

CABINET

3 SEPTEMBER 2013

OVERNIGHT SHORT BREAKS PROVISION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MEDWAY

Portfolio Holder: Councillor O'Brien - Lead Member for Children's Services

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults Services

Author: Victoria Nystrom-Marshall, Head of Partnership Commissioning for Children

Summary

This report outlines outcomes to the Overnight Short Breaks Consultation (6 March 2013-12 June 2013) and work undertaken by Officers to ensure a smooth transition to new provision.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Medway Council commenced a three month formal consultation on the 6th of March that concluded on the 12th of 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, outcomes and work undertaken by Officers to ensure a smooth transition.
- 1.2 The consultation was led by Medway Council and completed with partners Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, Kent County Council, and 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.

2. Budget Policy Framework

2.1 In 2011, a statutory duty was placed on Local Authorities 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.

2.2 The recommendations within this report are in line with Medway Council's policy and budgetary framework. They are aligned to the priorities within the Children & Young People's Plan 2011 - 2014.

2.3 NHS Medway CCG currently contributes £474,580 to short breaks in Medway, with £246,781 invested in Preston Skreens. Medway Council invests £1,424,301 in a wide range of day, evening and overnight short breaks.

3. Consultation Rationale

3.1 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).

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.

4. Consultation Process

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.

- 4.3 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 1,200 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 To help keep parents up to date on what was happening with the short breaks review, a web page was set up on the Medway Children's Trust website.
- 4.6 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.

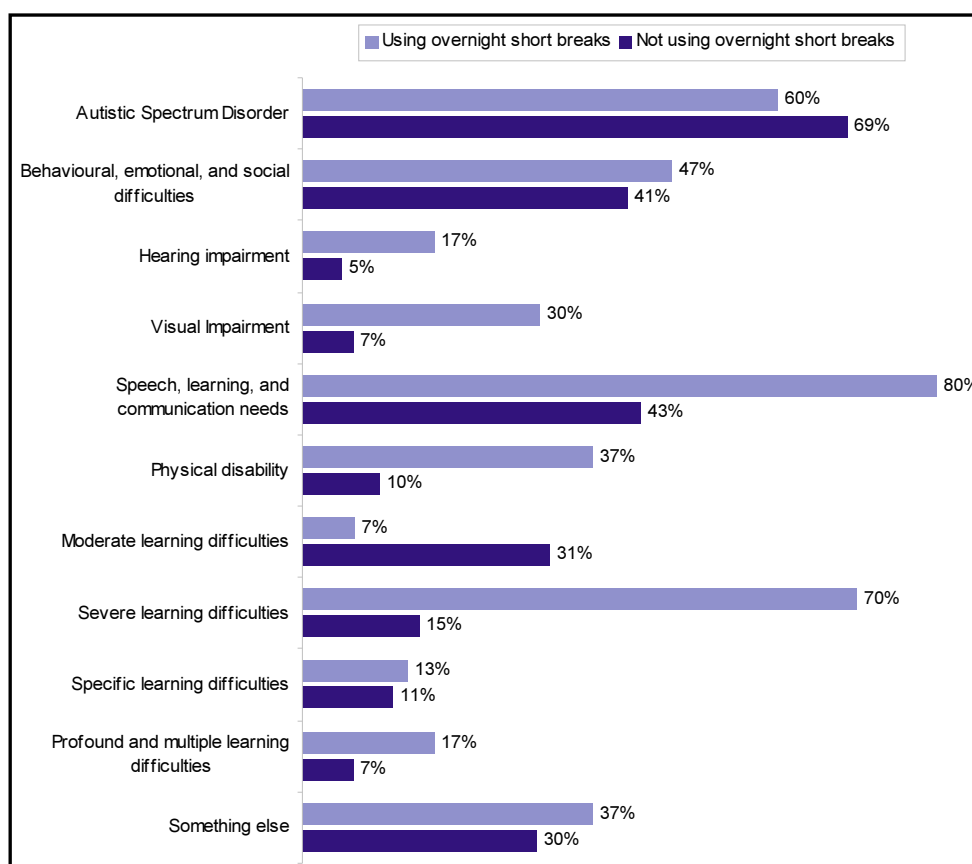
- 4.7 Staff working at Preston Skreens and Aut Even were given the opportunity to attend information sessions and provide their comments and suggestions to the research team in confidence.
- 4.8 The consultation process was adapted in response to feedback from families:
- Parent carers requested a shorter 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.

