

# **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**16 JULY 2013**

## **OVERNIGHT SHORT BREAKS CONSULTATION**

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### **Summary**

This report outlines outcomes to the Overnight Short Breaks consultation (6 March 2013-12 June 2013).

### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Medway Council commenced a three month formal consultation on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March that concluded on 12 June 2013. The intention is to ensure that financial resources are used to best effect and achieve the desired outcomes for children, young people and their families. This report describes the consultation rationale, process, and outcomes.
- 1.2 The consultation was led by Medway Council and completed with partners NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, Kent County Council, and NHS Swale Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 1.3 The consultation took the form of a proposed options survey. Five options were developed and agreed with stakeholders to frame the consultation. Families were also given the opportunity to highlight whether there was anything else that needed to be considered within the consultation.
- 1.4 Surveys, consultation events, one-to-one interviews, and taster sessions were adopted to ensure that all families who already or may need to access overnight short breaks in Medway had the opportunity to respond.
- 1.5 There were 91 responses to the disabled children and young people's short break proposed options survey:
  - 88 (97%) of responses were received from Medway residents;
  - 29 (32%) of responses were from overnight short breaks users;

- 62 (68%) of responses were from non-users of overnight short breaks.

- 1.6 Overall, the preferred option from the main survey was Option 1A. 17 respondents rated this as the proposed option that they liked the best.

Option 1A: Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people and their parent carers living in Medway and Swale

It was however noted that users of overnight short break units were more likely to choose Option 1B. 11 respondents rated this as the proposed option that they liked the best.

Option 1B: To bring together local authority and NHS funding to extend provision at Aut Even to seven days a week and purchase additional overnight short breaks from alternative residential overnight short break providers.

- 1.7 To ensure that all recipients of overnight short breaks had an opportunity to respond, a further booster survey was sent out to families at Preston Skreens and Aut Even. From this an additional 19 responses were received. 13 out of the 19 respondents to the booster survey said that their preferred Option 1B. This included 3 of the 6 respondents from Preston Skreens.
- 1.8 Further to review of the consultation findings Medway Council, NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, Kent County Council and NHS Swale Clinical Commissioning Group will agree a preferred option
- 1.9 This will be communicated to all those Involved in the public consultation process and specifically to families affected by any proposed changes to service.

## **2. Consultation Rationale**

- 2.1 Overnight short breaks for individuals aged five to eighteen with complex health and social care needs in Medway and Swale are currently provided by Medway NHS Foundation Trust at Preston Skreens (Minster, Sheppey) and Aut Even (Rainham). In December 2012, there were 50 individuals (30 from Medway) accessing short breaks at Preston Skreens and 51 (all from Medway) accessing short breaks at Aut Even.
- 2.2 The consultation was driven by notification of Medway NHS Foundation Trust's intention to stop providing overnight short breaks at Preston Skreens (September 2011). In the formal notice letter, the Trust outlined that it did not consider the building fit for purpose.
- 2.3 An independent feasibility study requested by parents found refurbishing Preston Skreens would not bring the building up to the required standard. Preston Skreens was deemed to be in a poor state of repair and the Trust was deemed to be at risk of failing to meet its statutory duty in regards to Disability

Discrimination and meeting benchmark standards contained within the Children's Home Act 1982 (repealed 1991) and the Children's Home Regulations 2001. It would require significant investment, at a cost of more than £1.4m, to bring it up to national children's home standards as defined by the Department for Education. This is not affordable within the current economic climate.

- 2.4 In February 2013, Medway Council and Medway NHS Foundation Trust negotiated an extension of services to allow for a formal consultation and to enable a smooth transition to alternative provision. The tentative closure date was delayed from July 2013 to September 2013.

### 3. Consultation Process

- 3.1 Parent carers, staff, voluntary organisations, and other groups worked together to identify possible options and short break opportunities that would frame the consultation. A series of workshops were held to find out what (if any) issues parents faced when trying to access short break opportunities. Previous research findings on short break opportunities within Medway were also considered when deciding on proposed options.
- 3.2 The overall aim was to provide a range of different types of experiences to disabled children and young people as close as possible to other young people their age. The number of options also recognised that Medway residents may wish to adopt a different approach to Swale residents. Families were also given the opportunity to highlight whether there was anything else that needed to be considered within the consultation. The five options are summarised in the table below:

| Options   | Area             | Proposal  |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| Option 1A | Medway and Swale | Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people and their parent carers living in Medway and Swale             |
| Option 1B | Medway           | Extend Aut Even to seven days a week and purchase additional overnight short breaks from an alternative residential overnight short break provider.               |
| Option 1C | Medway           | A combined residential overnight short break unit with additional places for disabled children and young people requiring a residential placement away from home. |
| Option 2A | Swale            | Extend the range of day; evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Swale.                          |
| Option 2B | Medway and Swale | Overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people in Medway and Swale delivered through a new provider.   |

- 3.3 Medway Council adopted the approach that all families who may require overnight short breaks, not just those accessing services at Preston Skreens, should be consulted with. Once the five proposed options were agreed, a survey was then designed and sent out to 1,600 families in Medway who had a child assessed for Special Educational Needs (SEN). A further 90 letters were sent out to Medway families using overnight short breaks such as Preston Skreens and Aut Even with a copy of the survey, a link to an online version of the survey, and a copy of the formal consultation document. All parent carers were able to give their views or raise questions by emailing or writing in using pre-paid envelopes. Kent County Council supported engagement with Kent families and sent information out to their parents using Preston Skreens facilities.
- 3.4 Medway Young Inspectors supported the consultation by recommending that the views of disabled young people at Bradfield Special School Youth Club and Aut Even be included within the consultation. They also identified the questions to ask young people to find out what types of activities they like or do not like doing.
- 3.5 To help keep parents up to date on what is happening with the short breaks review, a web page was set up on the Medway Children's Trust website. The 'Save Preston Skreens' face book page was also regularly updated.
- 3.6 As part of the consultation process, five information sessions for parents were held in Medway and Swale to consider each of the proposed options and what each might mean for families living in those areas. During the information sessions the advantages and disadvantages for each option were discussed so that parents were able to make an informed choice on the options that would most suit their family needs.
- 3.7 Staff working at Preston Skreens and Aut Even were given the opportunity to attend information sessions and provide their comments and suggestions to the research team in confidence.
- 3.8 The consultation process was adapted in response to feedback from families:
- Parent carers requested a shorter version of proposed options survey. This was designed and sent out to the Medway Parent Carer Forum Representatives;
  - Individuals who wanted to present their views both in confidence and in person were provided with a one to one session;
  - Taster sessions at short breaks facilities inclusive of travel expenses were offered to provide families with an opportunity to experience alternative provision;
  - Information sessions delivered by local authority personalisation leads were held for parents wishing to learn more about direct payments and

personal budgets;

- Further to feedback from families, a booster survey was issued to families at Preston Skreens and Aut Even to ensure that they had an opportunity to respond.

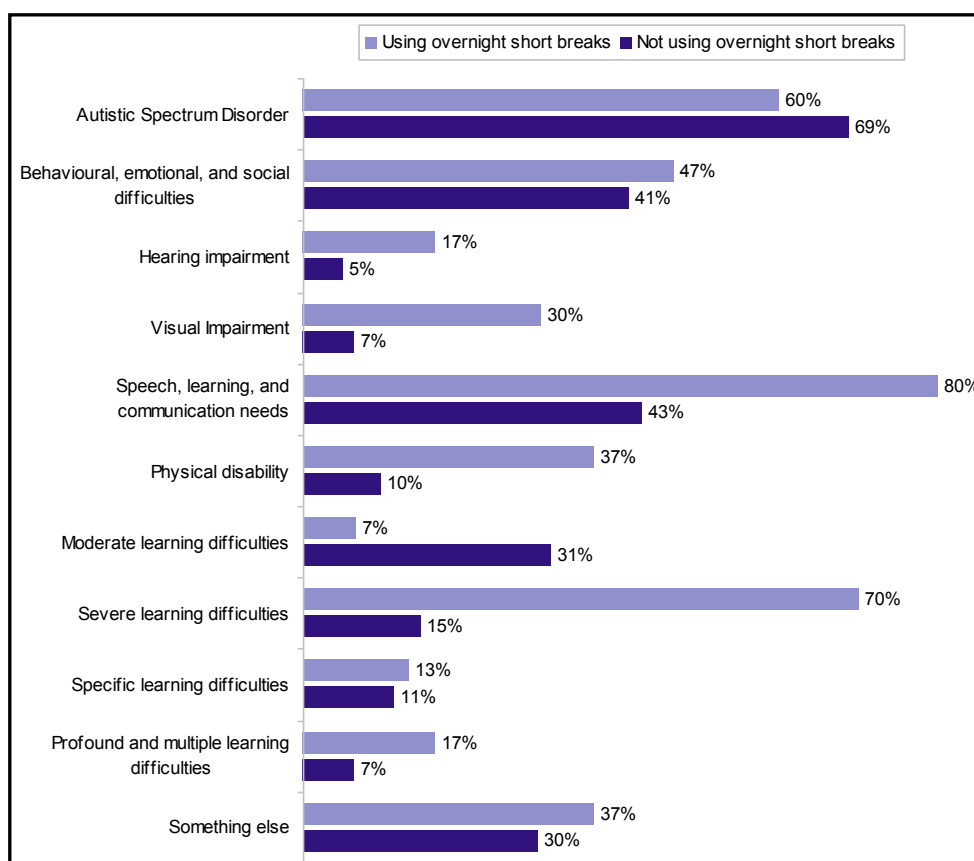
#### 4. Outcomes from Consultation

##### Respondents

- 4.1 91 overnight short breaks surveys were completed as part of this consultation, of which 88 (97%) respondents are Medway residents.
- 4.2 Over two-thirds of parents and carers completing the survey (68%) indicated that they do not currently access overnight short breaks. Those families that do access overnight short breaks (32%) predominantly access them through Aut Even (69%) and Preston Skreens (21%). From the survey it was not possible to tell what other overnight provision families were accessing but the survey did confirm that they were not accessing Bluebells (Detling), Treetops (Dartford), Dragons Retreat (Swanley), or Fairlawn (Ashford).
- 4.3 The three most common disabilities among children using overnight short breaks were speech, learning, and communication needs (80%), severe learning difficulties (70%), and autistic spectrum disorder (60%). The most common disabilities among children not using overnight short breaks were autistic spectrum disorder (69%), speech, learning, and communication needs (43%), and behavioural, emotional, and social difficulties (41%).

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##### Disability of respondent's children as a count and a percentage



#### Priorities When Shaping Services

- 4.4 Families were asked to identify what they consider to be important when shaping services for disabled and young people. Using a predetermined list of responses, those accessing overnight short breaks and those not accessing overnight short breaks agreed that their highest priorities included:

- Quality and expertise of the service
- Short breaks should meet the unique needs of children and families
- Short breaks should be locally accessible

In addition, those accessing overnight short breaks felt that increased weekend/holiday provision and short breaks that were fun were also important. Those not accessing overnight short breaks felt that short breaks should also be age appropriate and that weekend fun clubs should be available and include an overnight short break.

- 4.5 Responses from those accessing and not accessing overnight short breaks were also relatively consistent with families agreeing that least important priorities when shaping a service were:

- short breaks being available to 0-5 year olds including overnight short breaks,
- short breaks focusing on transition for those aged 19-25
- personal budgets being more widely available to give more choice and control over the range of short breaks
- short breaks being available for children with physical impairment but not learning disabilities.

Those accessing overnight short breaks reported that age appropriate services were not a priority in contrast to those not accessing overnight short breaks where it ranked in the top five priorities. Those not accessing overnight short breaks instead reported that maintaining a child's friendships developed whilst using overnight short break services ranked in the bottom five priorities.

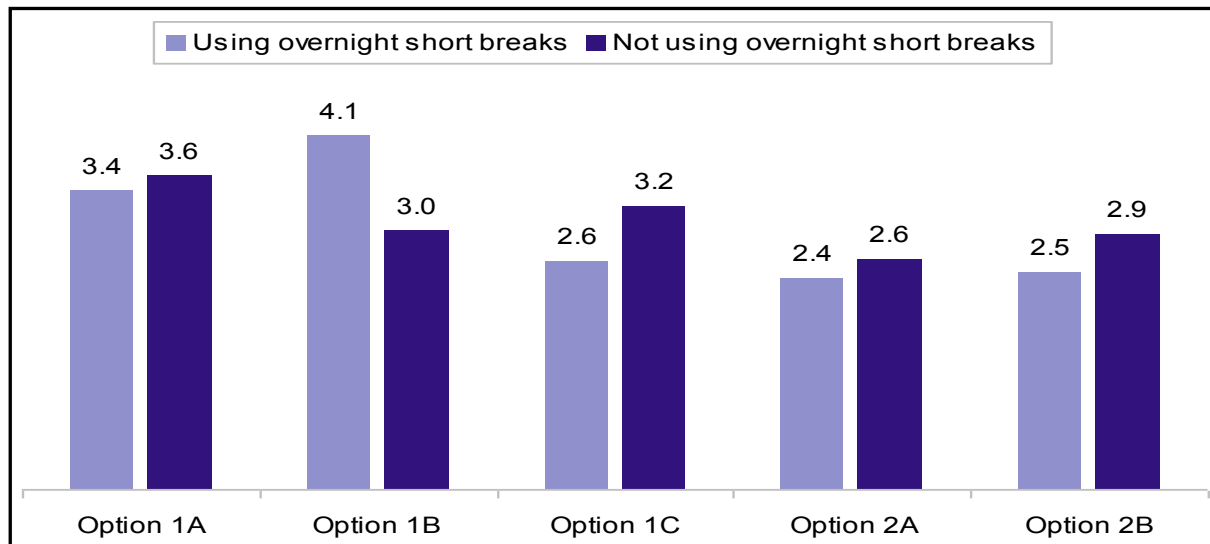
- 4.6 Further to recommendations from the Medway Young Inspectors, views were gathered from 20 young people at Bradfield's Special School and 51 young people accessing overnight short breaks at Aut Even. At Bradfield's Special School respondents said that they enjoyed the youth club and other activities such as drama, gardening, cooking, dancing and watching TV with friends. When asked how often they do the activities that they enjoy doing, 40% of young people said each week, 35% said most days, and 25% said every day. At Aut Even, 82.3% of respondents stated that they enjoyed outdoor activities and 78.4% enjoyed farms and animals, the seaside, and parks.

- 4.7 Staff also returned comments in respect of the proposals highlighting the importance of involving staff in the planning and transition process, recognising good practice, and increasing capacity at weekends and during school holidays.

## Ranked Preferences

### **Overnight Short Breaks Consultation**

**Five Options Ranked Preferences: 5 (most like) to 1 (least liked) split between users and non-users of overnight short breaks.**



4.8 Within the survey, respondents were asked to rank the options by preference where five indicated the most liked option and one indicated the least liked option. Option 1A, to extend the range of day, evening, and overnight short breaks in Medway and Swale was the highest average ranking option. 17 respondents rated this as the option they liked best and 14 respondents rated this as their second chosen option. It was the highest ranking option for non-users of overnight short breaks and the second highest ranking option for overnight short break users.

