



Together
for Change

Short Breaks Statement

West Sussex County Council wanted the new Short Breaks Statement to better reflect real family experiences, use inclusive language and be clearer and easier to understand.

To achieve this, the draft Statement was brought to the Together for Change Panel, where parent carers and professionals coproduced improvements.

**[Click here to see the full original Statement:
Short Breaks 2025_28 draft statement](#)**

2

Submissions
to the panel

On average how
involved the panel
felt in these
discussions



Participation

Panel Feedback & Suggestions

The panel shared honest feedback based on their lived experience.

- Simple, family-friendly language instead of formal wording
- Eligibility explained clearly, based on need not diagnosis
- Clear contact information, so families know who to speak to
- A more welcoming tone
- Consistent layout that is easier to follow
- An Easy Read version, so more families can access the information



Together
for Change

Short Breaks Statement

What Changed...

- ✓ Eligibility wording improved, "Eligibility is based on need, not a diagnosis."
- ✓ Inclusive, plain language added throughout
- ✓ New contact email added so families now know exactly where to get support.
- ✓ Easy Read version being created so more families can access the information.
- ✓ Consistent layout and clearer structure
 - ✓ Family voice included

Why It Matters – The Impact on Families

- ✓ Clearer information helps families understand what Short Breaks are and how to access them.
- ✓ Inclusive wording removes barriers and makes support feel more achievable.
- ✓ Warmer tone helps families feel welcomed, not judged.
 - ✓ Easy Read version improves accessibility for a wider range of people.
- ✓ Direct signposting reduces confusion and saves families time.
- ✓ Stronger trust because families can see their feedback has been heard and acted on.

"Working with the Together for Change Panel helped us coproduce a more inclusive and accessible Statement. The panel's feedback shaped every stage, from wording to layout and ensured the final version reflects the voices of families. We were proud that this was one of the first documents to include the Together for Change logo, showing what true collaboration can achieve."

Short Breaks Team

[Click this image to read the full statement](#) ➔

westsussex.gov.uk



Together
for Change



**Short Breaks
Statement** 2025 to 2028