5. Outcomes from Consultation

Respondents

- 5.1 91 overnight short breaks surveys were completed as part of this consultation, of which 88 (97%) respondents are Medway residents.
- 5.2 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).
- 5.3 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%).

Overnight Short Breaks Consultation Disability of respondent's children as a count and a percentage



Priorities When Shaping Services

5.4 Families were asked to identify what they consider to be important when shaping services for disabled children and young people. Using a list of responses, those accessing overnight short breaks and those not accessing overnight should 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.

5.5 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 were 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.

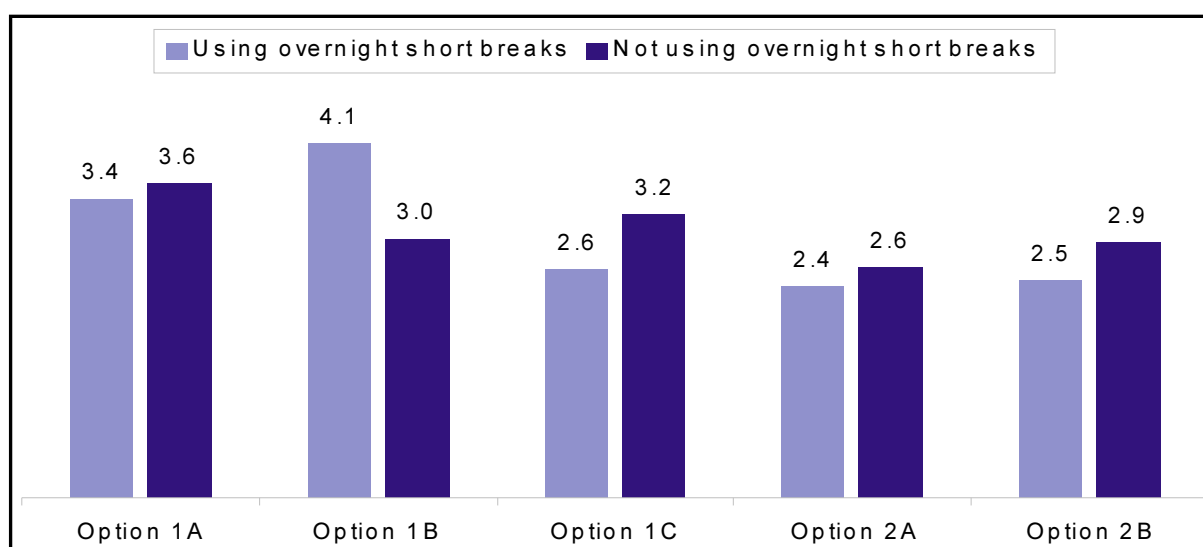
5.6 Further to recommendations from the Medway Young Inspectors, views were gathered from 20 young people at Bradfield's Special School and 51 young people accessing overnight short breaks at Aut Even. At Bradfield's Special School respondents said that they enjoyed the youth club and other activities 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.

5.7 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

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



5.8 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.

