

CABINET

16 DECEMBER 2014

GATEWAY 1 PROCUREMENT COMMENCEMENT: SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND THEIR CARERS – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mike O'Brien, Children's Services (Lead Member)

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

Authors: Helen Jones, Assistant Director, Partnership Commissioning
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SUMMARY

To provide a copy of the Diversity Impact Assessment.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Paragraph 9.1.2 of the main report referred to a Diversity Impact Assessment. This is attached for Members' consideration at Appendix A.

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Appendix A

TITLE	Children's Short Breaks Diversity Impact Assessment: December Update
DATE	15 December 2014
LEAD OFFICER	Alison Shepherd
DECEMBER 2014 UPDATE	<p>A strategic service review of short breaks services delivered to disabled children in order to give their parents a break from their caring roles was undertaken earlier in 2014. A report containing the outcome of the strategic review was presented to Cabinet in September 2014.</p> <p>This overarching diversity impact assessment was developed as part of the strategic review and Cabinet's deliberations.</p> <p>Cabinet agreed to the proposed approach to modernising children's short breaks services by decommissioning elements of current provision and commissioning new and different services that would be in line with the SEND reforms and with modern expectations. Some of the services would be available for parents and young people to purchase for themselves using a direct payment, and some would be available for the Council to arrange on behalf of parents, should they prefer not to use direct payments.</p> <p>Consultation with children, young people and parents demonstrated a clear preference to access the same services and activities as non disabled children and young people, with support if needed. People will be able to make use of personal budgets and direct payments which will give them greater flexibility and choice. It is a clear role of commissioners to stimulate providers to develop services that are attractive to people using direct payments, and people who want the option to purchase services safely without the intervention of the Council.</p> <p>Following Cabinet, a DIA was undertaken on each of the services currently delivered to assess the impacts, both positive and negative, on the people using the twenty one services to be de-commissioned following Cabinet's decision. Accordingly, the individual DIAs were undertaken, which supplement the overarching DIA on the strategic review. A table has been appended to this</p>

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overarching DIA (Appendix 1) which summarises the diversity impact of the Cabinet decision on people using each of the services affected.

It can be seen that those with Tier 1 needs (the lowest level of need) will be accessing universal services alongside their non disabled peers. Those with Tier 2 needs will be able to access universal services with support, and some services targeted at children with disabilities. For those children who have needs at Tier 3 and Tier 4, they will be able to access the newly commissioned targeted and specialist short breaks services, as well as having the choice of using direct payments and using universal provision with support.

1 Summary description of the proposed change

In line with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms within the Children and Families Act 2014, it is proposed that families with a disabled child aged 0 – 25 years will in future be offered an outcomes-based assessment of needs and a personal budget from which to directly purchase short break services to meet the outcomes agreed. Currently families can access any number of universal short breaks by self-referral. Under the new system, all families will be assessed and services will be more equally and fairly distributed. The impact of the change is that a small number of families currently accessing services may no longer receive them. However, families reaching statutory assessment thresholds will continue to receive services. Families not eligible for a personal budget may still be able to access universal services at a rate determined by the provider. We expect this change to begin to shape the provider market as families choose certain services above others and thereby increase provision. Workshops will be delivered to potential providers of short break services by commissioners and services to prepare them for this change.

A number of services are currently commissioned or funded by Medway Council to provide short breaks in Medway until March 2015. It is proposed that a preferred provider framework is put in place. To ensure that there is not disruption to those that are either accessed by large numbers of children or by families reaching statutory assessment thresholds, it is proposed that all except for 5 are extended until September 2015.

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2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment

A range of information has been used to inform this development:

- SEND reforms under the Children and Families Act 2014
- Analysis of performance reviews and data with service providers
- Consultation with parents and carers
- Consultation with young people
- Consultation with stakeholder Heads of Services
- Benchmarking with other local authorities

The 2012 school census showed that there were 10,274 pupils with SEND in Medway. This is 24 % of the school population, higher than the England and South East averages. Numbers are predicted to rise significantly by 5.5%.

SEND reforms require families with SEND children to be allocated a personal budget from which to support their needs from 1 September 2014. Not all children with a disability are SEN.

Accessibility for most short breaks is by self-referral. Evidence shows that many families are unaware of short break services and access none while other families access the full range.

