



ROCHDALE
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL

ITEM NO. SFL208

Subject:

Review of Staffing and Provision made by
Children with Disabilities (CWD) Team

Cabinet Member: Councillor Donna Martin, Children, Schools & Families

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1. It is recommended that the proposed budget and staffing proposals are agreed as a basis for consultation.
- 1.2.
- 1.3. Reduce short breaks funding for children with disabilities.
- 1.4. Transfer responsibility for the promotion of and access to self-referral short breaks to parent groups.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. Aspects of the work of the CWD Team run in parallel to similar functions within Health. It is opportune to look at how these functions might be more closely integrated to reduce any duplication and ultimately realize savings.
- 2.2. The level of funding for short breaks activities for children with disabilities has been maintained since the ending of the Government's funded programme. Aiming High for Disabled Children, in March 2011. The Council's current financial position means that this is now an area that we need to reduce.
- 2.3. As a medium to longer term option we need to explore whether parent groups could own the role of promoting self-referral short breaks.

3. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 None

4. BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

- 4.1 Many of the children known to the CWD Team are also known to specialist health services – particularly therapy services because of their needs. For example the Local Authority maintains an Occupational Therapy Team which focuses mainly on ensuring that children's homes are fully accessible to their needs and that families have access to equipment to ensure safe moving and handling and comply with health and safety legislation. The Health Occupational Therapy Team focuses on skills and equipment required for independent living such as feeding and community access as well as managing transitions from hospital to home for children with injuries. It is the intention to look at functions such as these with the commissioning arm of the PCT to see how teams such as this could be integrated to address the holistic needs of children and their families as well as avoiding duplication and realizing

savings. This work will be undertaken in financial year 2013-14 and any savings will not be available until 2014-15.

4.2 It is a statutory duty of the Council to maintain short break provision for children with disabilities and their families. However the level of this provision is not specified. Rochdale Council is spending in the range of £800k per year on short break provision. It is hoped that this can be reduced by £50k in the financial year 2013-14 without impacting too significantly on children and their families whilst at the same time exploring whether this could be reduced further in future years.

4.3 Rochdale has a Parents' Forum for children with disabilities. In some authorities the Parents' Forum take a lead role in relation to the promotion of those short breaks for which a parent does not need a specialist assessment. We need to explore in the financial year 2013-14 whether this would be an option for Rochdale with the possibility of some staff efficiencies in 2014-15 if this proves to be the case. (As an interim measure we may need to commission some support from the voluntary sector to support the transition of such duties.)

5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN / REQUIRED

5.1 The portfolio holder for Children, Schools & Families has been consulted.

5.2 Full consultation with staff and stakeholders will be required.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 **Theme:** Savings

6.2 **Proposal Title:**

6.3 **Breakdown of Savings from the Service**

Service Name: Support for Learning

Area of Service: Children with Disabilities Team, Special Educational Needs & Children with Disabilities Service

Cost Centre affected: e0086 & e0075

Is this a cost or additional saving: saving

	Savings 2013/14 £000		Savings 2014/15 £000		Savings Total £000	
	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off
Employees						
Other Costs						
Income lost (Show as minus)						
Net Savings						
Additional Income Generated (show as a positive figure)						
Total Savings						
Implementation Costs						
Total Savings less Implementation Costs	50		150		200	

6.4 **Financial Impact on another service?** None within the Council

6.5 **Details of the Financial Impact on another service:** None within the Council

6.6 **Voluntary Sector Financial Impact:** We may need to engage the Voluntary Sector as an interim solution to the provision of 1.3.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are no significant legal implications arising from this proposal other than those identified elsewhere in the report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1.
8.2.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Any reduction in services to children with disabilities has inherent risks because of the vulnerable nature of the cohort. However it is felt that these proposals fall into the low risk category in terms of this group.

10. ASSET IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific asset implications for members to consider arising from this report.

11. JOINT WORKING

11.1 This proposal will involve the Children with Disabilities Team working jointly with Health and the Voluntary Sector.

12. EQUALITIES IMPACTS

12.1 **Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment:** This proposal may have staffing implications and if this is the case will be included in a full equalities impact assessment. This analysis will be reported separately to Members when the staff are identified and the outcome of implementation is known.

12.2 **Equality/Community Impact Assessments:** An equality/community impact assessment will be completed for this proposal.

13. VOLUNTARY SECTOR IMPACTS

13.1 There are no significant equality/community issues arising from this report.

Background Papers: There are no background papers relating to this report.