5.9 Within the reply to Option 1A:

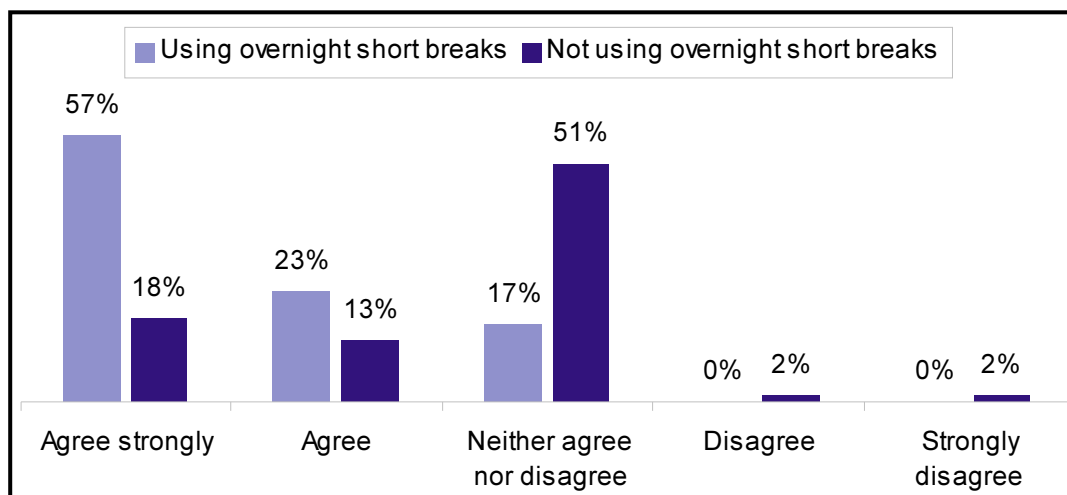
- 64% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed to extending the range and type of 'day' short breaks;
- 70% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed to extending the range and type of 'evening' short breaks; and
- 72.5% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed to extending the range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

5.10 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.

5.11 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 nor 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.



6. Action Being Taken

6.1 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.

6.2 Key actions taken or being taken include:

- 6.2.1 Families at Preston Skreens have been 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.
- 6.2.2 A realistic timeframe has been agreed in which individuals will be able to transition into new provision.
- 6.2.3 Feedback session(s) will be held with families who are affected by change to review outcomes and discuss next steps.
- 6.2.4 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.
- 6.2.5 Local resources including Aut Even and Danecourt (four bedded residential unit) are being reviewed to ensure that local resources are fully utilised.

7. Looked After Children

- 7.1 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.

8. Financial and Legal Implications

Financial Implications

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

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

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

- 8.2 NHS funding derived from Medway CCG and Swale CCG for Preston Screens 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 long term modelling of provision.
- 8.3 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 Education 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 as part of the long term Strategy.

Legal Implications

- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 Medway Council is an interested party in the decision made by Medway NHS Foundation Trust to close Preston Screens as highlighted in 3.2. There are now three times as many short breaks for disabled children and young people living in Medway as there were in 2008.¹ 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.
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 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 have been offered to children and their families.

¹ 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

9. 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 commissioners and families at Preston Skreens	<p>Ensure that we appropriately communicate outcomes from the consultation with families and provide clear information</p> <p>Ensure that decision takers take into account all relevant factors and comply with legal requirements</p>
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.

10. Comments from Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 16 July 2012

- 10.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 16 July 2013. Officers introduced the report, detailing the outcome of the consultation process on the review of overnight short breaks, which was instigated in response to a decision by the provider organisation, Medway NHS Foundation Trust, to cease provision of respite care at Preston Skreens. Officers confirmed that they were recommending that option 1A (extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people and their parents carers living in Medway and Swale) with the extension of Aut Even to seven days a week as detailed in option 1B, be implemented.
- 10.2 Two parents of children that use the Preston Skreens facility then addressed the committee. Both explained their personal circumstances and the current level of support they had in place for their families at Preston Skreens and raised their concerns, which included: -
- Retaining the provision at Preston Skreens had not been one of the options that was consulted on;
 - That capacity was not available in alternative provision currently to accommodate all families using Preston Skreens and they had been advised of long waiting lists to access services, such as Aut Even
 - Confusion that the alternative provisions being suggested had similar structural issues to the ones which were demonstrated as the reason for

Preston Skreen's closure, such as not having en suite bathrooms available;

- The negative impact and stress that losing the resource at Preston Skreens would have on their families.

10.3 The Committee then made comments, raised a number of questions and discussed a range of issues including:

10.3.1 Retaining Preston Skreens indefinitely – Members asked what lengths had been taken to find out if an alternative provider would carry on running Preston Skreens. In response officers explained that no provider had come forward to take on the running of Preston Skreens but other providers had engaged with the Council and the Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to provide alternative services for affected families. It was explained that the Preston Skreens building required a great deal of investment to meet legal requirements.

