



Financial Year	2016/17
Proposal no.	CS109
Directorate	Children's Services
Service Name	Early Help and Schools
Area of Service	SEN and CWD

Savings Programme Pre-consultation Report			
Subject:	<i>Reduction in Short Break funding for children with disabilities</i>		
Report of:	<i>Gail Hopper</i>	Author:	<i>Michael Kemp</i>
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Type of Consultation:	<i>Service Delivery</i>	Author Email:	<i>michael.kemp@rochdale.gov.uk</i>

1 Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that members consider the proposal to reduce short breaks funding for children with disabilities in order to achieve savings of £50k.

Reason for Recommendation

1.2 When the programme was initially established the market of providers was limited. The market has now matured giving children and young people greater choice of providers. We are seeking to support universal providers to offer opportunities for children and young people which will then reduce the dependence on the Short Break Matrix.

1.3 Work is currently taking place around:

- ensuring that there is now in place effective and pro-active contracts' monitoring and annual reviews of short break packages to ensure value for money and clear accountability around spend;
- there is ongoing work around the appropriate allocation of short break places as well as consolidation work with parents and carers around eligibility criteria;
- work is being undertaken around the correct budget allocation and reclaiming overspends;
- work has also begun to ensure short breaks are not being used to meet the needs which should be met by other statutory agencies.

1.4 Through this work we can manage the reduction in the budget around the Short Break Matrix by a further £50k with limited impact on children and their families. The £50k reduction can be built into the current round of recommissioning of short breaks for 2016/17

2 Background

2.1 Short breaks were initially set up via a Government funded programme, Aiming High for Disabled Children, which ended in 2011.

2.2 A short break can be as brief as half an hour or as long as a few days or even a week. It depends on the needs and preference of the child and their family. Most short breaks take place in community settings whilst a small number are in a residential setting or the family home of an approved carer.

2.3 It is a statutory duty of the council to maintain short break provision for children with disabilities and their families. The regulations state that the Local Authority must offer a range of short breaks in the evenings, at weekends and during holidays, including daytime care in or outside the child's home as well as educational and leisure activities. However, the level of provision is not specified, it is up to the Local Authority to determine what it believes is adequate. It is important that short breaks are focused on effectively meeting local need as this can have an impact on demand and reduce the need to provide higher cost services.

2.4 [REDACTED]

2.5 The current funding for short breaks activities for children with disabilities on the Short Breaks Matrix is £369,100. This proposal is to reduce the budget by £50k bringing it down to £319,100. It is worth noting that in 2011/12 the total short breaks for both matrix and specialist was reduced by £100k.

3 Financial Implications

The saving proposal is 13.55% of the total budget for the area of service affected.

3.1 Table 1 provides details of: Reduction in Short Break Funding for Children with Disabilities - £50k

	Savings 2016/17		Savings 2017/18		Total savings	
	£k		£k		£k	
	On-going	One off	On-going	One off	On-going	One off
Total savings	50				50	

Financial and potential staffing impact on another internal service?

3.2 There is no financial or staffing impact on another internal service.

4 Asset implications

4.1 There are no asset implications arising from this report.

5 Voluntary Sector impact

5.1 The following Voluntary Sector impacts arise from the issues raised in this report as set out below:

5.2 Some short break provision is commissioned from the Voluntary Sector and a reduction in budget may result in a voluntary sector organisation losing funding or having funding reduced. The Council will comply with its obligations under the Borough of Rochdale Compact to mitigate the impact of reduced funding. However, we are currently re-commissioning all the Short Break Matrix provision as the current contracts end in April 2016.

6 Consultation

6.1 Consultation sessions with parents, carers and young people have been organised throughout October in a range of venues and times to maximise opportunities to engage within the consultation process. As part of the regular Provider Meeting, information is being shared with current short break providers around this.

6.2 We are also in consultation with Rochdale Parent/Carers' Forum around the commissioning and monitoring of short breaks.

6.3 It should be noted that we are updating the way we undertake the commissioning of short breaks this year so that we fully include parents, carers, children and young people.