4.9 Within the reply to Option 1A:

- 64% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed to extending the range and type of 'day' short breaks;
- 70% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed to extending the range and type of 'evening' short breaks; and
- 72.5% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed to extending the range and type of 'overnight' short breaks.

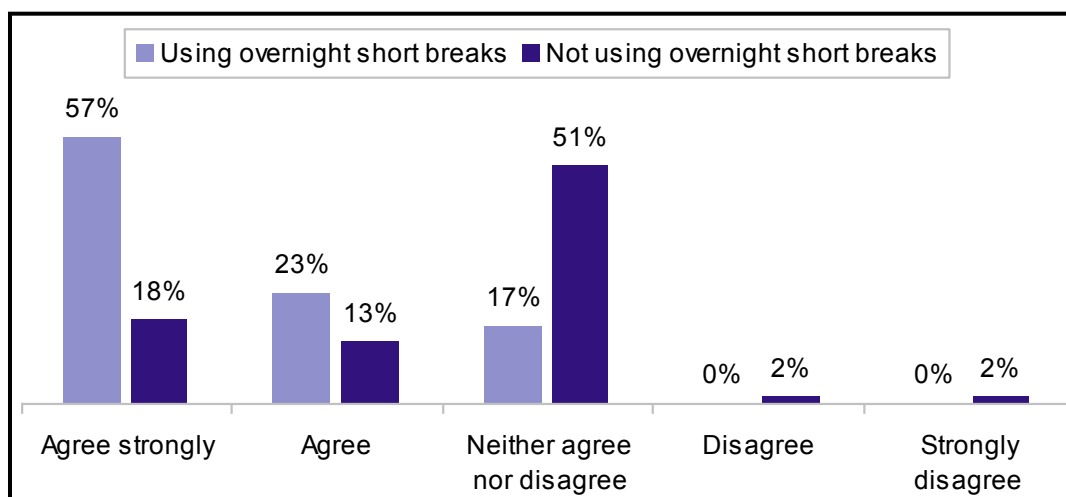
4.10 Written statements received in respect of this option emphasised the perceived benefits of short breaks for families, the need for adequate capacity to avoid waiting lists, and the need for access to services during the school holidays and at weekends.

4.11 It should be noted however that Option 1B, to extend Aut Even and purchase breaks from alternative providers, was the highest ranking option for users of overnight short breaks and the third highest ranking option for non-users of overnight short breaks. As shown in the table below, non-users of overnight short breaks were more likely to neither agree or disagree with this option. Feedback indicates that this may be due to respondents having not accessed

the service previously.

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**Option 1B: Extent to which respondents either agree or disagree to extending Aut Even to seven days a week.**



## 5 Action Being Taken

- 5.1 An Overnight Short Breaks Steering Group is in place and members include representatives from the Medway NHS Foundation Trust, Medway Council, NHS Commissioning, Kent County Council, and parents from Medway and Kent who represent parent forums and groups. This group will oversee and monitor implementation of the consultation recommendations.
- 5.2 Key actions taken or being taken include:
  - 5.2.1 Families at Preston Skreens are being offered an updated assessment that is completed in partnership with parents and in consultation with children to ensure that their needs are fully understood and met.
  - 5.2.2 A realistic timeframe to be agreed in which individuals will be able to transition into any new provision identified by families with input from staff working with families and parent representatives.
  - 5.2.3 Feedback session(s) to be held with families who may be affected by change and those who participated in the consultation to review outcomes and discuss next steps.
  - 5.2.4 All short breaks provision funded by Medway Council has been reassessed to ensure that high quality short breaks provision is available. Short breaks provision will be reviewed to ensure that this aligns with the priorities identified during the consultation.
  - 5.2.5 Local resources including Aut Even and Danecourt (four bedded residential unit) are being reviewed to ensure that local resources are fully utilised. A minimal capital input associated with improving the condition of the buildings



and/or minor adaptations may be required.

- 5.2.6 Final modelling will be reviewed via the Joint Commissioning Board in July before moving through NHS and Medway Council governance journeys and being returned to Cabinet.

## **6 Looked After Children**

- 6.1 There may be some children whose package of short breaks will be such that their welfare will be best safeguarded by being a Looked after Child for periods in which s/he is away from their home. This has no effect on the parents' parental responsibility. This will include children who have substantial packages of short breaks sometimes that last no longer than 17 days for a single episode and total no more than 75 days per annum. It may also include children whose families have difficulties providing support to their child whilst s/he is away from home or have difficulties monitoring the standard of care. In these instances appropriate support will be put in place to safeguard the child.

## **7 Financial and Legal Implications**

### Financial Implications

- 7.1 Medway Council's funding of short breaks, including but not limited to overnight short breaks is highlighted below.

| <b>Medway Council Short Breaks Funding 2013-14</b> |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Short breaks programme                             | £977,301          |
| S17 respite and support budget                     | £359,000          |
| Contribution to Aut Even                           | £88,000*          |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>£1,424,301</b> |

\*excluding transport costs that are included within the transport budget.

- 7.2 NHS funding derived from NHS Medway CCG and NHS Swale CCG for Preston Skreens and Aut Even is included within the Children's Learning Difficulties (LD) Block contract with Medway NHS Foundation Trust. Historic funding arrangements within the block are to be reviewed as part of the modelling noted in 5.2.6.
- 7.3 The Department for Education allocated capital funding to local authorities to improve accessibility to short breaks (respite) as part of the Government's commitment to support disabled children, young people, and their families. This was expressed in the Green Paper on Special Educational Needs and Disability (2012) and the Children & Families Act (2012). Medway received £200k in 2011/12 and £204k in 2012/13. This funding will be considered to support outcomes of the consultation and will be reviewed at Capital Cabinet Advisory Group.

## Legal Implications

- 7.4 In 2011, a statutory duty was placed on Local Authority's to provide breaks from caring to assist parents and others who provide care for disabled children to continue to do so or to do so more effectively. The Children Act 2008 required the local authority to work with the NHS to create a Short Breaks Statement for parents and carers of disabled and young people.
- 7.5 Medway Council is an interested party in the decision made by Medway NHS Foundation Trust to close Preston Skreens as highlighted in 2.2. There are now three times as many short breaks for disabled children and young people living in Medway as there were in 2008.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the consultation and review of provision with partners is to ensure that Medway Council continues to meet its statutory duty and that financial resources are used to best effect and achieve the desired outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 7.6 Short breaks can be provided by Local Authorities through the use of their powers under the Children Act 1989:
- Section 17(6) as part of the general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need;
  - Section 20(4) for any children within the Local Authority area (even though a person who has parental responsibility is able to provide accommodation) if they consider that to do so would safeguard or promote the child's welfare.

Proportionate levels of assessment, planning and review are required and need to be carried out in partnership with parents and in consultation with children. As highlighted in 5.2.1, reassessments are being offered to families.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2008/09 there were 9,095 hours of individual provision, in 2011/12 there were 27,531.  
In 2008/09 there were 12,502 hours of group based specialist provision, in 2011/12 there were 48,803

## 8 Risk Management

| Risk  | Description  | Action to avoid or mitigate risk   |
|---|--|--|
| Complaints from Families at Preston Skreens                         | Poor communication could lead to a poor relationship between the council and families at Preston Skreens | Ensure that we appropriately communicate outcomes from the consultation with families and provide clear information<br><br>Ensure that decision takers take into account all relevant factors and comply with legal requirements |
| Complaints from families regarding quality of short breaks services | Families have emphasised the need to develop and maintain high quality services                          | Short breaks provision to be regularly monitored to ensure quality services are maintained.  |

## 9 Conclusion

- 9.1. The Overnight Short Breaks Consultation was a proposed options consultation. The options were informed by the views of stakeholders, best practice, and previous reviews of short breaks provision in Medway. The survey, one-to-one discussions, and engagement exercises have provided valuable feedback that will be used to inform short term strategies that ensure families at Preston Skreens are able to transition into appropriate alternative provision as well as long term strategies that develop short breaks provision in Medway. Further to review of the consultation findings a preferred option will be agreed by Medway Council, NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, Kent County Council and NHS Swale Clinical Commissioning Group. This will be communicated to all those Involved in the public consultation process and specifically to families affected by any proposed changes to service.

## 10 Recommendations

- 10.1 The committee is asked to consider the responses to the consultation together with analysis from officers and to forward comments for consideration.

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**Partnership Commissioning Team**  
**27<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

## Appendix 1: Full Description of Options for Consultation

| <b>Option – 1A</b><br><b>Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Medway and Swale</b>   | <b>Advantages</b>  | <b>Disadvantages</b>   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Medway and Swale</b>   |  |  |
| <p><b>Summary of the option</b><br/> <b>Local authority and NHS funding is brought together to enable disabled children, young people and their parent carers from Medway and Swale to access overnight short breaks from a range of service providers and to benefit from additional short break activities during the day and evening. This will create a more flexible, child and family centred menu of short breaks.</b></p> <p>The menu could include overnight stays in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aut Even, Twydall (remains at 5 days a week)</li> <li>• Bluebells, Detling</li> <li>• Dragons Retreat, a 14+ unit near Swanley, run by the Dartford and Gravesham Parents' Consortium</li> <li>• Fairlawn, Ashford</li> <li>• Demelza Children's Hospice, Sittingbourne (where appropriate)</li> <li>• Short break foster carer's home</li> <li>• Family home</li> <li>• Weekend fun club</li> <li>• Adventure centre</li> </ul> <p>Day and evening short break activities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sitting service in the family home.</li> <li>• Home based short break service (starts in the home but goes out to access local services).</li> <li>• Befriending schemes</li> <li>• Specialist play schemes at weekends and school holidays.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting.</li> <li>• Increased opportunities for disabled children and young people to make new friends and maintain existing friendships.</li> <li>• Coaching for independence skills.</li> <li>• Personalisation and transition support.</li> <li>• More choice and control for parents, disabled children and young people through the use of a personal budget.</li> <li>• Improved choice from a broader menu of short break opportunities.</li> <li>• Improved opportunities for disabled children, young people with a physical impairment but no learning</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary disruption for child, new environments.</li> <li>• Increased travel for Swale children.</li> <li>• Fewer residential places for Medway children – mitigated by more choice of overnight short breaks in other places (such as a foster carer's home) and also the potential for families to use Kent units.</li> <li>• As it stands currently a personal budget cannot be used to purchase an overnight short break in a local authority run residential unit.</li> </ul> |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to local clubs, leisure centres</li> <li>• Day trips.</li> </ul> <p>To create more choice and control parents could be offered a personal budget to purchase their own menu of short break activities to support specific goals within the child's / young person's care plan. NB a personal budget cannot currently be used to purchase an overnight short break in a local authority run residential overnight short break unit.</p> <p>The current funding from Medway CCG and Swale CCG would be used with existing Medway Council and Kent County Council funding for short breaks.</p> <p><b>Capital cost £nil</b></p> | <p>impairment and their families to benefit from a short break.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More joined up approach to workforce training to enable disabled children, young people and their families to use local clubs and leisure services.</li> <li>• Improved short break opportunities for disabled children aged between 0-5.</li> <li>• Less travel for Medway children.</li> <li>• Allows flexibility for Medway and Swale children to go on short breaks or specialist play schemes together if that is what families say they want.</li> </ul> |  |
|--|---|--|

| <b>Option – 1B</b><br><b>Extend Aut Even to seven days a week and purchase additional overnight short breaks from an alternative residential overnight short break provider.</b>   | <b>Advantages</b>   | <b>Disadvantages</b>  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Medway Only</b>   |   |   |
| <p><b>Summary of the option</b><br/> <b>Medway Council and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group funding is brought together to enable disabled children, young people and their parent carers from Medway to continue to access an overnight short break in a residential overnight short break unit. This option could also enable parent carers to use a personal budget to purchase overnight short breaks in facilities that are not run by Medway Council.</b></p> <p>Provision at the Aut Even site increased to seven days/week, to meet the needs of up to 70 families.</p> <p>In addition, ten places, depending on demand at the time, would be purchased at alternative residential overnight provision, for example, Dragons Retreat near Swanley, provided by the Dartford and Gravesham Parents' Consortium, giving a total capacity of 80 residential overnight places, to meet current Medway demand of 79.</p> <p>There is capacity to purchase additional places if required.</p> <p>Existing and new service users to be offered the option of a personal budget/direct payment and/or non-residential overnight options.</p> <p>NB. This option would not lead to additional day or evening short break opportunities or the choice of having an overnight stay in another setting such as a weekend fun club.</p> <p>The current funding from Medway Clinical Commissioning Group would be used with existing Medway Council funding for short breaks</p> <p><b>Capital cost: Minimal enabling refurbishment rather than remodelling</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting.</li> <li>• Relatively local and accessible provision for the majority of Medway families.</li> <li>• Includes outreach support to families, for example supporting family day trips; for younger children continence training, developing social skills; and for young people aged 16/17 preparing for independence.</li> <li>• Reduced transport costs for those children/young people receiving overnights.</li> <li>• More joined up approach to workforce training to enable disabled children, young people and their families to use local clubs and leisure services.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There would be temporary disruption to existing groups of children at Preston Skreens and possibly at Aut Even while moves took place.</li> <li>• The Aut Even service cannot be accessed by families wishing to use a personal budget as it is currently a local authority run service. Families will be able to exercise the option to use a personal budget if the service is outsourced to an alternative provider.</li> <li>• No additional day or evening short break opportunities or choice of having an overnight stay in another setting such as a weekend fun club.</li> <li>• Little or no potential for Medway and Swale children to go on short breaks or specialist play schemes together even if that is what families say they want.</li> </ul> |

| <b>Option – 1C</b><br><b>A combined residential overnight short break unit with additional places for disabled children and young people requiring a residential placement away from home</b>   | <b>Advantages</b>  | <b>Disadvantages</b>   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Medway only</b>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Summary of the option</b></p> <p><b>Medway Council and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group funding brought together to provide overnight short breaks and residential placements in two buildings (one being Aut Even) on an integrated basis.</b></p> <p>Combined overnights and permanent residential home option. An additional site and buildings in a homely setting are acquired, adapted as necessary, and run on an integrated basis with Aut Even. The two units would provide for all overnight short breaks, and one could be adapted for dual use to provide permanent accommodation for up to 4 children who would otherwise be placed in out-area residential provision because the home setting has broken down. The permanent residential accommodation would be functionally separate from the overnight provision in order to meet Department for Education Children's Home requirements.</p> <p><b>Capital cost: £0.6m (acquisition and adaptation costs)</b></p> <p>The current funding from Medway Clinical Commissioning Group would be used with existing Medway Council funding for short breaks and residential out of area placements.</p> <p>This would take longer and would require a phased approach, with interim measures put in place in the short term.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service provision is subject to competitive testing for quality and price.</li> <li>• The permanent accommodation will be in or close to Medway and therefore allow the Medway school placement to continue; allow parent carers to maintain contact, and the children to see their neighbourhood friends and peers, thus improving long term outcomes.</li> <li>• There would be significant revenue savings on the cost of care for children placed out of area.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There would be temporary disruption to existing groups of children at Preston Skreens and possibly at Aut Even.</li> <li>• Insufficient capital funding currently allocated.</li> <li>• A mixed provision of respite and permanent placements would disadvantage children permanently placed in the home.</li> <li>• The Aut Even service cannot be accessed by families wishing to use a personal budget as it is currently a local authority run service. Families will be able to exercise the option to use a personal budget if the service is outsourced to an alternative provider.</li> <li>• No additional day or evening short-break opportunities or choice of having an overnight stay in another setting such as a weekend fun club.</li> <li>• Little or no potential for Medway and Swale children to go on short breaks or specialist play schemes together even if that is what families say they want.</li> </ul> |

