

# Short Break Care Red Gables





# Red Gables

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Red Gables is a five-bedroom detached property in East Rainton, Sunderland.

The property is already homely, welcoming, and well maintained, but we will need to carry out some refurbishment work to ensure it best meets the needs of the children and families in Sunderland who will use it.

The property has extensive outdoor space giving plenty of opportunities to add facilities.

The property will be a nurturing environment for children where they are able to develop their independence while families are given a moment to recharge knowing their children are safe and cared for.

# When will Red Gables be open?

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We hope to open the home in Autumn 2024 and Red Gables will be fully staffed by 28 TfC employees.

Planning permission has been submitted and a decision is expected by 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024

External alterations include making the property accessible for wheelchair users (ramps, low threshold doors, automatic doors etc) and adding new fencing around the garden.

Internal alterations will be made to suit the needs of the building users and will include adding accessible bathrooms and enlarged bathroom with specialist equipment. New kitchen, sensory room, office, and new finishes throughout.

The timeframe is based on necessary legal activity including registering the home with Ofsted, consultation with families and the team and to account for essential renovation work and the recruitment of staff.

# How are we currently helping families?

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All children and their carers have an allocated social worker from TfC who has been and will continue to work closely with them to arrange explore all support options available until the new Short Break Care home opens.

A letter has been sent to every family with SEND needs to inform them of the purchase and the submission of the planning application.

The letter gives an overview of the project and invites families to an in-person meeting in January 2024 where we will show them a video of the property, explain the plans and to provide updates on timeframes.

We will also be asking for volunteers to join our parent/carer groups where we will discuss topics with them such as use of the outdoor space, technology, and services on an ongoing basis to ensure the space is custom designed to best meet the needs of children and young people in Sunderland and their families.

# Interim support to children and parents/carers

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- For those children with the greatest need, where we have had also had parental consent, we have spot purchased nights at Ark Short Break Care in Redcar.
- For some families, TFC have also funded transport provided by Ark. Ark is a relatively new, 4 bed short break home which is Ofsted registered and can meet the needs of children aged between 4 and 18 years of age.
- We also have a small number of children accessing fostering short breaks. We hope to recruit more short- break foster carers.

# Interim support to children and parents/carers

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- We had 8 young people accessing Grace House, who were 17 years of age and who will soon be transitioning to adult social care.
- TFC have collaborated with Adult Social Care and SCAS, to offer these young people overnight short breaks in an adult, CQC registered provision to assist with their transition and reduce disruption.
- Not all 8 have taken up the offer, with some preferring to utilise PA support, but most are now beginning to access the adult provision.

# Interim support to children and parents/carers

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- PA support has been our primary alternative for children and young people, including overnight PA support.
- In recognition of the cost of activities for families when children are spending time with their PA's, TFC have offered a small activity budget (10% uplift on the PA rate) which parent/carers have been able to apply for. This is being paid monthly until March 2024 when it will be reviewed.
- In addition to this, where overnight PA support is required but PA is not able/willing to use their own home, we have provided a personal budget to fund the booking of alternative accommodation for PA's or parent/carers; some families have opted for the child to remain in their own home with the PA and the parent/carer have booked a night in a hotel to utilise their short break.



# Interim support to children and parents/carers

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- We have seen an increase in Personal Budgets being awarded to families which they can use to fund activities for the child and family to provide a short break. For example, we have a child whose Personal Budget funds their attendance at a sports club.
- In addition to the above, we expanded the Family Care & Support Team to provide Leisure Link outreach support in the community (this tends to be helpful for our younger children) and of course, have made use of our Breathing Space offer.
- For a very small number of children, we are spot purchasing support from an independent care provider to provide community outreach support