Performance reviews with existing short break providers has identified strengths and weaknesses in provision:

Five consultation events have taken place during which 40 parents and carers have indicated which short break services they would like to access and how:

- Activities in the school holidays and after school ranging from providing skills/independence to doing sports and having fun
- More activities for the under 8's and for young people aged 17- 25
- Sibling and family based activities and holidays
- Day breaks, weekend and week respite to give families a break
- Specialist activities for specific conditions eg ADHD; schizophrenia
- Activities for children with physical or behavioural disability/wheelchair
- Activities for high functioning children and young people
- Specialist child care or babysitting opportunities
- Transport to access activities and respite
- Information, guidance and support about how to access short breaks
- Opportunities to build trust and relationships with providers
- Support with educational opportunities and expectations
- Information pack for families given out by health visitors and in children's wards
- Information on the range of funding and benefits available
- Funding to enable access to universal activities eg trampolining
- A card to show disability living allowance to avoid retelling story
- Knowing how and where to complain

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- A network of families with similar circumstances

Parents/carers also advised us that they preferred to receive information by:

- Information pack given out by health visitors and on children's ward;

16 Young people advised us about services that were not currently working:

- Buses – too expensive or passes cannot be used at peak times

Also whether they would like to take up the offer of a short break if available:

- Responses yes 50%; maybe 25%; no 25%

How they would like to be involved or give ideas and comments in future:

- Information by emails; social media; through schools; letters; groups; presentations; attend board meetings; discussion groups; questionnaires; student unions

And what the Local Offer website should look like and how they should be informed:

- Eye catching; consistent; easy to navigate; by emails; basic booklets/leaflets in key high street places; phone help; posters; website; adverts on You tube

Benchmarking with other local authorities has identified that robust outcomes based assessment of needs with the allocation of personal budgets reduced the need for overnight respite and developed the local market for increased and varied universal and targeted day, evening and weekend short breaks.

The options for the commissioning of future core short break services will be determined in a subsequent Gateway 1 paper in September.

3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change?

Protected characteristic groups	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Age	√	√	√
Disability	√	√	√
Gender reassignment			
Marriage/civil partnership			
Pregnancy/maternity			
Race	√	√	√
Religion/belief			
Sex			

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Sexual orientation			
Other (eg low income groups)			

4 Summary of the likely impacts

Families with disabled children will be assessed for services. Some (it is too early to know how many at this stage but is not expected to be large numbers) families may not reach thresholds to receive a personal budget and to access targeted short breaks. Universal services may take time to become fully inclusive. Local services will respond to the diverse needs of families. Ultimately families will have control of their budgets and will shape the local market for short breaks. At this stage the other protected characteristics are not affected however this will be reviewed once the Gateway 1 and 0-25 service develops.

Advance equality by enabling more choice for families, may give access to families who previously would not have had the opportunity. Shaping the local market will ultimately enable better provision as providers react to consumer demand.

5 What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations?

The Action Plan below shows action that will be taken. In addition: Key worker staff will be trained to manage the changes. Providers will be advised of the proposed changes and will be supported to develop thresholds and accessibility criteria and how to support the families that they work with. Some providers may decide to continue to deliver short breaks without Medway Council funding since not all short break provision is currently funded by Medway Council. Families will be advised about the proposed changes in their reviews with their social worker. The local offer new website (due March 2015) will publish clear and concise information for families about short break services and how to access these. It will also allow families to book services using their personal budget allocations and review services received. Families will be consulted on their needs and the options available as part of the assessment process and in advance of the website going live.

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6 Action plan		
Action	Lead	Deadline or review date
Analyse new outcomes based assessments of children to inform commissioning needs	Alison Shepherd	March 2015
Identify core short break needs to be commissioned	Donna Mills	Oct 2014
Identify services to be de-commissioned	Donna Mills	Nov 2014
Develop and publish a framework tender in readiness for new short break needs	Alison Shepherd	February 2015
Commission holiday overnight stays for the individual/family	Alison Shepherd	Sept 2015
Increase in sitting and befriending services including overnight sitting service	Alison Shepherd	Sept 2015
Increase in holiday play scheme and after school clubs for disabled children	Alison Shepherd	Sept 2015
Increase the participation in universal activities	Alison Shepherd	Sept 2015
Provide support for young people leaving school – such as network clubs; accessible learning and employment opportunities post 19	Alison Shepherd	Sept 2015
Commission short breaks for children with palliative care needs	Alison Shepherd	Sept 2015
Commission family based overnight stays	Alison Shepherd	Sept 2015
Identify services likely to be accessed by personal budgets	Donna Mills	Sept 2014
Work with Local Offer team to promote opportunities to parents/carers for personal budgets	Donna Mills	Sept 2014
Work with Local Offer/SDS team to provide support to parents/carers to understand and manage SDS	Donna Mills	Oct 2014
Increase available resource for Direct Payments/personal budgets	Donna Mills	Sept 2014

