



St. Helens Council

People's Services Department

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St Helens
Merseyside
WA9 1LD

Contact: Hannah Sweeney
Email: hannahsweeney@sthelens.gov.uk

Date: 8th June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian/ Carer

Re: St Helens SEND Summer Play scheme 2021

I am pleased to be writing to you in a more positive light this year, to tell you about the play scheme that is on offer for this Summer. It has been a tough year for many during the Covid Pandemic, which we are still riding through, but especially for our Children and Young people with SEND and their families. To ensure we have captured the thoughts and feelings of parents and carers we have formed a Task and Finish group with representatives from the Listen 4 Change, St. Helens Parent Carer Forum to help shape the variety of activities on offer this summer.

The SEND Play scheme Summer offer

The local authority, along with representatives from Listen 4 Change, has at this time decided to appoint two providers for the Summer Play Scheme, they are:

- St Helens Youth Service
- Vibe UK

Even though the current Covid restrictions may be easing after the 21st of June we are still being extra cautious with certain measures, such as cleaning, and dependent on venues, some group sizes may be restricted. We appreciate this is not ideal, but we hope you understand the difficult circumstances that we are working under and the changing impact on our planning and provision.

All providers will offer a variety of different activities over the summer period and will try to accommodate everyone's wishes. Please be advised though that we still need to be mindful of any local and national situations with regards to Covid and so there may be unforeseen changes beyond our control.

Criteria and parental contribution

As in previous years the criteria for the SEND Short Breaks Play scheme is for any child or young person who attends Lansbury Bridge School and Sports College, Mill Green School or receives 25hrs plus funded support in a mainstream school or has an EHC plan.

Due to current financial constraints the Local Authority will be asking for a small parental/carer contribution for some activities of the play scheme. Each child or young person who meets the criteria set out above will receive 33 hours subsidised by St Helens Council for the play scheme for the **year 21/22** which can be used throughout the year. Outside of the 33 hours parents/carers will need to contribute the full cost to their child/young person's sessions, if places are available.

All contact details, costs, activities, times and dates can be found in Appendix A to this letter.

For any further information or queries, please contact Hannah Sweeney at hannahsweeney@sthelens.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

H. Sweeney

Hannah Sweeney – Integrated Children’s Commissioning Manager