



Report sponsor: Gurmail Nizzer (Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning)
Report author: Alice Sanghera, Acting Head of Service (CYP Integrated Commissioning)

Community Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People – Service Update

Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to brief CYP Scrutiny on the Community Short Breaks services commissioned by Derby City Council.
- 1.2 This paper also advises on the planned re-tendering of this well regarded, and highly valued by families, Community Short Breaks framework.
- 1.3 The aim of this service is to provide support at home or out in the community for disabled children and young people time to enjoy day time activities and spend time away from their parents/carers, providing respite.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the service provision detailed within this report.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 To brief CYP Scrutiny on this excellent provision, which is the best way to support children, parents and families in relation to Community Short Breaks.
- 3.2 The re-procurement will ensure continued compliance with Contract Procedure Rules.
- 3.3 The co-produced revised service specification will provide improved value for money and a greater benefit for children and young people with disabilities, as it will be better aligned to their priorities and those of parent/carers. It is really positive to deliver services which provide the opportunity for fantastic outcomes for our children and young people.

Supporting information

- 4.1 This service provides short breaks in the home and/or in community settings for children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs. The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 requires that Councils must have regard to the needs of those carers who would be unable to continue to provide care, unless breaks from caring were available to help and support families. This service is a valued support for parents and carers, offering respite care for those in need.
- 4.2 The Community Short Breaks Team based with the Social Care Team at the Lighthouse (Integrated Disabled Children's Service) manage the referrals into this service, they also administer Direct Payments for families to use at a provider of their choice.
- 4.3 There is another service for Short Breaks which provides overnight respite at the Lighthouse, this is provided in a pooled budget arrangement between the Local Authority and Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group. This is an overnight short breaks service and is delivered primarily by Derby City Council. This is not part of the Community Short Breaks service.
- 4.4 The Community Short Breaks service operates as follows: on assessment, new families are allocated a generic 50 hours per calendar year for short breaks, depending on the needs of the child/young person and their family. The service manager at the Lighthouse regularly reviews and adjusts these up or down depending on need, and how often the family has accessed the service. The hours can be used in 1:1 support or group provision. Individual home-based short breaks and short breaks out in the community may take place in the day, evening, and/or at the weekend.
- 4.5 The Community Short Breaks service is for those families who are not in receipt of any other short break support.
- 4.6 There are currently two Service Providers on a procured Framework who deliver the Community Short Breaks provision on behalf of Derby City Council. Referrals come through the Single Point of Access in the Integrated Disabled Children's Service, and appropriate referrals are directed to a Service Provider.

- 4.7 Having only two Service Providers has impacted adversely on the number of children and young people the service could be offered to. In order to build resilience going forwards, Derby City Council have sought collaboration with Derbyshire County Council to be named on their Specialist Services for Disabled Children, Young People and their Families Framework. This will give access to a wider range of providers from the start of their framework (March 2022) and increase opportunities for Derby children and young people.

Other improvement measures that have been put in place to support children, families and parents:

- Internal collaboration with Adult Social Care to facilitate access to the Day Opportunities Providers post 18, with the added value of transition to Preparing for Adulthood outcomes.
- Plan to increase the number of providers on the new Framework to increase sufficiency (on the current Framework there were originally three Service Providers and now there are only two)

- 4.8 Summary of current provision (numbers from 2020/21):

- Approximate number of children and young people receiving support – 190 (note the service was impacted by COVID)
- Total number of hours of support provided per annum - 13,766 hours

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Co-production has been a key feature of the review of this provision undertaken during 2021, linked to the re-procurement of the service. This has been commended in the recent SEND Local Area OFSTED inspection as an example of excellent practice in terms of how co-production with families should be undertaken. The approach has involved co-production with children and young people, incumbent providers and wider market, and with parents/carers including our trusted and valued Parent Carers Together organisation

We consulted with parents and carers who use the service through a co-produced questionnaire (66 respondents). We asked parent and carer views on, for example:

- the types of activities that the children and young people said were valuable to them (through the consultation in 5.2)
- the types of activities that should form part of a short breaks service
- ideas for low cost high value activities
- appropriate outcomes to apply to the service.

The responses indicate that the majority of parents would like more low cost and “free” activities to be made available.

- 5.2 We also consulted over 200 children and young people who access the service/ are eligible to access the service through workshops in city special schools. This has given helpful information in terms of what activities they value, such as activities which help children and young people to learn functional and social life skills to benefit them into adulthood, as well as workshops to help them understand and manage social issues associated with growing up. Activities associated with the service will help children and young people to:
- Develop the skills needed for adult life
 - Be more confident and independent from the family and able to make more supported choices
 - Communicate better, make themselves understood by others in order to get their needs met
 - Improve socialisation/inclusion.

These priorities have been incorporated into the service specification in relation to successful outcomes.

- 5.3 We have consulted with existing Service Providers in meetings and workshops, alongside a wider soft market testing engagement aimed at the wider provider market.

Other options

- 6.1 Other options are not available as this is an important service for families, offering flexible ways of receiving short breaks within the community for children and young people.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The budget is a maximum of £250,000 per year (maximum over the lifetime of the 4 year framework of £1M). Services are funded according to the number of hours purchased therefore the spend could be lower than the maximum. A procurement will take place including implementation of the new contract by 31 March 2022.

Legal implications

- 8.1 Under the Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulations the maximum term for a Framework is 4 years and therefore the current contract will terminate in March 2022. The planned procurement taking place within the next few months will mean the Council will be compliant with Contract Procedure Rules beyond March 2022.

Climate implications

- 9.1 Climate change and sustainability implications will be assessed at the tender evaluation stage and have not been a specific consideration at this stage. However, the preference is for breaks that can be provided locally primarily because of costs, but this will have benefits in terms of keeping down emissions from travel.

Other significant implications

10.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)	Gurmail Nizzer, Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning	16 November 2021
Report sponsor		
Other(s) HoS	Alice Sanghera, Acting Head of Service	11 November 2021
Procurement	Laura Rose, Category Manager	15 November 2021
Finance	Janice Hadfield, Head of Finance	16 November 2021
Legal	John Turner, Lawyer	16 November 2021

Background papers:

List of appendices: