligible.
- Nothing to currently access
- Nowhere safe to go at present
- He needs access to overnight respite. Also, there is nowhere safe for PA's to take him
- N/A
- Do not get Funding
- His behaviour is very challenging inside the house. He is very much an outdoor person. The more time he spent outside his behaviour improves and less challenging. At home he is very challenging to himself and us. Outside always makes him happy and well behaved and enjoys himself. At home he is always demanding of going outside again and again and we are at the capacity to deal with it alone.
- There is NOTHING safe or appropriate for children under 8 with behaviours including absconding, nothing for small groups of this age or with severe social impairment. There is

nowhere he can go that is safe with his carers now HSJ has gone and he couldn't access that before because he was under 7. Provision for early years short break is appalling.

- Nowhere is safe for my daughter to go other than home or school. Not able to hire a PA where we live
- Adequate but limited. Better choice of activities would be good.
- Not applicable as never had one.
- Don't have any
- Get nothing
- Not enough & no assess to leisure activities
- No funding for holiday time only termtime
- Just got funding, don't know if it would be adequate as haven't accessed anything yet
- Length of time and frequency.
- "There isn't anywhere safe for Charlie to play with his peers. He can escape unless locks everywhere.
- I am too tired to be driving around Gloucestershire. I am up all night as a single parent and shouldn't have to drive far for my child to safely play. "
- Needed overnight care but not available in a format that is suitable.
- Can not find a suitable family link worker
- Refusal to assess for direct payments. High medical needs makes finding suitable pa support almost impossible even if self-funding
- Not enough & no assess to leisure activities
- Not awarded
- Never heard of this short break provision!
- Not aware of it. Struggling to find activities that he could attend and how he could be supported.
- There are very limited places available.
- I haven't got a short break
- Need more hours ideally
- It's not been awarded - therefore it's inadequate
- My child dose not receive any .

11) Would you be prepared to purchase additional short break activities for an appropriate charge?

88 responses



**12) If yes, please tell us what would be your maximum limit for purchasing short break activities?**

- £150
- I'm not sure. But happy to pay if suitable provision.
- £5 per session
- £20 for an activity
- £150
- £300
- 50 pounds per week?
- £10
- Depends on the activity £5-10 for a short 1/2 hour activity. Up to £50 for a day
- I'd happily pay admission fees or hourly rate to attend places/events.
- Would depend on activity
- £100
- I honestly don't know, depends on the provision.
- Difficult to say - depends on activities. £12 an hour?
- £1000
- We have never been on any holidays so I don't know how much to expect? But a family of 4 with a short stay may be £200
- 10 hours a week
- £10 an hour
- £25 a day if I was also sending my PA
- £20
- Difficult to say in the current circumstances
- £9
- £30-£30
- £30 per week
- £100 a month
- £20
- £200
- Depend on the Activities can pay up to £10
- Depends on the type and length of activity and whether care is provided but £20/hour
- £20
- £1000
- £300
- I have no idea what these things cost
- Say £20-£30 per day
- What i need to pay
- £100 max
- £100 max
- Not sure
- £10 per activity max
- £100
- £200
- Depends On activity
- £150
- Depending on length of time and activities £200
- £100



- Earlier in life. Was not attending at time of shutdown but she does miss it sometimes.
- N/a
- After school & Saturday
- 7 hours twice a month
- Long time ago, once a week after school
- 3 sessions
- After school & Saturday
- N/A
- 2
- 2
- He only went a few times before it closed
- 1 time per month
- Two days during half term's

115) In your opinion, how has the closure of Hop Skip and Jump affected short breaks in Gloucestershire?