| <b>Option – 2A</b><br><b>Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Swale</b>  | <b>Advantages</b>  | <b>Disadvantages</b>   |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Swale</b></p> <p><b>Summary of the option</b><br/> <b>If Medway families chose to go for either Option 1b, or 1c, then Kent County Council and Swale Clinical Commissioning Group funding would be brought together to enable disabled children, young people and their parent carers from Swale to access overnight short breaks from a range of service providers and benefit from additional short break activities during the day and evening. This would create a more flexible, child and family centred menu of short breaks.</b></p> <p>The menu could include overnight stays in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bluebells</li> <li>• Dragons Retreat</li> <li>• Windchimes</li> <li>• Fairlawn</li> <li>• Children's Hospice</li> <li>• Short break foster carer's home</li> <li>• Family home</li> <li>• Weekend fun club</li> <li>• Adventure centre</li> </ul> <p><b>It would NOT include Aut Even</b></p> <p>Day and evening short break activities could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sitting service in the family home.</li> <li>• Home based short break service (starts in the home but goes out to access local services).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No capital costs.</li> <li>• Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting.</li> <li>• Increased opportunities for disabled children and young people to make new friends and maintain existing friendships.</li> <li>• More choice and control for parents, disabled children and young people through the using a personal budget.</li> <li>• Improved choice from a broader menu of short break opportunities.</li> <li>• Improved opportunities for disabled children, young people with a physical impairment but no learning impairment and their families to benefit from a short break.</li> <li>• More joined up approach to workforce training to enable</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some children may have longer journey times to participate in overnight short breaks.</li> <li>• The capacity of existing provision will need to be expanded and additional funding will need to be identified to achieve this.</li> <li>• Little or no potential for Medway and Swale children to go on short breaks or specialist play schemes together even if that is what families say they want.</li> </ul> |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Befriending schemes</li> <li>• Specialists play schemes at weekends and school holidays.</li> <li>• Access to local clubs, leisure centres</li> <li>• Day trips.</li> </ul> <p>To create more choice and control parents could be offered a personal budget to purchase their own menu of short break activities.</p> <p><b>Capital cost: £0</b></p> <p><b>Revenue costs: Current Swale Clinical Commissioning Group funding linked to overnight short breaks provided at Preston Skreens will be used to jointly commission the additional services required with Kent County Council.</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disabled children, young people and their families to use local clubs and leisure services.</li> <li>• Improved short break opportunities for disabled children aged between 0-5.</li> <li>• Disabled children and young people can use high quality purpose built or appropriately converted provision</li> <li>• A menu of provision will be available to families from which they can choose the most appropriate service for their child, subject to a needs assessment.</li> <li>• Independent providers of overnight breaks have informally expressed an interest in providing this service to families in receipt of a direct payment.</li> </ul> |  |
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| <b>Option – 2B</b><br><b>Overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people in Medway and Swale delivered through a new provider.</b>  | <b>Advantages</b>  | <b>Disadvantages</b>   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Additional overnight short breaks</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service would be accommodated in an appropriately adapted homely setting, or new, purpose-designed buildings.</li> <li>• Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting.</li> <li>• Disabled children and young people could maintain existing friendships.</li> <li>• Relatively local and accessible provision for Medway and Swale families.</li> <li>• More choice and control for parents, disabled children and young people through the using a personal budget.</li> <li>• In the medium term disabled children and young people currently using Preston Skreens could continue to have overnight short breaks together. Although there would be some disruption in the short term while an alternative provider is identified.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would take approximately 12- 18 months for a new residential overnight short break service to become available allowing for the procurement process and refurbishment of any building. The cost of any refurbishment would be paid for by the new service provider.</li> <li>• While the new service was being set up, disabled children and young people would have to be placed temporarily in alternative provision. This would cause additional disruption.</li> <li>• The flexibility of options 1(a) and 2 (a) would be lost because all of the revenue funding would be tied up in a residential unit.</li> <li>• No guarantee that another provider would be able to supply a building that was fit for purpose and met national standards.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Summary of the option</b></p> <p><b>Local authority and NHS funding brought together to commission a new provider of overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Medway and Swale.</b></p> <p>In this option Aut Even would remain as it is and a new residential short break unit would be commissioned through an open tender process to meet the demand from the closure of Preston Skreens.</p> <p>The procurement process would specify that the tenderer should provide the premises in which the service is to be delivered.</p> <p>Personal budgets could be used to purchase overnight short breaks from the new provider.</p> <p>The current funding from Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and Swale Clinical Commissioning Group would be used with existing Medway Council and Kent County Council funding for short breaks.</p> <p><b>Capital cost: £0</b></p> |  |  |

## Diversity Impact Assessment: Screening Form

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| <b>Directorate/<br/>Organisations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medway Council, Children and Adult Services</li> <li>• Kent County Council</li> <li>• NHS Swale Clinical Commissioning Group</li> <li>• NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group</li> <li>• NHS Medway Foundation Trust</li> </ul> | <b>Name of Function or Policy or Major Service Change</b><br><br><b>Proposed changes to the way that overnight short break services for disabled children, young people aged 5 – 18 years and their families living in Medway and Swale are provided.</b>  |                             |
| Officer responsible for assessment<br><br>Victoria Nystrom-Marshall  | Date of assessment<br><br>28 June 2013   | New or existing?<br><br>New |
| <b>Defining what is being assessed</b>   |  |                             |
| <b>1. Briefly describe the purpose and objectives</b>  | <p>Medway NHS Foundation Trust gave notice in September 2011 that the Trust would no longer intended to be a provider of overnight short break services for disabled children, young people and their families living in Medway and Swale. This is in line with other hospital trusts across the country. Medway NHS Foundation Trust wishes to focus on those specialist services that only highly trained staff can provide. This notification was an immediate trigger for a review and consultation regarding short breaks provision in Medway to ensure that families accessing the provision are able to access alternative and potentially a greater range of short breaks provision.</p> <p>Medway NHS Foundation Trust provides overnight short breaks at Preston Skreens and at Aut Even in conjunction with the LA. Preston Skreens on the Isle of Sheppey, Swale will close for such provision in 2013. This will take place in consultation with partners and take place within a realistic timeframe that will enable individuals will be able to transition into any new provision. Further provision for overnight breaks at Aut Even facility in Twydall, Medway is supported by the Trust in conjunction with Medway Council and will remain open.</p> <p>Other drivers for the review are:<br/> The need to compare our existing service with current best practice ie:<br/> A) having nursing and care staff on shift for an overnight short break</p> |                             |

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|  | <p>delivers improved outcomes for the family.</p> <p>B) Offer of a broader menu of options for families to choose from rather than an overnight stay.</p> <p>Preston Skreens is a facility offering short breaks. It is in a poor state of repair, with inadequate access within the buildings. There are not enough en-suite bathrooms and the communal space needs to be modernised and made more accessible to meet current mobility standards. Medway NHS Foundation Trust has stated in its formal notice letter that it does not consider the building fit for purpose. It would require very significant investment to bring it up to national children's home standards as defined by the Department for Education.</p> <p>Aut Even is a facility which offers short breaks over 5 days.</p> <p>We have carried out wide consultation with stakeholders across Medway and Swale between April – June 2013 regarding preferred service options. Surveys, consultation events, one-to-one interviews, and taster sessions were adopted to ensure that all families who already or may need to access overnight short breaks in Medway had the opportunity to respond.</p> <p>It is clear that some families are unaware of the range of opportunities available to them and may wish to reconsider their options now that these have been made clearer.</p> <p>We want to continue to deliver short break opportunities for the benefit of children and young people with disabilities, by providing a range of different types of experiences, including overnight accommodation.</p> <p>The options consulted on were:</p> <p>1A Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for families in Medway and Swale</p> <p>1B Extend Aut Even to seven days a week and purchase additional overnight short breaks from an alternative residential provider for families in Medway</p> <p>1C A combined residential overnight short break unit with additional short breaks overnight places for families in Medway</p> <p>2A extend the range of ten day evening and overnight short breaks for families in Swale</p> <p>2B Commission overnight short breaks</p> |
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|   | <p>from a new provider for families in Medway and Swale</p> <p><b>The recommended/preferred option is</b><br/>1A extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for families in Medway and Swale</p> <p>together with</p> <p>1B Extend Aut Even to seven days a week and purchase additional overnight accommodation from an alternative provider.</p> <p>The recommendation on the preferred option has taken into account this Diversity Impact Assessment.</p> <p>The closure of Preston Skreens and the extension of Aut Even may be subject to TUPE.</p> <p>The recommended options will ensure that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Services will be developed in response to the needs recently identified</li> <li>2) Services will ensure improved outcomes for children and young people with disabilities.</li> <li>3) Existing service users will continue to have access to similar services in Medway or Kent.</li> </ol> <p>The decision on the preferred option will be made in consultation with parent representatives in September by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medway Council</li> <li>• Kent County Council</li> <li>• Swale Clinical Commissioning Group</li> <li>• Medway Clinical Commissioning Group</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>2. Who is intended to benefit, and in what way?</b></p> | <p>Overnight short breaks are provided to children and young people with severe profound and complex disabilities, aged 5 to 18 years, providing respite for them and their families who's circumstances are also taken in to account. Typical disabilities include combinations of severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties, severe autism, challenging behaviour associated with disability, global developmental delay often in combination with a wide range of long term medical conditions including cerebral palsy, epilepsy, visual impairments and incontinence.</p> <p>The main benefits are:</p>   |

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|  | <p>Children and young people with a complex needs will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved emotional and physical health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Leading more ordinary lives</li> <li>• Help in the transition to adulthood and living more independently</li> <li>• Reduced likelihood of being placed in long term residential care away from family environment</li> </ul> <p>Parents, carers and families of disabled children and young people will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead more ordinary lives</li> <li>• Time to spend for themselves and the rest of the family</li> <li>• Reduced stress and worry for a time</li> </ul> <p>Local Authorities and communities will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced cost in long-term residential care</li> <li>• Reduced cost in health services</li> </ul> <p>The number of children and young people who have used these two facilities over the past few years are:</p> <p>2010/11 500<br/>2011/12 600<br/>2012/13 700</p>   |
| <p><b>3. What outcomes are wanted?</b></p> | <p>We have consulted with parents, carers, staff, voluntary organisations and other groups to understand needs and to develop proposals for the future</p> <p>They have said that they want:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short breaks to have a positive impact on the disabled children, young people and their families.</li> <li>• Short breaks which gives children and young people the chance to have fun, make friends and to grow in independence</li> <li>• Short breaks to give parents and their siblings a break from caring.</li> </ul> <p>Young people have told us that they want:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To spend more time with friends at school</li> <li>• A sleep over with friends like their brothers and sisters have</li> </ul> <p>Overall the preferred options from the survey were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option 1A Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for families in Medway and Swale. This was the top option and tended to be chosen more by non users of overnight short breaks</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Option 1B Extend Aut Even to seven days a week and purchase additional overnight short breaks from an alternative residential provider for families in Medway. This option tended to be chosen by the existing users of the overnight short breaks</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>4. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?</b> | <p>Contribute</p> <p>A formal consultation process has been carried out between April – June 2013 in conjunction with stakeholders. In addition, a booster survey was carried out in June to clarify responses.<br/> <a href="http://www.medwaychildrenstrust.co.uk/documents/short-breaks-consultation-document-1363699051.pdf">Link to Consultation document</a><br/> <a href="http://www.medwaychildrenstrust.co.uk/documents/short-breaks-consultation-document-1363699051.pdf">http://www.medwaychildrenstrust.co.uk/documents/short-breaks-consultation-document-1363699051.pdf</a></p> <p>A summary of the outcome from the consultation has been produced and will be circulated shortly. A copy will also be made available on the Children's Trust website</p> | <p>Detract</p> <p>The recommended option has financial implications. Funding is expected to be met in full by Medway Council, Kent County Council, NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Swale Clinical Commissioning Group.</p> <p>Some disabled children and young people and their families who are currently accessing overnight short breaks facilities at Preston Skreens or Aut Evens may be unsettled if they need to transfer to a new service. This disruption will be mitigated by assessment of their care needs which will be carried out prior to any new service arrangements coming into effect.</p> <p>It is planned that existing short break providers and staff will be provided with help and support from the Disabled Children's team to aid the transition</p> |
| <b>5. Who are the main stakeholders?</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and young people with complex needs</li> <li>Disabled children and young people living in Medway or Swale</li> <li>Families of disabled children and young people living in Medway or Swale</li> <li>Staff potentially affected by the proposal (example: those employed at Preston Skreens and Aut Even.</li> <li>Representative groups (service user groups such as the Medway Parent Carer Forum, Kent Parents Consortia and Save Preston Skreens Group)</li> <li>Medway Council</li> <li>Kent County Council</li> <li>Medway NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>Swale Clinical Commissioning Group</li> <li>Medway Clinical Commissioning Group</li> </ul>  |   |

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|  | <p>Stakeholder views will be taken into account however the final decision will be taken by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medway Council</li><li>• Kent County Council</li><li>• Swale Clinical Commissioning Group</li><li>• Medway Clinical Commissioning Group</li></ul> <p>These organisations will be responsible for commissioning future short breaks services.</p>   |  |
| <b>6. Who implements this and who is responsible?</b>  | <p>Project Sponsor: David Quirke-Thornton, Deputy Director Commissioning and Strategy, Children and Adult Services</p> <p>Research Lead: Michelle Lofting, Research Analyst, Children and Adult Services</p> <p>Commissioning Lead: Victoria Nystrom-Marshall, Head of Partnership Commissioning for Children</p> <p>Commissioner: Donna Mills, Partnership Commissioning Manager</p>   |  |
| <b>Assessing impact</b>  |   |  |
| <b>7. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to racial/ethnic groups?</b> |   | Brief statement of main issue  |
|  | NO  | Those assessing levels of need according to the published access statement to support services for families with children with disabilities and service providers are committed to racial equality. Access to service criteria is based on disability needs. |
| <b>What evidence exists for this?</b>  | <p>Eligibility criteria to the short stay services is based only on level of need i.e. a child or young person's disability or complex needs and impact on their family.</p> <p>Services record and monitor the ethnicity profiles of service users. This information is used to understand the reach of the project in comparison with ethnicity profiles of Medway and to make adjustments as necessary should analysis require it and to ensure service improvement.</p> |  |