10.3.2 Capacity at other provision – Members raised concern about the capacity at alternative provision identified within the report, having heard that Aut Even may not have the capacity to provide services seven days a week until January 2014. The Deputy Director, Children and Adults explained that there was some vacancies at alternative provision to accommodate families and those providers were committed to developing services further to increase capacity. The intention was that capacity to accommodate affected families would be in place by the time of the closure of Preston Skreens. All affected families were being offered reassessments, some of which had already taken place and, of those, some families had accepted that Aut Even met their needs and others had agreed to receive direct payments.

10.3.3 Retaining Preston Skreens until sufficient alternative provision is available – Members raised concern that there appeared to be some uncertainty between officers and parents/carers about capacity levels and were keen to see that Preston Skreens remains open until sufficient capacity at alternative provision is made available. Officers confirmed they were working with Medway NHS Foundation Trust but the notice by the Trust to cease the provision at Preston Skreens was still in place.

10.3.4 Consultation and communication – concerns were raised about the length of time that had lapsed since Medway NHS Foundation Trust served notice and that there appear to be some misinformation about levels of capacity available. A suggestion was also made that a Cabinet Advisory Group be set up, with parents, scrutiny members and representatives from the commissioner and provider organisations to work together.

10.4 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended the Cabinet to agree that Option 1A and 1B be implemented and that the Medway NHS Foundation Trust be requested to continue provision at Preston Skreens until adequate alternative provision is available for affected families.

11. Director's Comments

- 11.1 Following Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Medway NHS Foundation Trust has extended the closure date for Preston Skreens to November 2013 to enable planned transition for families. Families have been advised of this date. Of the 19 Medway children and young people who use Preston Skreens, 17 have been re-assessed (the remaining two have been delayed due to family holidays). All families have been offered the opportunity to visit alternative provision over the summer and to attend a feedback session in September where they will be able to access continued support.
- 11.2 Officers have been working to develop Options 1a and 1b. This has resulted in three families exploring the option of direct payments in order that they can personalise provision to meet their child's needs. Officers are also reviewing the long term strategy for day, evening and overnight provision for all disabled children, young people and their families in Medway.
- 11.3 In order to meet the needs of families currently using Preston Skreens following the assessments, it has been identified that 549 overnight stays are required per annum. Officers are looking at possibilities for 17/18 year olds to transition to the Napier Unit, Medway's in-house provision for adults with complex needs. The advantage of this is that the young person would not have to make a further transition in the near future.
- 11.4 Following the conclusion of the assessment process at the end of August, social workers will develop individual transition plans with each family. This will be completed by the middle of September. A meeting with all the families will be held after this date.

12 Conclusion

- 12.1 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 which has been used to inform the short term strategy that ensures families at Preston Skreens are able to transition into appropriate alternative provision as well as the long term strategy that will continue to be developed with children, young people and their families.

13. Recommendations

13.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Agree that officers continue to develop options 1a and b as recommended by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Delegate authority to the Director of Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children Services, to finalise and implement the recommended option.

14. Suggested Reasons for decision(s)

- 14.1 To demonstrate to families that we have listened to their responses to the short breaks consultation; to minimise destabilisation of the short breaks service during a period of uncertainty and to ensure that we have capacity to meet current and future short break needs.

Lead Officer Contact

Victoria Nystrom-Marshall, Head of Partnership Commissioning (Children), 01634 334402. Email: victoria.nystrommarshall@medway.gov.uk

Background papers

Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny 16 July 2013
Cabinet Capital Advisory Group 15 August 2013

Appendix 1: Full Description of Options for Consultation

Option – 1A 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
Medway and Swale		
<p>Summary of the option 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.</p> <p>The menu could include overnight stays in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aut Even, Twydall (remains at 5 days a week) • Bluebells, Detling • Dragons Retreat, a 14+ unit near Swanley, run by the Dartford and Gravesham Parents' Consortium • Fairlawn, Ashford • Demelza Children's Hospice, Sittingbourne (where appropriate) • Short break foster carer's home • Family home • Weekend fun club • Adventure centre <p>Day and evening short break activities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sitting service in the family home. • Home based short break service (starts in the home but goes out to access local services). • Befriending schemes • Specialist play schemes at weekends and school holidays. • Access to local clubs, leisure centres • Day trips. <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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting. • Increased opportunities for disabled children and young people to make new friends and maintain existing friendships. • Coaching for independence skills. • Personalisation and transition support. • More choice and control for parents, disabled children and young people through the use of a personal budget. • Improved choice from a broader menu of short break opportunities. • Improved opportunities for disabled children, young people with a physical impairment but no learning impairment and their families to benefit from a short break. • More joined up approach to workforce training to enable disabled children, young people and their families to use local clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary disruption for child, new environments. • Increased travel for Swale children. • 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. • As it stands currently a personal budget cannot be used to purchase an overnight short break in a local authority run residential unit.

