



## **Campaign win for Disabled Children's Partnership as government announce £30 million for short breaks**

**01 February 2022**

Today's government announcement of £30 million for additional short breaks for families with disabled children is a massively important, and warmly welcome, step in creating a better system of health and care support for every family with a disabled child.

The Disabled Children's Partnership (DCP) has been campaigning for dedicated funding in disabled children's social care for years, alongside a wide network of big and small organisations, thousands of parents, young people and allies, parliamentarians, newspapers and more. This announcement finally shows that the government has acknowledged that the system of support is not good enough, and we are glad that our campaign has been heard.

We would like to pay a huge thank you to everyone that has supported the campaign. From 1,000s of parents emailing their MPs and signing petitions, to brave parents and young people speaking at events, and hundreds of parent carers filling out our surveys – we could not have got here without you. We are also extremely thankful to the Sun for their help leading the #GiveltBack campaign.

This announcement is a welcome step towards creating a better system, and a response to our campaign for a £50m dedicated fund. Of course, there remains much work to be done. This additional funding will result in more support for children and families, but it will not meet all the challenges they face. Our latest economic analysis found that there was a large funding shortfall in disabled children's social care, which today's announcement will help but will not address in full. The research from our #LeftInLockdown campaign shows that nearly three quarters of disabled children have seen their progress regress in the pandemic, as vital services and other support were reduced. Our freedom of information requests have shown there remains a large backlog in Education, Health and Care Plan assessments, and a backlog in therapy appointments.

We will continue to fight for the support families have a right to expect; to call on council leaders to use their upcoming budgets to invest in the support that families with disabled children need, and to push the government to ensure the needs of disabled children and families are met in COVID recovery programmes.

However, we should be proud to have got this far. Thanks to everyone who has made the campaign possible.

**Amanda Batten, Chair of the DCP and CEO of Contact**