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| <p><b>8. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to <i>disability</i>?</b></p> | <p>NO</p>  | <p>Eligibility criteria is not changing so disabled children will not be treated unfairly in terms of their access to services. Depending on the options chosen, access to services may increase.</p> <p>As part of this work we are trying to provide and promote a broader range of short break options that can meet the changing needs of children and young people as they grow up and become more independent.</p> <p>However, due to the nature of some disabilities, some disabled children, young people and families may be unsettled, if they need to transfer to a new provider. This change is unavoidable since the current provider has given notice that they will no longer provide the service.</p> |
| <p><b>What evidence exists for this?</b></p>   | <p>It is possible that some disabled children and young people and their families who are currently accessing overnight short breaks facilities at Preston Skreens or Aut Even may be unsettled if they need to transfer to a new service. This is due to their conditions such as severe Autism which means that they may be affected by change more than others since this condition requires stability and familiarisation.</p> <p><u>Plans to mitigate against this include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full re assessments of existing users to fully understand their care needs</li> <li>• potential for those most likely to be affected by change to be able to use more familiar settings</li> <li>• support will be given to families from existing short breaks providers and care staff to prepare and aid families in the transition from Preston Skreens to new facilities</li> </ul> <p>During December 2012 there were 50 children accessing the Preston Skreens unit (30 from Medway and 20 from Swale). At Aut Even there were 51 children accessing the facility, all from Medway.</p> <p>There are no plans to change the eligibility criteria, those assessed in needing additional support will continue to receive it from Aut Even facility or another facility within Kent or Medway. All individuals will be offered a reassessment to ensure that services meet present needs.</p> |   |
| <p><b>9. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to <i>gender</i>?</b></p>     | <p>NO</p>  | <p>Each assessment for overnight short breaks is based on the child's disability and the impact that has on them and the family. Gender is not part of the criteria</p>   |
| <p><b>What evidence exists for this?</b></p>   | <p>Assessment is person centred and not by gender. Services record and monitor the gender of service users. This information is used to understand the</p>   |   |

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|  |    | reach of the service and to make adjustments as necessary should analysis require and to ensure service improvement  |
| <b>10. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to <i>sexual orientation</i>?</b>        |    | Each assessment for overnight short breaks is based on the child's disability and the impact that has on them and the family. Sexual orientation is not part of the criteria.  |
|  | NO |  |
| <b>What evidence exists for this?</b>  |    | Assessment is person centred and not by Sexual orientation.<br>Services are not currently monitoring this equalities information as a matter of course since the needs of the young people are complex and preclude them from such knowledge. However, assessment at transition to adulthood does take this need into account. |
| <b>11. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a have a differential impact due to <i>religion or belief</i>?</b> |    | Each assessment for overnight short breaks is based on the child's disability and the impact that has on them and the family. Religion is not part of the criteria   |
|  | NO |  |
| <b>What evidence exists for this?</b>  |    | Assessment is person centred and not by religion<br>Services do record this equalities information.  |

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| <b>12. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to people's age?</b>                                 |    | Residential overnight short break provision is currently limited to disabled children and young people and those with complex needs aged 5 to 18 years as assessed as being in need.  |
|  | NO | Depending on what option is chosen the service could potentially be offered to a wider age group.   |
| <b>What evidence exists for this?</b>  |    | Medway like all other Local Authorities has a published local offer of need in terms of short breaks. At the moment overnight short breaks is offered to 5 to 18 years. The age profile of current service users will be assessed to better understand the age differentiation and to help inform the future service provision.     |
| <b>13. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to <i>being transgender or transsexual</i>?</b> |    | Each assessment for short breaks is based on the child's disability and the impact that has on them and the family. Transgender or transsexual is not part of the criteria  |
|  | NO |   |
| <b>What evidence exists for this?</b>  |    | Assessment is person centred and not by transgender or transsexual. Services are not currently monitoring this equalities information as a matter of course since the needs of the young people are complex and preclude them from such knowledge. However, assessment at transition to adulthood does take this need into account. |
| <b>14. Are there any <i>other</i> groups that would find it difficult to access/make use of the function (e.g. speakers</b>    |    | If yes, which group(s)?   |

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| of other languages; people with caring responsibilities or dependants; those with an offending past; or people living in rural areas)?      | NO  |   |
| What evidence exists for this?  | <p>The consultation has not identified any other groups currently unable to access the service.</p> <p>The provision of short breaks activities in particular overnight short stays is assessed on a published criteria based on disability or complex need.</p>  |   |
| 15. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to <i>multiple discriminations</i> (e.g. disability <u>and</u> age)? |   | Brief statement of main issue<br>There is now a requirement for Local Authorities (LA) to publish a local offer of support services for families with children with SEN or disabilities |
|   | NO  |   |
| What evidence exists for this?  | <p>It is unlikely that service users will be impacted on multiple discrimination grounds as it has already been identified that there will not be an adverse impact on single protected characteristics (see s 7-13)</p> <p>Children and young people are eligible for support and services if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a physical or learning disability</li> <li>• a hearing or visual impairment</li> <li>• Autism and Asperger's Syndrome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• challenging behaviour as a result of their learning disability</li> </ul> </li> <li>• children who have complex health needs and who may have palliative, life limiting or a life-threatening condition.</li> </ul> |   |

| Conclusions & recommendation  |  |   |
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| 16. Could the differential impacts identified in questions 7-15 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact? |  | It is possible that some disabled children and young people and their families who are currently accessing overnight short breaks facilities at Preston Skreens or Aut Even may be unsettled if they need to transfer to a new service. This is due to their conditions such as |

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|  |  | <p>severe Autism which means that they may be affected by change more than others since this condition requires stability and familiarisation.</p> <p><u>Plans to mitigate against this include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full re assessments of existing users to fully understand their care needs</li> <li>• potential for those most likely to be affected by change to be able to use more familiar settings</li> <li>• support will be given to families from existing short breaks providers and care staff to prepare and aid families in the transition from Preston Skreens to any new services</li> </ul> <p>There are no protected character groups that will be adversely impacted.</p> <p>We know this because our monitoring information (user profiles) tells us so and also the consultation feedback does not indicate any concerns regarding specific groups that will be adversely impacted.</p> |
| <b>17. Can the adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or another reason?</b> | YES  | <p>Need is assessed on a published criteria the same as other local authorities. A copy of the eligibility statement is attached.</p> <p>It is possible that some disabled children and young people and their families who are currently accessing overnight short breaks facilities at Preston Skreens or Aut Even may be unsettled if they need to transfer to a new service.</p> <p>Medway NHS Foundation Trust has already given notice which means it is likely the provider and some staff may change.</p>  |
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| Recommendation to proceed to a full impact assessment?   |  |  |
| NO   |  |  |
| No but   | <b>What is required to ensure this complies with the requirements of the legislation? (see DIA Guidance Notes)?</b>            | <p>This change will not adversely impact access to services for any of the characteristics so a full impact assessment is not required. However, increased transitional support will be provided in respect of some disabled users as the nature of their disability may mean that they will find any change unsettling.</p>   |
| Yes  | <b>Give details of key person responsible and target date for carrying out full impact assessment (see DIA Guidance Notes)</b> |  |

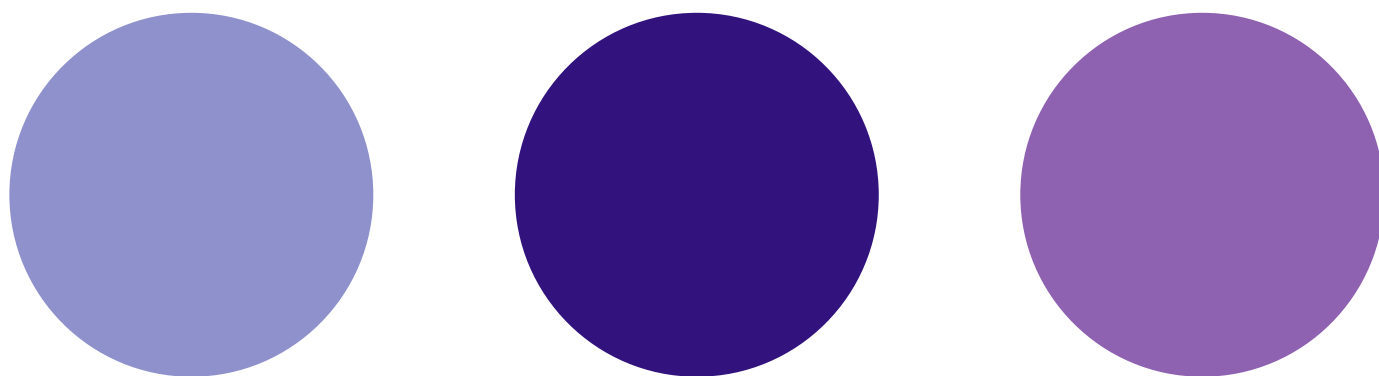
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| <b>Action plan to make Minor modifications</b>   |   |  |
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| <b>Outcome</b>   | <b>Actions (with date of completion)</b>  | <b>Officer responsible</b>   |
| Ensuring that family needs are fully understood  | Families at Preston Skreens are being offered an updated assessment that is completed in partnership with parents and in consultation with children to ensure that their needs are fully understood and met. To be completed by 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2013  | Nigel Leonard, Service Manager   |
| Recognising the impact of change on families, providing families with a realistic timeframe and support  | A realistic timeframe to be agreed in which individuals will be able to transition into any new provision identified by families with input from staff working with families and parent representatives.  | Short Breaks Steering Group (comprising of parent carer representatives, Service Managers, NHS Medway Foundation Trust, LA Commissioners, and NHS Commissioners) |
| Ensuring both affected families and those who took part in the consultation are informed of the outcomes | Feedback session(s) to be held with families who may be affected by change and those who participated in the consultation to review outcomes and discuss next steps.  | Donna Mills, Partnership Commissioning Manager and Michelle Lofting, Research Lead   |
| Ensuring the quality of services   | All short breaks provision funded by Medway Council has been reassessed to ensure that high quality short breaks provision is available. Short breaks provision will be reviewed to ensure that this aligns with the priorities identified during the consultation with preferred option agreed in July / August. | Donna Mills, Partnership Commissioning Manager   |

| <b>Planning ahead: Reminders for the next review</b>                                    |   |
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| <b>Date of next review</b>  | This is a one off project in light of the Medway NHS Foundation Trust given formal notice that is no longer wants to be the provider of children and young people's overnight short breaks in Medway and Swale. |
| <b>Areas to check at next review (e.g. new census information, new legislation due)</b> |   |

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| Is there <i>another</i> group (e.g. new communities) that is relevant and ought to be considered next time? | N/A                 |  |  |
| Signed (completing officer/service manager)<br>Donna Mills  | Date<br>2 July 2013 |  |  |
| Signed (service manager/Assistant Director)<br>Victoria Nystrom-Marshall                                    | Date<br>2 July 2013 |  |  |

*NB: Remember to list the evidence (i.e. documents and data sources) used*



# Transforming short break services for disabled children, young people and their families living in Medway and Swale

**Consultation document on proposed changes to Preston Skreens and Aut Even**

March 2013







# Introduction

A short break provides a chance for a disabled child or young person to have fun and make new friends. These breaks can last from a few hours to a whole weekend and can give disabled children and young people the same choices about how they spend their time as those of their age without impairments.

A short break also gives their family a much needed break from the responsibilities of caring and a chance to spend some quality time with each other and with other children in the family.

Disabled children, young people and their parent carers have been accessing short breaks funded by Medway Council, Kent County Council and the NHS for many years.

## How short breaks have changed

In 2007, the government's Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme put the spotlight on how short break services needed to improve. Central government and parent carers gave local authorities and the NHS the challenge of working together to significantly increase the quality, range and volume of short breaks available in their local areas. This was supported by additional investment to local authorities.

In response to this challenge, Medway Council, Kent County Council and their NHS partners have worked with disabled children, young people and their parent carers to develop a much broader range of short breaks, such as adventure weekends, family fun days, befriending schemes and home sitting services.

As a result, families now have many more options for short breaks provided by universal and targeted services to help meet their needs, rather than relying solely on specialist services allocated following the social care assessment.

There are now three times as many short breaks for disabled children and young people living in Medway and Kent as there were in 2007.

This may be one of the reasons why there has been a fall in the number of referrals being made to traditional specialist residential overnight short break units in Medway and Swale over the last couple of years.

# Review of overnight short breaks

In May 2011, the Medway Strategic Review of Disability Services recommended a review of the overnight short breaks service to ensure children and young people who need them are looked after in the best possible environment.

One of the immediate triggers for the review was that Medway NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Medway Maritime Hospital and provides the overnight short breaks service at Preston Skreens and Aut Even, and owns the Preston Skreens building, gave notice that it no longer wished to provide overnight short break services.

While the hospital trust is supporting a smooth transition for disabled children and young people, it wishes to focus in the longer-term on those specialist services that only its highly trained staff can provide. This is in line with other hospital trusts across the country.

The plan for Aut Even is for the service to be provided in future by staff who are not employed by Medway NHS Foundation Trust but who are fully trained to give care that meets the needs of disabled children and young people who use the service.

For Preston Skreens, the story is different for several reasons. One is that the buildings are in poor condition. Medway NHS Foundation Trust has stated in its formal notice letter that it does not consider the buildings fit for purpose. They would require very significant investment to reach national children's home standards set by the Department for Education.

Medway NHS Foundation Trust is willing to lease or sell Preston Skreens to another provider at market rates. However, an independent feasibility study, commissioned by Medway Council, Kent County Council and the NHS at the request of parents, found that refurbishing the buildings would not bring them up to the required standards. The only way to achieve a short breaks unit fit for the 21st century would be to knock the existing buildings down and rebuild them, at a cost of more than £1.4million. This is not affordable in the current economic climate. (More details are included in this document.)

Another reason is that there is room for children and young people from Swale to have their breaks in new, purpose-built, overnight short break units in Detling, Herne Bay, Ashford and elsewhere, which meet the very highest standards. Nine Swale families already do this, compared to 20 who currently use Preston Skreens. Kent County Council has already extended the number and range of short break services available on the Isle of Sheppey and is committed to doing more, in partnership with NHS Swale Clinical Commissioning Group. These include, for instance, overnight short breaks with a short break foster carer.

Therefore, the Preston Skreens buildings do not form part of the future plans of Medway Council, KCC or the NHS and we are proposing that the buildings close.

Our focus for the future is on enabling disabled children from Medway and Swale to enjoy a wider variety of short breaks in other establishments and venues.

This is subject to this consultation and does not preclude action being taken by the Save Preston Skreens Group, although it does make it less likely that Medway Council, KCC and the NHS would wish to commission services from a new provider using the Preston Skreens buildings.

# What this consultation asks you

For all these reasons, we have been reviewing short break services in Medway and Swale, including overnight short breaks. We want to build on the work that we have already done with disabled children, young people, parent carers and other key stakeholders, to improve and modernise overnight short break services in Medway and Swale.

Our aim is to achieve the positive outcomes for disabled children, young people and their parent carers. Results from a national evaluation<sup>1</sup> has found that accessing a broader range of short breaks during the day, evening and overnight:

- Disabled children and young people experience increased choices, wider social networks and grow in confidence and independence.
- Disabled children and young people are able to use the same leisure services as their non-disabled peers, with additional support.
- Parents experience more choice and control of family life, developing supportive peer relationships and raise their expectations and aspirations for what their children may achieve.

We have worked with parent carers, staff, voluntary organisations and other groups to come up with proposals for the future, which we set out in this document.

Parent carers have told us that the friendships their children have developed through the overnight short breaks service are really important and they want us to do everything we can to maintain them.