<p>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>Capital cost £nil</p>	<p>and leisure services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved short break opportunities for disabled children aged between 0-5.• Less travel for Medway children.• 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.	
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Option – 1B Extend Aut Even to seven days a week and purchase additional overnight short breaks from an alternative residential overnight short break provider.	Advantages	Disadvantages
Medway Only		
<p>Summary of the option 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.</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>Capital cost: Minimal enabling refurbishment rather than remodelling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting. • Relatively local and accessible provision for the majority of Medway families. • 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. • Reduced transport costs for those children/young people receiving overnights. • More joined up approach to workforce training to enable disabled children, young people and their families to use local clubs and leisure services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be temporary disruption to existing groups of children at Preston Skreens and possibly at Aut Even while moves took place. • 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. • No additional day or evening short break opportunities or choice of having an overnight stay in another setting such as a weekend fun club. • 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.

Option – 1C 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
Medway only		
<p>Summary of the option</p> <p>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.</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>Capital cost: £0.6m (acquisition and adaptation costs)</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"> • Service provision is subject to competitive testing for quality and price. • 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. • There would be significant revenue savings on the cost of care for children placed out of area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be temporary disruption to existing groups of children at Preston Skreens and possibly at Aut Even. • Insufficient capital funding currently allocated. • A mixed provision of respite and permanent placements would disadvantage children permanently placed in the home. • 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. • No additional day or evening short-break opportunities or choice of having an overnight stay in another setting such as a weekend fun club. • 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.

Option – 2A Extend the range of day, evening and overnight short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parent carers living in Swale	Advantages	Disadvantages
Swale		
<p>Summary of the option 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.</p> <p>The menu could include overnight stays in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluebells • Dragons Retreat • Windchimes • Fairlawn • Children's Hospice • Short break foster carer's home • Family home • Weekend fun club • Adventure centre <p>It would NOT include Aut Even</p> <p>Day and evening short break activities could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sitting service in the family home. • Home based short break service (starts in the home but goes out to access local services). • Befriending schemes • Specialists play schemes at weekends and school holidays. • Access to local clubs, leisure centres • Day trips. <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>Capital cost: £0</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No capital costs. • Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting. • Increased opportunities for disabled children and young people to make new friends and maintain existing friendships. • More choice and control for parents, disabled children and young people through the using a personal budget. • Improved choice from a broader menu of short break opportunities. • Improved opportunities for disabled children, young people with a physical impairment but no learning impairment and their families to benefit from a short break. • More joined up approach to workforce training to enable disabled children, young people and their families to use local clubs and leisure services. • Improved short break opportunities for disabled children aged between 0-5. • Disabled children and young people can use high quality purpose built or appropriately converted provision • 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. • Independent providers of overnight breaks have informally expressed an interest in providing this service to families in receipt of a direct payment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some children may have longer journey times to participate in overnight short breaks. • The capacity of existing provision will need to be expanded and additional funding will need to be identified to achieve this. • 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.

Option – 2B Overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people in Medway and Swale delivered through a new provider.	Advantages	Disadvantages
Additional overnight short breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service would be accommodated in an appropriately adapted homely setting, or new, purpose-designed buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Summary of the option</p> <p>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.</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>Capital cost: £0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible, child and young person centred short breaks in a safe and fun setting. • Disabled children and young people could maintain existing friendships. • Relatively local and accessible provision for Medway and Swale families. • More choice and control for parents, disabled children and young people through the using a personal budget. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • No guarantee that another provider would be able to supply a building that was fit for purpose and met national standards.