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7 Recommendation

To approve the mitigating actions outlined above and to authorise the new way of working

8 Authorisation

Assistant Director

Helen Jones

Date

15 December 2014

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APPENDIX 1

Table: Summary of the individual disability impact assessments of the decision to decommission and reconfigure childrens short breaks services services

Provider	Short break service	Tier of disability (if known)	Amount invested/Year	Protected characteristics affected (positive and negatively)	Proposed short breaks service as an alternative, or in conjunction with 1:1 support to access universal services and/or to a personal budget	Date funding will end
Lordswood Leisure Centre	After School Club	Not known but thought to be Tier 1	£6000	Age, disability	Universal after school clubs	31 March 2015
RAD	Youth Club	Tier 2	£10,998	Age, disability	Existing youth clubs for young people with a disability	31 March 2015
MEMF	Befriending and activities	Half at Tier 1, and the other half at Tiers 2&3	£16,500	Age, disability, race	Medway Parent Carers Forum	31 March 2015

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Shishu Kishor	Disability awareness and activities	Tier 2	£6,500	Age, disability, race	Medway Parent Carers Forum	31 March 2015
Carers First	Activities for children from BME communities	Tier 2	£5,100	Age, disability, race	Mainstream Carers First short breaks then newly commissioned short breaks services	31 March 2014
KASBAH	Activities	Tier 2	£20,000	Age, disability	Newly commissioned short breaks services	30 September 2015
Step and Learn	Conductive Education	Tier 4	£10,000	Age, disability	Newly commissioned short breaks services	30 September 2015
Demelza Hospice	Overnight stays and activities	Tier 3	£25,000	Age, disability	Newly commissioned short breaks services (including overnight short breaks)	30 September 2015

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Woodlands Youth Club	Youth club	Tier 1	£7,500	Age, disability	Universal youth clubs	30 September 2015
Disabled Sports	Sports clubs	Tier 2	£6,000	Age, disability	Newly commissioned short breaks services	30 September 2015
Parkwood Youth Club	Youth club	Tier 2	£7,500	Age, disability	Support to access universal youth clubs	30 September 2015
Danecourt School	Holiday playschemes and after school clubs	Tier 4	£76,000	Age, disability	Newly commissioned holiday playschemes	30 September 2015
Crossroads Care	Respite care	Tier 2 and 3	£95,000	Age, disability	Newly commissioned short breaks services	30 September 2015
Abbey Court School	Residential break	Tier 3 and 4	£2,500	Age, disability	Newly commissioned short breaks services (including overnight short breaks)	30 September 2015

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Bradfields School	Holiday and after school club	Tier 2 and 3	£130,000	Age, disability	Newly commissioned holiday playschemes and after school clubs	30 September 2015
Kent Association for the Blind	Activities	Tier 1	£13,900	Age, disability	Universal services	30 September 2015
Carers First	Activities	Tier 2	£95,000	Age, disability	Newly commissioned short breaks services	30 September 2015
Swingate School	After school club	Tier 1, with some at Tiers 2 and 3	£9,200	Age, disability	Newly commissioned holiday playschemes and after school clubs	30 September 2015
MAGIC	Activities	Tiers 2 3 and 4	£108,000	Age, disability	Newly commissioned holiday playschemes and after school clubs	30 September 2015
Woodlands Youth Club	Youth club	Tier 1	£7,500	Age, disability	Universal youth clubs	30 September 2015
Borden Riding School	Horse riding	Tier 1	£10,000	Age, disability	Universal services	30 September 2015
Borden Riding School	Work experience	Tier 1	£5,000	Age, disability	Universal support towards work	30 September 2015
Young Kent	1:1 support to access mainstream youth activities	Not known but thought to be Tier 2	£19,975	Age, disability	Newly commissioned 1:1 support services	30 September 2015