We will actively work with parent carers, disabled children and all the organisations involved in providing short breaks to ensure that, wherever possible, the new options for short breaks maintain these friendships.

Some proposals in this consultation will actively make that easier and where this is the case, this is made clear in the advantages or disadvantages listed.

Your views on these services are important and we would like to hear from you.

## We are asking for comments on:

- what you want from overnight short break services for disabled children and young people in Medway and Swale;
- the different options for overnight short breaks for these children and young people, set out in this document.

The outcome of this consultation will be used to influence and inform the decisions taken by Medway Council, NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Swale Clinical Commissioning Group and Kent County Council, which are the organisations responsible for commissioning these services in the future. In particular, the consultation responses will tell us what services families would like to be available for them, where they want those services to be located and how they want to access them.

Please fill out the postal survey and send it to the freepost address  
by **29 April 2013** or fill in the online version at  
**[www.medwaychildrenstrust.co.uk](http://www.medwaychildrenstrust.co.uk)**

<sup>1</sup> Together for Disabled Children (2011) Towards a more ordinary life... A report on the progress of parent carer participation and the development of short breaks: 2008-2011

### For more information:

- Email: [researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk](mailto:researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk)
- Telephone: **01634 332445**
- Or come to discuss our plans at one of the roadshows we are organising. We will make details available via the website and the parents' forums.

We will be working with parents, community and voluntary groups, to involve people whose views are not always heard. If you would like to take part in a focus group and discuss these issues in detail, please email the consultation team on [researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk](mailto:researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk) or phone Michelle Lofting on **01634 332445**.

The consultation lasts from **6 March until 12 June 2013**. The survey will run until the end of April so that feedback from it can be tested with people in focus groups and at wider meetings in May.

If you are a local organisation holding an event between **6 March and 12 June 2013**, and you would like us to come and talk to you about the proposals in this document, please email the consultation team on [researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk](mailto:researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk) or phone Michelle Lofting on **01634 332445**.

**Your views are important to us and all views contributed will be taken account of in the final report.**

**Whatever happens, we stand by our commitment to parents and carers of children at Aut Even and Preston Skreens:**

*Whatever the outcome of the review, disabled children, young people and their families who currently receive overnight short breaks and wish to do so, will continue to have access to them (subject to on-going assessments).*



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*Director, Children and Adults,  
Medway Council*



**Dr Fiona Armstrong**  
*Chair of NHS Swale Clinical  
Commissioning Group*



**Dr Peter Green**  
*Chief Clinical Officer of  
NHS Medway Clinical  
Commissioning Group*



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*Assistant Area Director,  
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# Background

The Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme led to a change in the law and the creation of a new statutory duty within the Children Act 2008 on local authorities to provide a range of short breaks as appropriate during the day, night, weekends and during school holidays.

The NHS has a general duty within the Health Act 2006 to secure the improvement of people's physical and mental health. Both Medway and Swale clinical commissioning groups will continue to contribute to the provision of short breaks for disabled children with complex health needs and / or challenging behaviour.

Over the last few years there has been a real growth in choice of short breaks for disabled children and young people and their families in Kent and Medway.

## What does this broader range of short breaks look like?

- Additional overnight stays in a residential unit, short break foster carer's home or a voluntary sector provider.
- Specialist playschemes during weekends, school holidays and after school.
- Day trips.
- Adventure weekends.
- Horse riding, sailing and gliding.
- Arts and crafts.
- Gardening club.
- Home based short break or sitting services.
- Befriending schemes to enable disabled children and young people to join in local community activities e.g. youth clubs, theatre trips or cinema.
- Family fun days.
- Themed activities and taster sessions e.g. horse riding, sport, music and drama sessions.
- Additional hours of support from someone employed via a direct payment to provide short breaks.

There has also been additional training and support offered to local leisure services such as sports centres, youth clubs and other voluntary organisations to enable them to include disabled children and young people in their activities. Specialist equipment has also been purchased to improve access to cycle parks and a range of sporting activities.

Specific short break programmes have been developed to reach out to minority ethnic communities.

Short break activities are now provided by a wide range of local voluntary sector and council services, with whom there are close links through provider forums in both Medway and Kent.

# Short breaks in Medway

The table below shows the significant increase in short break provision in Medway since 2008.

| Provision  | Actual<br>2008-09<br>(baseline) | Actual<br>2009-10 | Actual<br>2010-11 | Actual<br>2011-12 |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Overall number of individual children receiving short breaks</b>                    | <b>590</b>                      | <b>906</b>        | <b>1,674</b>      | <b>1,848</b>      |
| Total number in government priority groups A and B receiving short breaks <sup>2</sup> | 504                             | 839               | 1,464             | N/A <sup>3</sup>  |
| Total number of children receiving overnight provision                                 | 126                             | 156               | 172               | 198               |
| Number of individual children receiving individual day care/session provision          | 124                             | 116               | 260               | 253               |
| <b>Total hours of individual provision</b>   | <b>9,095</b>                    | <b>9,158</b>      | <b>19,848</b>     | <b>27,531</b>     |
| Total number of individual children receiving group based specialist provision         | 261                             | 392               | 791               | 767               |
| Extended school provision (hours)  | 4,750                           | 5,606             | 9,291             | 11,327            |
| Youth work provision (hours)   | 4,272                           | 5,408             | 6,271             | 9,329             |
| Saturday or Sunday schemes (hours)   | 2,280                           | 2,914             | 8,665             | 8,970             |
| School holiday schemes (hours)   | 1,200                           | 5,968             | 17,124            | 17,989            |
| Children's centres (hours)   | 0                               | 0                 | 2,908             | 0                 |
| Other (family based activities to under fives) (hours)                                 | 0                               | 360               | 1,337             | 1,875             |
| <b>Total number of hours of group based specialist provision</b>                       | <b>12,502</b>                   | <b>20,256</b>     | <b>45,596</b>     | <b>48,803</b>     |
| Total number of children receiving group based <b>non-specialist</b> provision         | 79                              | 242               | 451               | 630               |
| Total number of hours of group based non-specialist provision                          | 3,156                           | 3,710             | 10,038            | 18,201            |

<sup>2</sup> See glossary of terms at the back of the document for definition.

<sup>3</sup> No longer collected due to differing interpretations.

# Short breaks in Kent (by hours)

This table shows the increase in hours of short breaks for Kent families.

| Service type                           | 2009-10        | 2010-11        | 2011-12 <sup>4</sup> |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Residential units                      | 180,216        | 180,216        | 185,472              |
| Family based including direct payments | 211,849        | 247,999        | 266,249              |
| Group based                            | 65,687         | 65,687         | 70,000               |
| <b>Total hours</b>                     | <b>457,752</b> | <b>493,902</b> | <b>521,721</b>       |

## Swale:

At least 205<sup>5</sup> disabled Swale children have received a range of community based short breaks since April 2012.

- Brogdale - summer activities club (36 children, 237 hours).
- Brogdale - horse riding (88 children, 352 hours).
- Brogdale - gardening club.
- Crossroads - home support service (referral by social worker).
- KIDS – specialist weekend club.
- KIDS – specialist summer playscheme.
- Sheppey Matters - evening youth club and other activities (93 children, 810 hours).
- Sheppey Matters summer scheme - (83 children, 638 hours).
- Voluntary Action Within Kent - weekend fun club.
- Voluntary Action Within Kent - befriending.
- Demelza House - summer fun days.
- 4 Us 2 – various activities at Orchards (Sittingbourne).
- Preston Skreens - residential overnight short break (20 children).
- Other overnight short break units in Kent (nine children - referral by social worker).

In addition, direct payments are made to some families following a social work assessment to make their own short break arrangements.

For information about all of these activities, families can contact the parent-run charity 4 Us 2 by phoning **01227 741748** or emailing **info@4us2.org**

<sup>4</sup> The figures for 2011/12 are an estimate based on provision to December 2011.

<sup>5</sup> Some children have more than one type of short break.

“There has been a remarkable transformation across services for disabled children and their families over the course of the past three years. More parents are involved in local service planning and they have a greater say in how decisions are made. They are developing a collective voice in shaping policies at a national and local level and this is enabling them to have a greater level of control over their own and their children’s lives”

***Together for Disabled Children (2011) Towards a more ordinary life...***  
**A report on the progress of parent carer participation  
and the development of short breaks: 2008-2011.**



# Improved information on short breaks

Another part of the challenge given to local authorities and the NHS by central government and parent carers was to improve the information available on short breaks. The Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme created a new statutory requirement on the local authority to work with the NHS to create a Short Breaks Statement for parents and carers of disabled children and young people living in their area. The Short Break Statement not only describes the range of services that are available but also, which disabled children can have which services and how to access them.

## Web links to the Medway and Kent Short Breaks Statements:

Medway: [www.medway.gov.uk/educationandlearning/earlyyearsandchildcare/medwayshortbreaksservices.aspx](http://www.medway.gov.uk/educationandlearning/earlyyearsandchildcare/medwayshortbreaksservices.aspx)

Kent: <https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/childrens-social-services/disabled-children/short-breaks-statement.pdf>



# Real life experience of overnight short breaks for local families

## Oliver Cackett – stays with a link family

**Oliver Cackett has two overnights stays a month with a couple who are registered foster carers.**

His mother, Ros, says: “Oliver is six years old. He’s got global developmental delay, speech and language delay and behavioural difficulties. My husband also has long-term health issues and isn’t able to help out as much as he’d like.

“Last year, the children’s disability team, who were helping us with Oliver’s behavioural issues, applied for some overnight respite for us. That was put through a panel at Parklands who approved us to have two overnight stays in what they call a link family. Because Oliver’s quite young, they were keen to offer him a placement within a family rather than a residential placement.

“We met with the link family beforehand and with their social worker, and we discussed what we were all hoping to get out of the placement. The funding itself was approved through Parklands, the children’s disability centre.

“The initial family they allocated didn’t seem to take into consideration Oliver’s additional needs, and didn’t really want to do a lot of the stuff that we were doing at home, like the visual support that he needs. Parklands stopped that service with that family because Oliver wasn’t happy to stay there at all.

“The second family have got older children of their own. They tend to do more family based things, like getting Oliver involved in family meals, sitting together for dinner, and helping around the home. They have been trying to get Oliver to do things that they know that he likes, and have actually bought some sensory toys as well to help with his sensory dysfunction, which is obviously really good. He looks forward to going now. It starts on the Friday evening, after I take Oliver there, and the link family brings him home on the Sunday evening.

“They’ve taken him to the park, taken him up to London to meet their parents, and things I think he does need help with - holding a social relationship and things like that. They’ve also got a little dog he can take care of, which is obviously good for him as well. It helps him learning to think about someone else other than himself.

“Oliver has a lot of separation anxiety with myself, in the home, and one of his biggest issues is me being asleep. As soon as he wakes up, whatever time of night that may be, he wants me to get up straight away. So when he’s not here for those couple of mornings, it’s actually very nice to have a bit of a rest and a bit of extra time in bed, just to relax and catch up on a bit of sleep.

“I think the service is a really, really good idea, because it gives you a break away from home to recharge the batteries, and have a little bit of a social life for yourself, because a disabled child can be very isolating. Also, it gives your child the experience of dealing with somebody else. I’d say when you do go and visit the family, try and get a feel for what the environment’s going to be like, whether there are any toys around, what sort of experience they’ve had with children that have got disabilities, what they hope to offer, what sort of things they’ve got planned for the visits, that sort of thing. Just try to get a positive feel for a homely environment.”



## Cameron Woods – Aut Even

**Ten-year-old Cameron Woods attends Aut Even in Gillingham every six weeks for a short break.**

His mother, Juliet, says: “We had Cameron in 2003 and it was a normal pregnancy, but then, a bit of a shock, he came early - he was six weeks premature. Due to the shock of him coming early, and also having the cord wrapped round his neck, the area of his brain which deals with communication was severely affected. Initially, we just thought he was just a little bit early, but later on there were some issues with language and speech, hearing, visual, walking, and then we got a diagnosis for global developmental delay. That means he’s delayed in all areas of his development.

“The school that Cameron goes to has a coffee morning, and that’s how I meet other parents - somebody mentioned respite, so I thought ‘what is this respite?’. We looked into it, and Parklands resource centre in Gillingham was our way in. A lady came out to see the situation, and Cameron’s needs. Cameron is non-verbal, he’s still in nappies.

“He needs quite a lot of one-to-one because he is a runner, so they did mention about placing him within another family, which I wasn’t very keen on. But then they mentioned Aut Even.

“Graham Cummings, the manager phoned, and said ‘would you like to come down, have a look at the place, tell us a bit about Cameron...this is what we offer’. So we went down, and had a look round.

“It was like a home from home, it was absolutely lovely. When we came, Graham first of all invited Cameron for tea for the evening, so he went after school for tea, and then the following weekend he went for an overnight stay, so it gradually gets him used to it and building him up to the week he was going on respite. The rooms are fantastic, it’s like his bedroom at home. The wonderful thing is, Cameron takes his duvet and quilt and his night light, so it’s like personalising the room for when he comes to stay. In the morning I drop it off, and by the time he comes at tea time, he goes up to his room and all his stuff is there, it’s like just being at home so it’s tailor-made and less stress for the child.

“The staff are fantastic with him. They take him on day trips, they went to Elmley Nature Reserve, they went to see the Christmas lights, they take him into Bluewater, they go shopping, to the park. Cameron’s been bowling, they’ve taken him down to Leysdown to have a walk on the beach, down to the arcades... We always say he’s going on a mini-break, every time he’s going to Aut Even.

“The first time I was so nervous. As a parent, as a mother you think no-one else can look after your child as well as you can, but, when you have a child with a disability you need all the help you can get. I was constantly phoning up, every hour and the staff were fantastic. ‘No, Mrs Woods, he’s fine, he’s doing this or he’s had this to eat, he’s just relaxing here and, you know, by all means if you want to give us another ring later on just let me know. If you want to give us a ring in the morning we’ll let you know how the night’s been’. The communication between the centre and us is fantastic. At the end of the stay you always get a day-to-day report of everything he’s done while he’s been at the centre.

“They always try to place like-for-like children, so it’ll be kids that are similar to Cameron. So obviously if you’ve got a child that’s quite violent and quite high on the supervision list, then they won’t put him on the same six-week rota as Cameron. They like to put children that are of similar abilities, so that the team can work with the children and there’s not one child always taking attention from any of the other kids that are there.

“Basically it gives us a break, as a family, and it gives Cameron a holiday as well really. I think he might need a break from us to be honest. I love Cameron to bits and, you know, the last ten years haven’t been easy, but we’ve adapted the way we live and he’s part of our family. But we couldn’t care for him and look after him if we didn’t have a break ourselves as a family.

"For us, going shopping, or going to a restaurant, or going to the cinema is kind of awkward when you've got a sibling that screams or yells or takes his clothes off because the sensory awareness of his surroundings is too much for him. So Aut Evens gives us that break for us to function, and do some of those things that normal families take for granted like go to the restaurant, go to the cinema, go shopping without having to worry about Cameron freaking out because it's all a bit much for him.

"To any other family in a similar position I would say don't be frightened. When we had Cameron it was like I was almost in denial about being able to cope. And the reality is, you don't realise how much strain is put on your family as a whole, because when he comes back from respite we're all refreshed, we've all had a good night's sleep and we enjoy him more, and in a way he's happier as well because he's had a whale of a time doing this and that activity. Once he's settled back in, he seems a lot calmer.