62 responses



**16) Please use the space below to tell us your views on short breaks provision in Gloucestershire – please tell us what is good and what you would like to see improved.**

Short term break provision if we had access would alleviate some stress within the family. It also would have given me more time to spend with my other child. He's often been left out and has to help care for his sister.
I can't answer as we have never been offered them. But I think both we and my son would benefit and are really keen to know more.
Facilities closer to home or his school, high quality provision for physical activity and some plan for transport.
Lack of provisions adversely affecting my family
There needs to be more choice - there are almost no places for SEND children to go that are specialist and safe.
Never used them as never had the opportunity or had the offer to do so
Not alot around for our young people at all
Very poor

The short break provision in Gloucestershire is a broken system, not fit for purpose and is failing families and children in need
Nothing is good. No short break provision at all. We would like a secure site in the north of the county.
It very much relies on the PA sourcing activities in the mainstream setting. I'd love to see a meeting place with cafe and activities for children to be together with either a carer or PA. an inclusive multi purpose indoor /outdoor space to do/relax in the company of similar users. A youth club for older children and other age appropriate groups.
Never had one, so don't know
Greater range of activities
I am not aware of any short break provision. I am unsure as to whether I would use it for my child due to their complex needs. I am unsure as to whether there would be suitable provision that could meet my child's needs.
I've never been able to access it. We have a PA though who takes her out, when places are open obviously
It's poor. There should be a large one stop facility for disability with a pool, adapted cycling track, a soft play sensory room, garden etc. and cafe funded partially by social enterprise.
It's a big county - we live in the Cotswolds so end up driving a lot to get to activities. More Cheltenham provision would be good. Accessible too - allowing for less physically able to do active things
Non existent
We need a place where PAs can take children
It is extremely difficult to find specialist facilities when your child has complex needs and sensory issues meaning mainstream environments are not accessible
Tell more parents about them
Allsorts youth club, sports, holiday clubs are fantastic More wheelchair provisions
I haven't been aware of any but would very much welcome
Special Schools need to open up in the holidays! Many Sen kids have reduced hours at school. There also needs to be safe places to take the more severe children which is contained with adequate toileting facilities.
Needs to be overnight care available
There is definitely not enough for young children under the age of 8 everything seems to be for the over 8 s
Direct payments are good as they are flexible - however if the local authority held profiles for or even employed more PA staff that were recommended by others this would put less stress on families to find them. Additionally shutting overnight short break services and making it more specialist to access puts too much strain on families. More organised short breaks or commissioned services with softplay etc. Personally I think HSJ would need to massively improve their safety and supervision of children to reopen.
My child is nearly 17 has severe learning difficulties is completely non-verbal is autistic has depression and anxiety and I have never even heard of "short break provisions in Gloucestershire"
Active impact is great but there aren't enough one off (rather than a series of e.g. 6 weeks of activities) need options spread to outskirts of County as travelling is difficult, expensive and drains energy which is needed to enjoy the activity
Allsorts is excellent but would like to see more specialist provision for his complex needs.
Non existent
Very difficult especially for overnight

Safe, secure fun and an extra pair of hands
More sport activities
We have not accessed this before and I'm not sure how to?
I would love for my daughter to be able to go a trip
Never had a short break provision.
My child has never been given any short breaks
Needing to know what is available. And how my son could be supported.
Didn't even know about Short breaks.
Social youth club for like Like minded yp with similar cognitive abilities
There are very limited places in Gloucestershire. I would love there to be somewhere in North Cotswolds.
Because we get no funding we haven't been able to access very much, but we would like to have more lower cost facilities available.
I'd like GCC to contact us, my Paediatrician has requested contact about 4 times, for assessment to provide Direct payments and Respite Care. We had Direct Payment through Stroud but moved to Gloucester 6 yrs ago and have not had any support from GCC
There's nothing around here for my daughter. There could be more and to keep it going.
We could get Special needs hours, during the week or weekend
I had no idea it existed
Haven't been made aware of any other facilities available and cost implications when we do find something to go to
I didn't know anything about this
Very poor especially for younger and teenage boys who enjoy hands on activities such as art and who like hands on activities to do with making things which may include electronics. Nothing practical is offered. Provision of activities only ever seems to be sports based for this age group.
More choice
Parents myself included are not made clearly aware of what is available to them and there seems to be very limited resources Resulting in children missing out
More visibility and sharing. The ability for parents to support. If away for a weekend without having to be there is still a break.

17) Would you like to be kept informed of the group's progress via emailed newsletter or to become an active member of the group?

91 responses



18) Please use the space below to tell us your views on short breaks provision in Gloucestershire - Please tell us what is good or what you would like to see improved.

We need more choice of specialist provisions and spread throughout the County for ease of access for all families.
N/A
We have never had the opportunity so would welcome any help that we could get.
There should be a comprehensive diverse array of facilities available as there would be for able bodied children
We are new to the county so not quite sure what the short breaks is about so unable to answer some of the questions sorry.
Getting short break help is too difficult and takes too long, families need to be at crisis point before they can get 'help' and that help is not adequate. Currently even though we are in receipt of short break funding, there is nothing and nowhere safe for him to go.
Didn't know it was available
Grossly under funded, under staffed, under monitored, politically shoved away repeatedly.
I would like somewhere my daughter can go and be safe and has access to toilets and somewhere she can eat and be able to go outside when she wants to in safe way ( fenced off )
I'm hoping Chanwell will be open for booking for sessions that are appropriate but concerns are that if it is the only provision of it's kind in county it will be permanently fully booked!
I have not been aware of any. My son is unable to access holiday clubs and struggles to have positive social interactions outside of school. I would very much welcome opportunity for him to have supported experiences outside of school
Hartwood house is good but needs more availability especially at weekends and holidays. They could support more children if they utilise their staff more effectively. These children and families have been neglected throughout the pandemic. Covid has been used as an excuse for too long. It's a legal requirement to access respite and many cannot do this. Many places are not accessible for the complex children with challenging behaviour. For example, the Chamwell centre was created but has a dangerous ledge which I wouldn't risk my

<p>severe ASD child near. I don't feel the more challenging children are catered for and therefore hide away at home.  Parents need to be listened to more and siblings to be taken into consideration too.  Without respite places we are prisoners at home.  Hop skip and jump should have been the priority saving rather than spend millions on a building which is waiting for an accident to happen.</p>
<p>As above</p>
<p>There needs to be greater support for recruiting, training, managing and retaining PA staff especially for cyp with complex and personal care needs. It's not a break if you're the only one with the skills to safely support your child doing an activity</p>
<p>I don't know what is available in cam Dursley</p>
<p>Not used before.</p>
<p>More availability places in half term and summer holidays for groups with needs</p>
<p>I would love to have some provision available, we have no family to share the care of our child. It would be great for him to meet likeminded children and also for us to have some down time.</p>
<p>I'd like to be contacted. We have lived here six years. We were contacted once by Families First but they said they could not help, and it was at the time of my Father in laws death, we were caring for him at the time. Nobody called again. We should be assessed for Direct Payments so that my 15 yr old deafblind son can be supported with respite. Why have we been neglected?</p>
<p>Never had it</p>
<p>A cafe with Gluten free and dairy free options.</p>
<p>Lack of information on things to do. We only seem to hear things from other parents. There ideally needs to be a central hub of information as we have only found out from other people. This includes details of available benefits etc. Particularly daunting if someone has only just got a diagnosis for their child and doesn't know where to turn for financial assistance</p>
<p>I've tended not to use them because I know there are families more in need of them than for us and our son, but I do know families where it is crucial for them to get a bit of respite. Any opportunity for my son to meet others like him who understand autism, is always a good thing, so more sports and activities especially would be good. Things like swimming underwater - maybe octopus?</p>
<p>See above.</p>
<p>More choice, more activities</p>
<p>Parents myself included are not made fully aware of what is available, there seems to be very limited availability which results in children missing out</p>