6.4 Consultation will also take place with the Voluntary Sector and service users, volunteers and other stakeholders in accordance with the Borough of Rochdale Compact.

7 Alternatives Considered

7.1 In terms of alternative short break saving options we looked at the reduction of the specialist provision of overnight stays, multi-link fostering, Intensive Outreach Team.

7.2 This budget is currently fully utilised with on-going pressure. The risk of any reduction in the service's capacity to support those families in need of intensive short break provision is likely to be an increase in demand for children/young people to become accommodated. This would bring additional and more significant costs to the Children's Service so was not assessed to be a viable savings proposal. In addition this disruption would have a negative impact on children and young people.

8 Risk Assessment Implications

The following risks arise from the issues raised in this report as set out below:

8.1 We need to ensure we keep the balance around early help and support and intensive services. We have assessed that we can make the £50k savings which will not impact on provision for families. The risk is that there could be a perception that this will be a reduction in provision. In the re-commissioning process some of the current short break providers may not be successful through the tendering process and for families who currently attend those provisions may see this as a reduction/a loss of provision.

8.2 Key is the engagement of families within the decision-making process and effective communication.

9 Legal Implications

9.1 Rochdale will continue to comply with legislation by providing a relevant short break offer that offers daytime and overnight short break provision.

9.2 The Council must comply with the commitments given in the Borough of Rochdale Compact to provide at least 90 days' notice of a reduction in funding and consult with staff, volunteers and service users and meet with the organisations to consider ways of mitigating the impact of the reduction in funding.

10 Personnel Implications

10.1 The proposals outlined within this report will not have any personnel implication for the council's workforce.

11 Equalities Impacts

Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment

11.1 There are no significant workforce equality issues arising from this report.

Equality/Community Impact Assessments

11.2 A full equality impact assessment is attached in Appendix 1.

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SAVINGS PROPOSALS

1. Please state the name of the officers leading the EIA
Sandra Bowness
2. Who has been involved in undertaking this assessment?
Michael Kemp
3. What is the scope of this assessment?
Consider impact of reduction in the Short Break Matrix Budget allocation
3 a). What does the function currently do? The Short Break Matrix is a list of open access activities which children and young people with disabilities and complex needs can access directly
b). Describe the needs which this service meets? Short Breaks via the matrix provide parents and carers access to a range of activities that their child can access to enable them to socialise and take part in fun activities. These short break session paid for by parent /carers and the Short break Funding is used for the additional costs the providers has in meeting the needs of children with a disability or complex health needs
5. What proposed changes do you wish to make?

The change is to move to a more effective and efficient use of existing budget allocation

6. Who are the key stakeholders who may be affected by the proposed changes?

Children, Young People, Parents and Carers

7. What impact will this proposal have on all the protected groups

Currently there are 371 children/ young people attending the short breaks on the matrix

We are concerned due to the data monitoring returns that the current short breaks matrix is not being accessed by communities across Rochdale and through the recommissioning planned in November 2015 we are seeking to address this

Our data is short breaks attendance in general is showing as a percentage of the 371

Age break down

- Under 5 7%
- 5-15 76%
- 16+ 17%

Disability

- ASD 49%
- Physical Disability 27% (we know limited short break commissioned for this group)
- Learning Difficulties 17%

Race Equality

It is not anticipated that the reduction will have any adverse impact on any specific ethnic group within Rochdale Borough.– We do not use information on a child's ethnicity as part of the short break allocation process as it is an open access short breaks offer. We therefore do not believe that there will be any impact in terms of a child's race.

However we are concerned that the current short break offer as describe by the overall data collection that is does not appear accessible / relevant to all communities within Rochdale . The basis data reports of those children attending we know 74% are White British 22% are South Asian and 4 % other.

Disabled People

The current changes to the Matrix budget allocation are to be achieved by the effective use and monitoring of short break provision so will not result in a reduction of provision. There is no reduction in the funding for specialist short break provision e.g , direct payment.,Personnal Budgets fostering, residential overnight

Through current monitoring of the short break provision within matrix we know that there is spare capacity along with the efficiency saving

There are currently 370 children and young people accessing short breaks.