"The longer he has regular respite, the better he is at coping, and the better we are able to cope with the day-to-day things and not get so bogged down or tired or stressed or worried. If it wasn't for Aut Even we wouldn't be able to function as well as we do."



### Louis Templeman – home sitting short breaks

**Louis Templeman from Rochester is nine years old. He receives home based short breaks through Crossroads, which was secured by the Parklands Disabled Children's Trust, Gillingham.**

His mother, Donna, explains: "Louis has Asperger's syndrome, ADHD, lots of sensory problems, bladder problems and bowel problems.

"I'd called social services and they said I didn't meet the criteria, but then I was really at crisis point. I was actually in hospital for an operation and I had nobody to help me look after me and my son. He was on amphetamine medication which meant he basically didn't sleep for three months, and he actually, unintentionally, took a light off the wall, put it in bed with him and set fire to the bedroom.

"And that was when Parklands stepped in. Parklands got me the respite from Crossroads, after they assessed me. They got me the four hours a week.

"Once a week, generally on a Saturday afternoon, the carer comes to my house and does things with Louis for four hours - either takes him out, or sits indoors and plays games.

"I got the lady that does the respite care to come on a sensory training course with me. Once she did that, she was able to take Louis to the sensory room at Parklands disability centre as well, which is always good for him. Other than that, she'll take him to local events and things going on, or if the weather's bad she'll sit in and play games with him. My boy thinks she's lovely.

"I've actually been home schooling my son for six months because he got expelled from school, so I couldn't have done without it in the last six months. I mean I'm on my own, I'm a single parent, with no family support whatsoever, so I've literally had him 24-hours a day. The respite is a couple of hours break to go and do my shopping on my own, just everyday things I find really difficult to do.

"I've fought for five years and I'm only just in a place where I'm quite happy, and my son's just been found a school, we've just been given a statement and we've been given the respite, and everything's finally coming into place. But it's not easy. But Parklands have been very good, and Crossroads have been very good."

## Changing residential overnight short break unit

Parents in Maidstone have already been through the experience of having their customary residential short breaks unit close, when the new Bluebells unit opened in Detling in autumn 2011. Some people were apprehensive about the change but in the end, staff report, they found the advantages of using a new purpose-built centre with everything their children needed, outweighed the disruption it caused.



**Paige Saunders, 17, is one of those who moved after almost ten years attending the old unit, Court Drive, in Maidstone.**

Her mother, Lisa, explains: “Paige suffers from developmental delay, she has learning difficulties, she doesn’t speak, she’s doubly incontinent and wears pads day and night. She has no understanding of danger, and she also suffers from epilepsy quite badly and she uses a wheelchair out and about. She needs constant care, so one-to-one care during the day.

“When I first got offered respite I actually refused it because I thought that she’s my child, and I should be able to look after her myself, I shouldn’t have to have her go somewhere else to someone else to look after her.

“And then my social worker talked to me, and said to just go and have a visit, to see how I felt after I’d had a look at Court Drive, which I did. Then Paige went and had a few tea visits. The first day that she went, we had a couple of hours to ourselves with the rest of the family and took the dog for a walk. The first night she stayed over, we were able to stay up later. And then I realised that actually, I do need this and the rest of the family need it.

“When Court Drive closed a lot of the staff actually came over from Court Drive to Bluebells. So she sees some familiar faces anyway, and the new staff she got to know pretty well so it wasn’t that difficult at all really. It made the change a lot easier, because it was a familiar place as well - the same sort of small place, the same sort of setting. That made it a lot easier. So really, to me, there wasn’t a major change. It was quite smooth, and it was like she’d been there for ages from the first time she went there.

“Whether Bluebells or Court Drive, it was still more like a home than a respite unit. It’s not like she’s going to respite, it’s like she’s going to stay with another family for a few days, because it’s so small, it does make it cosier and more homely. It’s quite a small unit, there’s not a lot of children there at the same time, which I think is good, because then the children have got more one-to-one attention. The staff are lovely, the whole unit’s great, it’s got the sensory bit, which my daughter loves, they’ve got the nice garden outside.

“She normally goes for three nights, up to a week, so it can be three times a month, it can be once a month, it all depends how it spreads out over the course of the year. If you need any dates you can put a request in and you do normally get your requests that you ask for, which is good as well.

“One thing I want to say about the staff who have worked at Court Drive and Bluebells - you do know that you are leaving your child in safe hands, they are all very dedicated. They absolutely adore Paige, which does make you feel really comfortable when you leave her there. I come away from there and I know that I haven’t got to worry that she’s in safe hands, and that’s a nice thing.

“There are members of the family that look after Paige, my sister’s really good with her, but because she’s such hard work and she has a lot of complex needs, there’s only certain people you feel happy to sit with her for a couple of hours. So respite is vital, and like I say, I can come away knowing that I haven’t got to worry at all, which is great.”



# What overnight residential short breaks are currently on offer in Medway and Swale?

Disabled children and young people eligible for overnight short breaks services typically have severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties, which may be coupled with severe autism, challenging behaviour, or global development delay and one or more long-term health conditions including cerebral palsy, epilepsy, visual impairment and incontinence. They may also have life limiting or life threatening conditions and be dependent on technology or a range of specialist interventions to manage their condition.

Overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people aged five to 18 with complex health and social care needs in Medway and Swale are currently provided by Medway NHS Foundation Trust, at two bases, Aut Even in Twydall, Medway and Preston Skreens in Minster, Sheppey. Referrals for short breaks are made via the Community Health Team in Medway and Swale, through the child's paediatrician, or via social services. When agreed, care is booked usually six weeks in advance.

Significantly, both residential short break units are registered to support disabled children and young people with complex health and social care needs where the primary impairment is a learning disability.

| Current numbers of disabled children using the two residential short break units. |                |   |        |       |
|---|----------------|---|--------|-------|
| Residential short break unit  | Number of beds | Number of disabled children currently accessing the units (December 2012) |        |       |
|   |                | Total   | Medway | Swale |
| Preston Skreens   | 7              | 50  | 30     | 20    |
| Aut Even  | 5              | 51  | 51     | 0     |

The service at both units is provided by Medway NHS Foundation Trust staff. A qualified nurse is on site at all times and leads the care provided. This is what is known as a medical model of care.

Disabled children and young people living in Swale are also accessing Kent County Council's residential overnight short break units in other parts of Kent such as Ashford and Herne Bay as well as from their short break foster carers based within Swale.

Kent County Council also commissions weekend fun clubs and adventure holidays, which include an overnight stay for a broader range of disabled children and young people than those who are accessing a residential unit.

# Reasons for the review

## 1. Modernising overnight short breaks for children in Medway and Swale

The most significant reason for change is that best practice from other parts of Kent and across the country shows that it is best for disabled children and young people to have a range of different types of experience, as close as possible to those of other people of their age.

To achieve this, it is important to minimise medical input and maximise opportunities to do different things – staying in different places, with different carers; going out and about with friends; and enjoying daytime and evening activities and outings. Offering a flexible service, which changes as the disabled young person's needs change over time is also shown to improve outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families.

Nationally, overnight short breaks are now part of a much more integrated approach to health and social care for disabled children and young people with complex needs, which aims to achieve as rounded an experience of life as possible for them.

Having a range of options makes it more likely there will be one to suit everyone's needs. This in turn means more families are likely to benefit from short breaks, reducing the risk of family breakdown or families going into crisis.

This broader approach is recommended by the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme, backed up by guidance from the Royal College of Nursing<sup>6</sup>.

The national evaluation of the transformation of short breaks programme within the wider Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme<sup>7</sup>, stated that offering a broader range of short breaks during the day, evening and overnight led to these benefits for disabled children, young people and their parent carers:

- Disabled children and young people experienced increased choices, wider social networks and grow in confidence and independence.
- Disabled children and young people were able to use the same leisure services as their non-disabled peers, with additional support.
- Parents experienced more choice and control of family life, developing supportive peer relationships and raised their expectations and aspirations for what their children may achieve.

The Royal College of Nursing guidance recommends staff with the right range of skills, knowledge and experience support disabled children and young people with complex health needs to participate in a range of activities within a school or community setting such as a short break.

This has led to new models of practice being developed across the country whereby nurses train qualified staff such as care support workers working at overnight short break units to deliver safe care, according to set policies and protocols.

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<sup>6</sup> Fiona Smith, David Widdas, Mary Lewis, Liz Bray and Linda Maynard, (2008) Managing children with health care needs: delegation of clinical procedures, training and accountability issues, Royal College of Nursing. Council for Disabled Children, Department for Education (2005) Including Me: managing complex health needs in schools and community settings.

<sup>7</sup> Together for Disabled Children (2011) Towards a more ordinary life...A report on the progress of parent carer participation and the development of short breaks: 2008-2011.

In practice, this means that overnight short break units have a qualified nurse to coordinate and deliver the range of training required to enable the care support workers to provide the short break. They also work with the registered manager of the unit to ensure policies and protocols are up to date. They only deliver hands on nursing care where there is a clinical need to do so.

Personal budgets are giving families even more choices. Many families with disabled children and young people in Kent and Medway are already benefiting from a direct payment to pay for a carer or relative to provide a short break during the day or evening.

Kent County Council, Medway Council, Swale Clinical Commissioning Group and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group are working with parent carers, disabled children, young people and commissioners from other areas as part of the South East 7 Special Educational Needs and Disabled Children national pathfinder to develop new ways of using a personal budget. This will include exploring how a personal budget could be used to deliver an overnight short break in a service that is run by a charity or private organisation.

## 2. Problems with meeting demand

Parents have told us that the existing arrangements for residential overnight short breaks struggle to meet demand at weekends and holiday times and are not flexible enough to respond to crisis situations.

They have also asked for more services for younger children, aged up to five, and for young disabled adults, aged 18-25.

## 3. Notice on existing service

One of the immediate triggers for the review was Medway NHS Foundation Trust giving notice that it no longer wanted to be a provider of overnight short break services for disabled children, young people and their families living in Medway and Swale. This is in line with other hospital trusts across the country. Medway NHS Foundation Trust wishes to focus on those specialist services that only its highly trained staff can provide.

## 4. Problems with the buildings at Preston Skreens

Preston Skreens is in a poor state of repair, with inadequate access within the buildings. There are not enough en-suite bathrooms and the communal space needs to be modernised and made more accessible to meet acceptable standards.

Medway NHS Foundation Trust has stated in its formal notice letter that it does not consider the building fit for purpose. It would require very significant investment to bring it up to national children's home standards as defined by the Department for Education.



# What have parents, disabled children and young people told us they want from a short break?

**Between March and July 2012, we held six meetings with parents and carers of children at Preston Skreens and Aut Even, and with a range of statutory and voluntary agencies. We asked them what they thought overnight short breaks should provide. They said:**

- The current overnight short break services in Medway and Swale are highly valued and they do not want to lose the quality and expertise that is within these services.
- They want their children to be able to continue to maintain the friendships they have developed with other children who have used the overnight short break services in Medway and Swale.
- Short break services should be locally accessible.
- Short breaks should be offered at times that are convenient for them, rather than the service.
- They wanted an increased number of short break opportunities at weekends and holidays.
- They wanted a range of short break opportunities that are fun, age appropriate and are able to meet the unique needs of individual children and families.
- Short breaks should be available for families with disabled children aged up to five. This could also include overnight short breaks in some specific circumstances. There should also be a focus on the transition to adulthood 19-25 age range.
- Short breaks (including overnight short breaks) should be available for disabled children and young people who have a physical impairment, but no learning disability.
- Personal budgets should be more widely available to give parents more choice and control over the range of short breaks available to them and their son / daughter.
- Weekend fun clubs should be available which include an overnight short break.

# Working in partnership with Medway Parent Carer Forum and Kent Parents as Equal Partners (Kent PEPs)

Medway Council, Kent County Council and the NHS have been working with the Parent Carer Forums based in their areas to support the transformation of services for disabled children, young people and their families. Both the Medway Parent Carer Forum and Kent PEPs have been key partners in this review of overnight short breaks in Medway and Swale.

## What could the new model look like?

**Hub and spoke approach to providing high-quality short breaks in Medway and Swale.**



- Short breaks are offered as part of a wider joined-up approach to meeting the assessed needs of the disabled child / young person and his / her family.
- Specialist residential short break units offer age appropriate, high quality overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people with complex health and social care needs in facilities that are fit for purpose and meet national quality standards.
- Through using the Royal College of Nursing guidance referenced previously, ensure that the staffing model within residential short break units has the correct range of skills, competencies and experience to include disabled children and young people with complex health needs in a short break.
- Specialist residential short break units across Kent and Medway operate as a centre of excellence for including disabled children and young people with complex health and social care needs in short breaks through offering specialist training and support to local community and leisure services.
- Improved choice on the range of overnight short break opportunities available outside of a residential unit such as weekend fun clubs, short break foster carers and adventure weekends.
- Improve choice and range of day, evening and overnight short breaks to meet the assessed needs of the disabled child, young person and parent carers.
- Improved choice and control for parents, disabled children and young people through having the option to use a personal budget to help provide the support that they need.
- Improved access to overnight short breaks for disabled children with a physical impairment, but no learning disability through services such as weekend fun clubs or adventure holidays.
- Improved access to short break opportunities for disabled children aged up to five and their families.
- Improved information linked to a new local offer for Medway and for Kent.
- Improved quality of care and child/young person's experience.
- Improved opportunities for disabled children and young people to make new friends and maintain existing friendships through either an overnight short break or a specialist playscheme or club.
- Improved opportunities for the whole family to participate in fun short break.
- Better value for money.

# Feasibility study on Preston Skreens

In response to parents' requests, an independent feasibility study on the Preston Skreens building was commissioned to provide information about how much it would cost to either refurbish the buildings or to construct a new unit that met all of the national regulations.

It found:

## **Scenario 1: do nothing to the building**

Anyone providing a service in this building would be at risk of failing to meet its statutory duties and standards within the Equality Act, Children's Home Act, and Ofsted registration. The service provider would also be at risk of not being able to provide a modern, good quality service going forward.

## **Scenario 2: invest to maintain basic standard of existing premises**

The cost of essential repairs and maintenance and minor adjustments to be carried out between 2012–2017 is £401,897. This scenario would only maintain the service life of the existing buildings and slightly improve access in and out of the building. No improvements to the internal spaces or provision of suitable facilities for the residents and staff would be covered by this capital expenditure. The building would be at risk of failing subsequent Ofsted inspections.

## **Scenario 3: refurbishment of existing premises**

This scenario would provide en-suite bathrooms to some of the seven bedrooms, new accessible bathrooms and toilet facilities, adjustment to the dining room / kitchen facilities and access to the residents' area and sensory room. The cost of this option is £727,158. However, the conclusion was that the building would still not meet the demands for the type and nature of services expected in the 21st century and anyone providing a service in the building would be unable to provide a modern, good quality service going forward.

## **Scenario 4: new build**

This scenario considered either knocking down the existing buildings and constructing a new fit for purpose unit on the same site, or constructing a new unit on an alternative site in Swale. The cost of constructing a new seven-bedroom unit on the same site is £1,468,745 (this does not include the cost of purchasing the land from the trust but does include the cost of demolishing the existing buildings).

To construct a four or seven-bedroom unit on an alternative site would be:

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Four-bedroom unit:  | £1,249,955 |
| Seven-bedroom unit: | £1,378,655 |

There is no capital available from Medway Council, Kent County Council or the NHS to support a new build option.



### Conclusion from the feasibility study

As none of these options is viable, the Preston Skreens buildings do not form part of the future plans of Medway Council, KCC or the NHS and we are proposing that the buildings close. Our focus for the future is on enabling disabled children from Medway and Swale to enjoy a wider variety of short breaks in other establishments and venues.

This is subject to this consultation and does not preclude action being taken by the Save Preston Skreens Group, although it does make it less likely that Medway Council, KCC and the NHS would wish to commission services from a new provider using the Preston Skreens buildings.

### What additional refurbishment has already been undertaken at Kent County Council's overnight short break units?

Kent County Council has used previous Aiming High for Disabled Children Short Break Capital Grants to refurbish the following units to a very high standard, thereby increasing the capacity to meet current and future demand for overnight short breaks in a residential unit for disabled children, young people and their families living in Kent:

- Fairlawn (Ashford)
- Bluebells (Detling)
- Treetops (Dartford)
- Dragons Retreat (a 14+ unit near Swanley, run by Dartford and Gravesham Parents' Consortium)

This means that there is sufficient capacity within Kent County Council's residential overnight short break units to support the disabled children and young people living in Swale who are currently using Preston Skreens.

### Proposals to improve overnight short breaks in Medway and Swale

We want your views around how we can deliver the best services for disabled children, young people and their families, now and in the future.

The outcome of this consultation will be used to influence and inform the decisions taken by the organisations responsible for commissioning these services in the future. In particular, the consultation responses will tell us what services families would like to be available for them, where they want those services to be located and how they want to access them.

The proposed options on pages 25 to 33 have been developed through commissioners from Medway Council, Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, Swale Clinical Commissioning Group and Kent County Council working in partnership with parent carers, disabled children, young people and local services providers.

There is a commitment from Medway Council, Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Swale Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and Kent County Council to use the available funding for short breaks to jointly commission a new model of providing short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Medway and Swale.

# Options available for consultation ●●●

# Option 1A - Medway and Swale

| Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Medway and Swale.  | Advantages   | Disadvantages  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Summary of the option</b><br/> <b>Local authority and NHS funding is brought together to enable disabled children, young people and their parent carers from Medway and Swale to access overnight short breaks from a range of service providers and to benefit from additional short break activities during the day and evening. This will create a more flexible, child and family centred menu of short breaks.</b></p> <p>The menu could include overnight stays in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aut Even, Twydall (remains at five days a week).</li> <li>● Bluebells, Detling.</li> <li>● Dragons Retreat, a 14+ unit near Swanley, run by the Dartford and Gravesham Parents' Consortium.</li> <li>● Fairlawn, Ashford.</li> <li>● Demelza Children's Hospice, Sittingbourne (where appropriate).</li> <li>● Short break foster carer's home.</li> <li>● Family home.</li> <li>● Weekend fun club.</li> <li>● Adventure centre.</li> </ul> <p>Day and evening short break activities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sitting service in the family home.</li> <li>● Home based short break service (starts in the home but goes out to access local services).</li> <li>● Befriending schemes.</li> <li>● Specialist play schemes at weekends and school holidays.</li> <li>● Access to local clubs, leisure centres.</li> <li>● Day trips.</li> </ul> <p>To create more choice and control parents could be offered a personal budget to purchase their own menu of short break activities to support specific goals within the child's/young person's care plan.<br/> NB - A personal budget cannot currently be used to purchase an overnight short break in a local authority-run residential overnight short break unit.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting.</li> <li>● Increased opportunities for disabled children and young people to make new friends and maintain existing friendships.</li> <li>● Coaching for independence skills.</li> <li>● Personalisation and transition support.</li> <li>● More choice and control for parents, disabled children and young people through the use of a personal budget.</li> <li>● Improved choice from a broader menu of short break opportunities.</li> <li>● Improved opportunities for disabled children, young people with a physical impairment but no learning impairment and their families to benefit from a short break.</li> <li>● More joined-up approach to workforce training to enable disabled children, young people and their families to use local clubs and leisure services.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Temporary disruption for child, new environments.</li> <li>● Increased travel for Swale children.</li> <li>● Fewer residential places for Medway children – mitigated by more choice of overnight short breaks in other places (such as a foster carer's home) and also the potential for families to use Kent units.</li> <li>● As it stands currently a personal budget cannot be used to purchase an overnight short break in a local authority-run residential unit.</li> </ul> |



Option 1A - Medway and Swale (continued)

| Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Medway and Swale.   | Advantages  | Disadvantages |
|---|---|---------------|
| <p>The current funding from Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and Swale Clinical Commissioning Group would be used with existing Medway Council and Kent County Council funding for short breaks.</p> <p><b>Capital cost £0</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improved short break opportunities for disabled children aged up to five.</li> <li>● Less travel for Medway children.</li> <li>● Allows flexibility for Medway and Swale children to go on short breaks or specialist play schemes together if that is what families say they want.</li> </ul> |               |



● Aut Even



# Option 1B - Medway

| Extend Aut Even to seven days a week and purchase additional overnight short breaks from an alternative residential overnight short break provider.  | Advantages  | Disadvantages  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Summary of the option</b></p> <p><b>Medway Council and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group funding is brought together to enable disabled children, young people and their parent carers from Medway to continue to access an overnight short break in a residential overnight short break unit. This option could also enable parent carers to use a personal budget to purchase overnight short breaks in facilities that are not run by Medway Council.</b></p> <p>Provision at the Aut Even site increased to seven days/week, to meet the needs of up to 70 families<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>In addition, 10 places, depending on demand at the time, would be purchased at alternative residential overnight provision, for example, Dragons Retreat near Swanley, provided by the Dartford and Gravesham Parents' Consortium, giving a total capacity of 80 residential overnight places, to meet current Medway demand of 79.</p> <p>There is capacity to purchase additional places if required.</p> <p>Existing and new service users to be offered the option of a personal budget/direct payment and/or non-residential overnight options.</p> <p>NB. This option would not lead to additional day or evening short break opportunities or the choice of having an overnight stay in another setting such as a weekend fun club.</p> <p>The current funding from Medway Clinical Commissioning Group would be used with existing Medway Council funding for short breaks.</p> <p><b>Capital cost: £0</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting.</li> <li>● Relatively local and accessible provision for the majority of Medway families.</li> <li>● Includes outreach support to families, for example supporting family day trips; for younger children continence training, developing social skills; and for young people aged 16/17 preparing for independence.</li> <li>● Reduced transport costs for those children/young people receiving overnights.</li> <li>● More joined-up approach to workforce training to enable disabled children, young people and their families to use local clubs and leisure services.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There would be temporary disruption to existing groups of children at Preston Skreens and possibly at Aut Even while moves took place.</li> <li>● The Aut Even service cannot be accessed by families wishing to use a personal budget as it is currently a local authority-run service. Families will be able to exercise the option to use a personal budget if the service is outsourced to an alternative provider.</li> <li>● No additional day or evening short break opportunities or choice of having an overnight stay in another setting such as a weekend fun club.</li> <li>● Little or no potential for Medway and Swale children to go on short breaks or specialist playschemes together even if that is what families say they want.</li> </ul> |

# Option 1C - Medway

| A combined residential overnight short break unit with additional places for disabled children and young people requiring a residential placement away from home.   | Advantages   | Disadvantages  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Summary of the option</b><br/> <b>Medway Council and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group funding brought together to provide overnight short breaks and residential placements in two buildings (one being Aut Even) on an integrated basis.</b></p> <p>Combined overnights and permanent residential home option. An additional site and buildings in a homely setting are acquired, adapted as necessary, and run on an integrated basis with Aut Even.</p> <p>The two units would provide for all overnight short breaks, and one could be adapted for dual use to provide permanent accommodation for up to four children who would otherwise be placed in out-area residential provision because the home setting has broken down. The permanent residential accommodation would be functionally separate from the overnight provision in order to meet Department for Education Children's Home requirements.</p> <p><b>Capital cost: £0.6million (acquisition and adaptation costs)</b></p> <p>The current funding from Medway Clinical Commissioning Group would be used with existing Medway Council funding for short breaks and residential out-of-area placements.</p> <p>This would take longer and would require a phased approach, with interim measures put in place in the short-term.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Service provision is subject to competitive testing for quality and price.</li> <li>● The permanent accommodation will be in or close to Medway and therefore allow the Medway school placement to continue; allow parent carers to maintain contact, and the children to see their neighbourhood friends and peers, thus improving long-term outcomes.</li> <li>● There would be significant revenue savings on the cost of care for children placed out-of-area.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There would be temporary disruption to existing groups of children at Preston Skreens and possibly at Aut Even.</li> <li>● Insufficient capital funding currently allocated.</li> <li>● A mixed provision of respite and permanent placements would disadvantage children permanently placed in the home.</li> <li>● The Aut Even service cannot be accessed by families wishing to use a personal budget as it is currently a local authority-run service. Families will be able to exercise the option to use a personal budget if the service is outsourced to an alternative provider.</li> <li>● No additional day or evening short break opportunities or choice of having an overnight stay in another setting such as a weekend fun club.</li> <li>● Little or no potential for Medway and Swale children to go on short breaks or specialist play schemes together even if that is what families say they want.</li> </ul> |



# Option 2A - Swale

| Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Swale.  | Advantages   | Disadvantages  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Summary of the option</b></p> <p><b>If Medway families chose to go for either option 1B, or 1C, then Kent County Council and Swale Clinical Commissioning Group funding would be brought together to enable disabled children, young people and their parent carers from Swale to access overnight short breaks from a range of service providers and benefit from additional short break activities during the day and evening. This would create a more flexible, child and family centred menu of short breaks.</b></p> <p>The menu could include overnight stays in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bluebells.</li> <li>● Dragons Retreat.</li> <li>● Windchimes.</li> <li>● Fairlawn.</li> <li>● Children's Hospice.</li> <li>● Short break foster carer's home.</li> <li>● Family home.</li> <li>● Weekend fun club.</li> <li>● Adventure centre.</li> </ul> <p><b>It would NOT include Aut Even</b></p> <p>Day and evening short break activities could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sitting service in the family home.</li> <li>● Home based short break service (starts in the home but goes out to access local services).</li> <li>● Befriending schemes.</li> <li>● Specialists play schemes at weekends and school holidays.</li> <li>● Access to local clubs, leisure centres.</li> <li>● Day trips.</li> </ul> <p>To create more choice and control parents could be offered a personal budget to purchase their own menu of short break activities.</p> <p><b>Capital cost: £0</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No capital costs.</li> <li>● Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting.</li> <li>● Increased opportunities for disabled children and young people to make new friends and maintain existing friendships.</li> <li>● More choice and control for parents, disabled children and young people through the using a personal budget.</li> <li>● Improved choice from a broader menu of short break opportunities.</li> <li>● Improved opportunities for disabled children and young people with a physical impairment but no learning impairment and their families to benefit from a short break.</li> <li>● More joined-up approach to workforce training to enable disabled children, young people and their families to use local clubs and leisure services.</li> <li>● Improved short break opportunities for disabled children aged up to five.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Some children may have longer journey times to participate in overnight short breaks.</li> <li>● The capacity of existing provision will need to be expanded and additional funding will need to be identified to achieve this.</li> <li>● Little or no potential for Medway and Swale children to go on short breaks or specialist play schemes together even if that is what families say they want.</li> </ul> |



## Option 2A - Swale (continued)

| Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Swale.   | Advantages  | Disadvantages |
|--|---|---------------|
| <p><b>Revenue costs: Current Swale Clinical Commissioning Group funding linked to overnight short breaks provided at Preston Skreens will be used to jointly commission the additional services required with Kent County Council.</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Disabled children and young people can use high quality purpose-built or appropriately converted provision.</li> <li>● A menu of provision will be available to families from which they can choose the most appropriate service for their child, subject to a needs assessment.</li> <li>● Independent providers of overnight breaks have informally expressed an interest in providing this service to families in receipt of a direct payment.</li> </ul> |               |





# Option 2B - Additional overnight short breaks

| Overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people in Medway and Swale delivered through a new provider.   | Advantages   | Disadvantages  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Summary of the option</b><br/> <b>Local authority and NHS funding brought together to commission a new provider of overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Medway and Swale.</b></p> <p>In this option Aut Even would remain as it is and a new residential short break unit would be commissioned through an open tender process to meet the demand from the closure of Preston Skreens.</p> <p>The procurement process would specify that the tenderer should provide the premises in which the service is to be delivered.</p> <p>Personal budgets could be used to purchase overnight short breaks from the new provider.</p> <p>The current funding from Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and Swale Clinical Commissioning Group would be used with existing Medway Council and Kent County Council funding for short breaks.</p> <p><b>Capital cost: £0</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Service would be accommodated in an appropriately adapted homely setting, or new, purpose-designed buildings.</li> <li>● Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting.</li> <li>● Disabled children and young people could maintain existing friendships.</li> <li>● Relatively local and accessible provision for Medway and Swale families.</li> <li>● More choice and control for parents, disabled children and young people through the using a personal budget.</li> <li>● In the medium term disabled children and young people currently using Preston Skreens could continue to have overnight short breaks together. Although there would be some disruption in the short term while an alternative provider is identified.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It would take approximately 12-18 months for a new residential overnight short break service to become available allowing for the procurement process and refurbishment of any building. The cost of any refurbishment would be paid for by the new service provider.</li> <li>● While the new service was being set up, disabled children and young people would have to be placed temporarily in alternative provision. This would cause additional disruption.</li> <li>● The flexibility of options 1(A) and 2(A) would be lost because all of the revenue funding would be tied up in a residential unit.</li> <li>● No guarantee that another provider would be able to supply a building that was fit for purpose and met national standards.</li> </ul> |







# Frequently asked questions

## ● Why are you changing overnight short breaks for children and young people from Medway and Swale?

Since Aiming High and the Children Act 2008, both local authorities and the NHS have been increasing the range and flexibility of activities and support on offer for disabled children and young people so that they can have a range of different types of experience, similar to that of other children and young people.

This consultation is an opportunity to take stock of the provision we already have, and any gaps in provision. The views of parents and children have already been part of the earlier discussions and we want to know whether these options will improve the range and capacity further.

## ● Why aren't you offering the option of keeping Preston Skreens open?

The independent feasibility study last year looked at various scenarios all of which require significant capital investment which is very limited in the current economic climate. Also, as commissioners we have the issue of whether investing in replacing the residential model will offer sufficient range and flexibility for all the children and their families' needs. Therefore, we are consulting on a number of options which offer a range of alternatives across the two local authority areas.

## ● Why have you ruled out refurbishing or rebuilding Preston Skreens when it is what parents want?

There is insufficient capital funding and time for us as commissioners to achieve this. Kent already has alternative residential overnight short break services which Swale families could use. The options cover a range of ways in which both residential overnight short breaks and a broader range of weekend and holiday schemes could be offered in Kent, or across both Kent and Medway. We are anxious to know what people would prefer.

