

How to use Community Connections

Individual Payments: Short Breaks

Words in **bold** will be explained.

This document explains how to use our Community Connections Service to get money for a **short break**.

This money is called an **Individual Payment**.

A **short break** gives a child or young person the chance to have time away from their family.

It also gives their parent or carer the chance to have a break from caring.

The short break could be:

- Day time care at home or somewhere else
- Overnight care at home or somewhere else



- Help for carers in the evenings, weekends, or school holidays
- Education or fun activities out of the home



Cheshire West and Chester Council have lots of Short Breaks. You can find out more from their website [What are Short Breaks? | Live Well Cheshire West \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)



Disability Positive also works with Cheshire West and Chester Council to run the **Community Connections** Service.



Community Connections can help families get a payment to help pay for a short break.



You can get this payment if you:

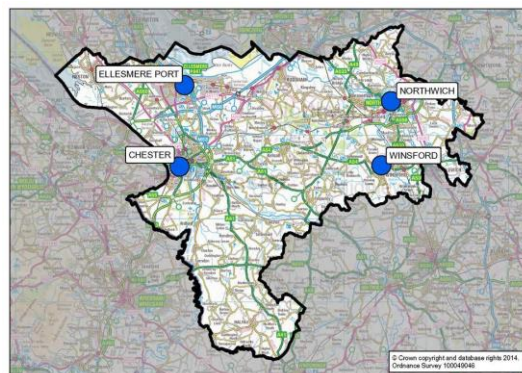
Live in the area of Cheshire West and Chester. This means that your local Council is Cheshire West and Chester Council.

You are the parent or carer of a child or young person who is aged between 0 and 18 years old.

The child or young person also needs to be getting one of these **benefits**.

- Higher rate DLA for care and/or mobility
- Middle rate of DLA for care and/or mobility
- Enhanced rate PIP for care and/or mobility
- Standard rate PIP with at least 10 points in care, and they do not get any money from the Council (Social Care)

Benefits means money that you get from the government to help you with the cost of everyday life



How much money can I get?

You can get money for a short break that costs less than £1000

You can usually only apply for the money once in a **financial year**

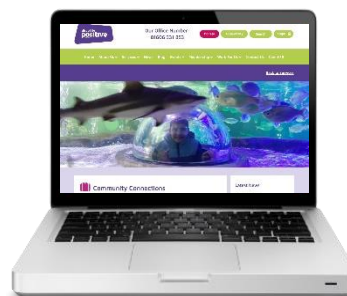
A **financial year** is the year between 1st April and the 31st March



What do I need to do if I would like to apply?

You can fill in the form on our website by going to this link

www.disabilitypositive.org/services/community-connections



We will then help you to understand what you can use the money for.



There are lots of different ways it can be used.

Some examples are paying for a carer or PA, for an activity or a holiday club.



www.disabilitypositive.org

What information will I need to give to Disability Positive?

You will need to let us know how much the short break you want will cost.



You will also need to tell us how the short break will help your child or young person



Confident

You will need to show us some ID



What rules do I need to follow if I get the money?

If you are given the money, we will set up a **pre-payment** card for you so that you can spend the money.

A **pre-payment** card works like a bank card and has the money you have been given stored on it.



You can then use it to pay for your short break.

The **pre-payment** card is run by All Pay. All Pay will need to do some checks before they can give you a card.



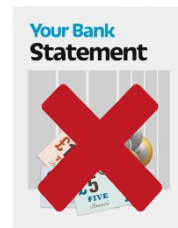
If you are getting money for more than one child you will get more than one card.



You must agree to use the card only to pay for your short break



You can not move money from the card to your own bank account



We will do an **audit** of your card every month. An **audit** is a check to make sure money is being spent on what was agreed.