314 access short breaks out the matrix and of those 201 of those also access specialist short break provision via the social care team

Carers

Short breaks will continue to be available where needed to support carers in caring for a child with a disability. It is not anticipated that there will be any specific impact. It is envisaged that with the tighter assessment of need, and the better alignment of commissioned short breaks, carers will receive a more relevant short break service

Gender

Gender is not a factor that is used within the allocation of short breaks We know that currently out of those attending 68% are male and 32% are female. This would suggest that the current short break offer is biased to activities that boys are more likely to attend. This is being addressed in the retendering offer this year in terms of range of offer

Age

Short breaks through Matrix are currently offered to children aged 0-18 years. Any changes would have an equal impact across the provision for that age range and will not be age specific.

Separate work is currently underway around the lack of any short break provision for 18 – 25 years which is an identified gap in provision.

Armed Forces and Ex-Armed Forces Personnel

The Short Breaks offer does not specifically impact on any members of the Armed Forces or Ex-Armed forces Personnel – We will continue to offer a universal short break to any child or young person with a disability.

Religion or Belief

Religion or Belief is not a question asked for as part of the allocation of short breaks so this change will not have any specific impact .

Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation is not a question asked for as part of the allocation of short breaks so this change will not have any specific impact

Gender Reassignment

Gender Reassignment is not a question asked for as part of the within allocation of short

breaks so this change will not have any specific impact

Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave or Those who have given Birth in the Previous 26 weeks

This proposal relates to the short break provision for disabled children and young people aged 0-18 years. Very occasionally the pregnancy of a mother of a disabled child impacts on their need. There are no plans to reduce this provision and the use of funding known as Section 17 budget will also remain in place for this purpose.

Marriage or Civil Partnership

Marital status or the relationship status of parents is not a factor that is used within allocation of short breaks

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

What are the main conclusions and recommendations from this analysis?

It is recommended that:

- appropriate support is provided, to those who need it, to give their views on the proposed changes.
- any written consultation materials are accessible for those with a learning disability and/or sensory impairment.
- Where required, versions of the consultation materials are provided in large font, extra large and EasyRead formats and alternative language (if needed).
- The consultation settings used are fully accessible to disabled people

9. In the box below please provide details of who you will consult with on the proposals, when you consult, and the methods which you will use to consult. In the box below

The Consultation and Inclusion Methodology Used

We are running face to face consultation with parents , carers , children and young people

We are working in partnership with Rochdale's Parent/Carers' Forum and the SENDias Service to support this consultation

We are using a range of settings including schools and the Parent Forum Base and the Town Hall.

DATE	TIME	VENUE

Wednesday 14 October	9.30am – 11.30am	Small Hall, Newlands School, Middleton
Monday 19 October	1pm – 3pm	Training Suite, Oulder Hill School, Rochdale
Wednesday 21 October	7pm-9pm	Parents' Forum, Castleton
Friday 23 October	9.30am – 11.30am	Harwood Park, Heywood
Monday 9 November	9.30am – 11.30am	CR1, Town Hall

10. Produce an action plan detailing the mitigation measures that you propose to put in place to address any adverse impacts.

Mitigation Measure	Action	Responsible Officer	Implementation Date	Review Date	Evaluation Measure
More effective Commissioning	Re-tendering of current short breaks in partnership with parents /carers/children and young people	M Kemp	OCT 2015	Dec 2015	QA / Feedback by parents
Ensure effective monitoring of short break usage	Develop the Short break score card to be presented to the Children and Young People Partnership Board and Performance data meeting	M Kemp	Nov 2015	Jan 2015	Feedback from Children and Young People Partnership Board
Ensure only eligible children are	Review tendering	M Kemp	Oct 2015	Jan 2015	Quarterly contract

accessing the provision	document. Review monitoring data request				monitoring
Better use of Local Offer and Family Information Service to enable parents / carers to access free universal provision	Review information Officer post/ role	M Kemp	Dec 2015	March 2015	