## ● Are parents going to be able to go ahead with plans to set up a charity to run care at Preston Skreens?

This is a very ambitious plan, we know from the parents in Dartford who set up Dragons Retreat that people can achieve this scale of scheme but it requires significant fundraising, commitment and planning at a time when public funding for such schemes is very, very limited.

## ● If these changes go ahead, how are we going to be able to check out options for our children?

Parents and children will be able to visit the alternative residential short break and overnight schemes if they call to arrange this first. We are also holding some information events in March when people can attend to find out more about the options, or the provision.

## ● What guarantees do we have about the care provided by these new options?

Any new or existing service provider will have to register their overnight short break service with Ofsted. There are strict guidelines on how a service provider should offer safe, high quality care for an individual disabled child, based on his / her assessed needs. Also, any new or existing service provider would be bound by the terms and conditions of a contract to offer the short break service from the commissioners. The contract will include a range of quality standards and expectations that will be regularly monitored by the commissioners.

● **What if we don't like any of the options?**

The 14-week consultation gives people time to talk to us about the options in some detail. Often ideas or issues will be brought up during a consultation, which will help shape the implementation plan. That's why involving people throughout the planning is so valuable to commissioners.

● **What are you doing to smooth the transition for children and young people who find change really difficult?**

The disabled children, young people and parent carers affected by the change in service will have an opportunity to discuss their needs with a social worker and develop a plan on how the new approach to providing short breaks can best meet their needs. Introduction sessions can be arranged to visit any new service provider to help the disabled child, young person and parent carers manage any change. We will also ask any new or current service provider to provide a range of information materials to help them make informed choices on the short breaks available to them.

● **How will our children get to their short break?**

For information about this, please see the Medway Council and Kent County Council statements on short breaks:

[www.medway.gov.uk/educationandlearning/earlyyearsandchildcare/medwayshortbreaksservices.aspx](http://www.medway.gov.uk/educationandlearning/earlyyearsandchildcare/medwayshortbreaksservices.aspx)

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/childrens-social-services/disabled-children/short-breaks-statement.pdf>

● **What happens if our children don't settle in the new place?**

We will ensure that any new or current service provider will do everything possible to ensure that your children are able to settle and become familiar with any new short break that they are offered. However, in the event that your son or daughter does not settle in the new short break, an alternative will be offered.

● **What will happen if something goes wrong during a short break and we don't have transport to get there?**

We would work with you, as we do now, to ensure that if you need to collect your child and you don't have transport, arrangements can be made to help you with this.

● **What will happen to children who currently use Preston Skreens?**

In line with the guarantee we have given, alternative overnight provision will be made for families with children who use Preston Skreens, to meet their needs. Part of the purpose of this consultation is to identify what alternative services parent carers want us to provide.

● **Can Swale families use services in Medway, and vice-versa?**

Kent County Council and Medway Council are each intending to provide sufficient overnight short break places within their own areas, in partnership with the NHS. However, the two councils are working closely together on this and, depending on the option chosen, will develop arrangements for a Swale family to access services in Medway and vice-versa.

● **How can parent carers make their views known?**

We are determined that parent carers should be able to make their views known and take part in the review in as many ways as possible. We are working closely with the parent carers groups in Medway and Kent – the Medway Parents and Carers Forum and Kent Parents as Equal Partners. We are also seeking parent carers' views through a series of questionnaires, meetings and workshops. You can also email the consultation team on **researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk** or phone Michelle Lofting on **01634 332445**.

● **Will the needs of 0-five year olds be taken into account?**

Some of the options positively support more provision for younger children, particularly through home based short breaks, which are those most suitable for this age group. We will be listening to what parents/carers, young people and professionals are saying about the needs of this age group.

● **Will the timescale for the changes allow sufficient time to rebuild trust of new provision and new carers?**

We are very conscious that many disabled children and young people, especially those with autism, do not cope well with change.

Therefore we will plan changes very carefully, in full consultation with parent carers, and will include familiarisation visits to allow children time to get used to the idea that there will be change.

● **Personal budgets/direct payments – will parent carers be put off accessing services by the additional responsibilities?**

It will be entirely up to parent carers whether they wish to take up a personal budget or direct payment. Personal budgets give parent carers choice and control, and you can decide how much of the budget to take as a cash payment, and how much to leave with the local authority to manage on your behalf, but still have a say over. If this option is taken, parents will be provided with support to help them access suitable services and manage the personal budget.

● **Will children and young people be consulted as part of this review?**

We are keen to seek the views and comments of children and young people as well as parent carers. This can be in a variety of ways, and clearly needs to be done very sensitively. Suggestions made so far include: staff doing this in a natural way when children are having their short breaks; making use of technology such as iPads, and of course parent carers talking to their children. We would welcome further thoughts about this.

Please email the consultation team on **researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk** or phone Michelle Lofting on **01634 332445**.

● **What assurances have been given to parents and carers of disabled children at Aut Even and Preston Skreens?**

Whatever happens, we stand by our commitment to parents and carers of children at Aut Even and Preston Skreens:

*Whatever the outcome of the review, disabled children, young people and their families who currently receive overnight short breaks and wish to do so, will continue to have access to them (subject to ongoing assessments).*

# Glossary of terms

## ● Clinical commissioning group (CCG)

Clinical commissioning groups are led by local GPs with clinical knowledge and expertise to make decisions about how NHS funding is spent to deliver better care, outcomes and patient experience.

## ● Personal budgets (PBs)

They are allocated when the child or young person has support needs, which cannot be met without individual and additional funding. They are only one part of the wide and diverse array of support and opportunities available. It will be up to the family to decide whether or not they wish to receive some or all of their PB through a direct payment. [www.se7pathfinder.co.uk](http://www.se7pathfinder.co.uk)

## ● Government priority groups

**Group A:** Children and young people with autistic spectrum disorder (who have severe learning disabilities or behaviour which is challenging) OR those children and young people whose challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments such as severe learning disabilities.

**Group B:** Children and young people with complex health needs with a disability, including life limiting conditions, palliative care, sensory impairment and who have moving and handling needs.

## ● ADHD

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a group of behavioural symptoms that include inattentiveness, hyperactivity and impulsiveness. Attention deficit disorder (ADD) is a sub-type of ADHD.

Common symptoms of ADHD include:

- a short attention span;
- restlessness or constant fidgeting;
- being easily distracted.

ADHD can occur in people of any intellectual ability. However, many people with ADHD also have learning difficulties. They may also have additional problems such as sleep disorders.

Symptoms of ADHD tend to be first noticed at an early age, and may become more noticeable when a child's circumstances change, such as starting school.

# How to make your views known

There are a number of ways in which you can give your views:

- Complete the postal questionnaire, or online at:  
**[www.medwaychildrenstrust.co.uk/our-priorities/aiming-high-partnership/overnight-short-breaks](http://www.medwaychildrenstrust.co.uk/our-priorities/aiming-high-partnership/overnight-short-breaks)**
- Send a letter to:  
**Michelle Lofting, Consultation Team, Medway Council Children and Adult Services,  
4th Floor, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR**
- Email: **[researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk](mailto:researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk)**
- Telephone: **01634 332445**

**All comments must be received by 29 April 2013.**

A **young person's survey** will also be created, with input from young people.

In addition to the surveys there will be focus groups with:

- parent carers;
- children and young people (school councils);
- staff;
- voluntary organisations.

The views received will be considered by Medway Council, Kent County Council and Medway and Swale clinical commissioning groups before any decisions are made.

# How to find out more

If you want to find out more before making your views known:

Visit: **[www.medwaychildrenstrust.co.uk](http://www.medwaychildrenstrust.co.uk)**

Phone: **01634 332445**

or ask for a member of staff to come and speak to you or your group about the proposals.



# Overnight short breaks consultation 2013

The purpose of this survey is to find out your opinions of the proposed options for overnight short breaks. All your comment are anonymous and this information will only be used for the purposes of this consultation. **If you have more than one child, please base your answers on your child that has a disability.**

*There has been a remarkable transformation across services for disabled children and their families over the course of the past three years. More parents are involved in local service planning and they have a greater say in how decisions are made. They are developing a collective voice in shaping policies at a national and local level and this is enabling them to have a greater level of control over their own and their children's lives.*

## **Together for Disabled Children**

A short break gives parents and carers a much needed break from caring - some 'time-out'. It also gives disabled children and young people the chance to have fun and make friends.

### Overnight short breaks

**Q1 Are you currently using overnight short breaks facilities? (If no go to Q4)**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Q2 What facilities are you using?**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preston Skreens (Minster, Sheppey) | <input type="checkbox"/> Aut Even (Twydall)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairlawn (Ashford)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bluebells (Detling)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treetops (Dartford)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Dragons Retreat (a 14+ unit near Swanley, run by Dartford and Gravesham Parents' Association) |

**Q3 How often do you use overnight short breaks facilities? (Please state the number of days/weeks per year).**



## Your short break priorities

We have listed what children, young people and parents have already told us they want from a short break. We would like to know which ones you consider are the most important, as this will help shape the services.

**Q4 Please say from the following, which are your top five priorities in terms of short breaks (Please tick up to five only).**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality and expertise of the service offered.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks available for children up to five years old, including some overnight short breaks.                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining the child's friendships developed whilst using the overnight short break service in Medway and Swale. | <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks that focus on transition for children aged 19 - 25 years old.                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should be locally accessible.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should be available for children with physical impairment, but no learning disability.              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should be offered at times convenient for the family.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal budgets should be more widely available to give more choice and control over the range of short breaks. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased short break opportunities at weekends and holidays .  | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend fun clubs should be available, and include an overnight short break.                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should be fun.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should be age appropriate.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should meet the unique needs of individual child and families.                                       |   |

**Q5 Please say from the following, which are your bottom five priorities in terms of short breaks (Please tick up to five only.)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality and expertise of the service offered.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks available for children up to five years old, including some overnight short breaks.                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining the child's friendships developed whilst using the overnight short break service in Medway and Swale. | <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks that focus on transition for children aged 19 - 25 years old.                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should be locally accessible.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should be available for children with physical impairment, but no learning disability.              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should be offered at times convenient for the family.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal budgets should be more widely available to give more choice and control over the range of short breaks. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased short break opportunities at weekends and holidays .  | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend fun clubs should be available, and include an overnight short break.                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should be fun.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should be age appropriate.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short breaks should meet the unique needs of individual child and families.                                       |   |



## Option 1A - Medway and Swale

Extend the range of the day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Medway and Swale.

**Q6** To what extent do you either agree or disagree with this option?

|           | Agree strongly           | Agree                    | Neither agree nor disagree | Strongly disagree        | Disagree                 |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Day       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Evening   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Overnight | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Q7** Please tell us why you either agree or disagree with the statement 1A.

**Q8** What type of short breaks would you like more of? (*please tick all that apply.*)

☐ Day
 ☐ Evening
 ☐ Overnight

Option 1B - Medway

Extend Aut Even to seven days a week and purchase additional overnight short breaks from an alternative residential overnight short break provider.

Q9 To what extent do you either agree or disagree with this option?

|  | Agree strongly           | Agree                    | Neither agree nor disagree | Strongly disagree        | Disagree                 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Extend Aut Even to seven days a week.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Purchase additional overnight short breaks from an alternative residential overnight short break provider. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q10 Please tell us why you either agree or disagree with the statement 1B.

Q11 What option would you prefer?

- ☐ Extend Aut Even to seven days a week.
- ☐ Purchase additional overnight short breaks from an alternative residential overnight short break provider.
- ☐ Both.

Option 1C - Medway

A combined residential overnight short break unit with additional places for disabled children and young people requiring a residential placement away from home.

Q12 To what extent do you either agree or disagree with this option?

|                          |                          |                                  |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Agree<br>strongly        | Agree                    | Neither<br>agree nor<br>disagree | Strongly<br>Disagree     | Disagree                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q13 Please tell us why you either agree or disagree with the statement in 1C.

Option 2A - Swale

Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Swale.

**Q14** To what extent do you either agree or disagree with this option?

|           | Agree<br>strongly        | Agree                    | Neither<br>agree nor<br>disagree | Strongly<br>disagree     | Disagree                 |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Day       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Evening   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Overnight | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Q15** Please tell us why you either agree or disagree with the statement in 2A.

## Option 2B - Medway and Swale

Overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people in Medway and Swale delivered through a new provider.

**Q16** To what extent do you either agree or disagree with this option?

|                          |                          |                                  |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Agree<br>strongly        | Agree                    | Neither<br>agree nor<br>disagree | Strongly<br>disagree     | Disagree                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Q17** Please tell us why you either agree or disagree with the statement in 2B.

**Q18** Where would you prefer option 2B to be located?

|                                |                                 |   |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swale | <input type="checkbox"/> Medway | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhere else in Kent |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|

**Q19** Please say why you have chosen this location.

Overall

**Q20** Please rank each of the options in order of what you like best.  
(5 being the option you would like to see most of all and 1 being the option you like least.)

|                                    |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Option 1A | <input type="checkbox"/> Option 1B | <input type="checkbox"/> Option 1C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Option 2A | <input type="checkbox"/> Option 2B |                                    |

**Q21** Do you understand the changes being proposed?

|                              |                             |                                     |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Q22** Do you understand why these changes are being proposed?

|                              |                             |                                     |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Q23** After reading the information we have provided, is there anything else we need to consider? *If yes please say what.*

## About you and your family

This information is optional, and if you give us your details all your comments are anonymous, and this information will only be used for the purposes of this consultation.

**Q24** How old is your child? *(Only give the age of the child who has a disability.)*

**Q25** What school does your child attend?

**Q26** What type of disability does your child have? *(Please tick all that apply.)*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autistic spectrum disorder                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioural, emotional and social difficulties | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate learning difficulties           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe learning difficulties                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing impairment                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific learning difficulties                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual impairment                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Profound and multiple learning difficulties    | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech, learning and communication needs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something else (please say)                    |   |

**Q27** Please state the ages of any other children you have. *(Without a disability.)*

**Q28** Are you:

- ☐ Male ☐ Female

**Q29** Your age:

- ☐ Under 24 ☐ 25 - 34 ☐ 35 - 44 ☐ 45 - 54 ☐ 55 - 64 ☐ Over 65

**Q30 Which best describes you? (Please tick one box only.)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - British                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British - Pakistani                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Irish                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Traveller of Irish heritage     | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British<br>- any other Asian background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Romany or Gypsy                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or black British - Caribbean                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - any other white background      | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or black British - African                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed - white and black Caribbean       | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or black British<br>- any other black background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed - white and black African         | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed - white and Asian                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic background                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - any other mixed race background | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/prefer not to say.                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British - Indian         |   |

**Q31 Postcode. (Please note: this information is used only to map possible need to local area and not to identify you.)**


Completed surveys must be returned by **Monday, 29 April** to the  
**Research and Information Team, Medway Council, Gun Wharf,  
 Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR.**

The Research and Information Team can be contacted on: **01634 332445**  
 or email: **researchandinfo@medway.gov.uk**

If you would like to take part in further discussions concerning overnight short breaks for children and young people, please include name, address and a daytime contact number.

**Thank you for taking part in this questionnaire**





