

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET			
SUBJECT:	COMMISSIONING OF SHORT BREAK SERVICES			
DATE OF DECISION:	17 SEPTEMBER 2013			
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES			
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>				
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
None

BRIEF SUMMARY

Short breaks, previously known as 'respite', are defined as any organised activity where children and young people with disabilities can have a positive experience whilst providing their family with a break from their caring role.

The short break contracts the Council currently holds expire at the end of March 2014 therefore it is necessary to begin a procurement process for contracts to begin in April 2014.

Following in depth consultation with parents/carers, children, young people, adults and providers, a range of short break activities are intended to be commissioned by the Council in collaboration with Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCCG). The short breaks which are commissioned will primarily be for children and young people aged between 0 and 18 years. At the same time, residential overnight short breaks will be commissioned for adults with learning disabilities. In addition a grants program will be run to develop community based short break activities for children and young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To delegate authority to the People Director to begin a procurement process for the provision of short break services as set out in this report and to enter into contracts in accordance with contract procedure rules.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the People Director to begin a grants process to develop community based short break activities and to award grants in consultation with the cabinet member for children's services.
- (iii) To delegate authority to the People Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, to approve a spend of the amounts set out in this report against the new contracts and grants subject to annual budget setting.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council has a statutory duty under Section 2 of the Chronically Sick & Disabled Person's Act (CSDPA) 1970 to meet the assessed needs of all persons with disabilities. Further, the Council has a statutory duty under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to meet the assessed needs of children and young people with disabilities.
2. New legislation came into force in April 2011, the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011' place local authorities under a duty to provide a range of short break services to meet the needs of the local population and assist carers to continue to provide care to their child or to do so more effectively.
3. The Government White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' directs organisations to provide better prevention services, earlier intervention and more support for people with long-term support needs and their family carers.
4. The contracts and grants will support the Council to meet the needs of families in Southampton and also to achieve best value for money.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. The Council could decide not to go out to the market to tender for short break services and instead invest the funding internally. This option has been rejected as it would not be possible to develop the range, volume and variety of provision required within timescales. It would also not make best use of the significant expertise in the city from voluntary sector organisations to provide short break services.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

6. Both specialist and targeted short breaks will be commissioned. Specialist short breaks for children, young people and adults are those which are allocated following a social care assessment of need. Targeted short breaks are accessible to a larger group of children and access is via the Buzz network which is a Council run group providing information, advice and access to targeted short breaks.
7. The Southampton short break market statement outlined the main aims of the commissioning process:
 - To support families to use community resources as much as possible
 - To improve parental confidence in support worker training
 - To have a greater emphasis on personalisation to give more choice and control to families around the service they access.
8. The short break services will be commissioned as part of a framework agreement for 4 years. The services commissioned will be:
 - Residential overnight short breaks for children, young people and adults
 - Family based overnight short breaks
 - One-to-one outreach and support in the home with personal care
 - Activity playschemes

Families will also have the choice of having a direct payment to purchase their own short breaks however the commissioning process will not affect this.

9. A grants process will also develop more community based activities for families which make best use of resources close to where families live. The grants will be awarded via delegated authority for 2 years to support organisations to develop innovative services and to make them sustainable in the longer term. This will be subject to annual budget setting.
10. Consultation has taken place with parents and carers of disabled children through two events facilitated by the A-Buzz parent forum. The feedback from these events was that the current services such as outreach and playschemes are highly valued however there is a need for a wider range of short break services which meet the needs of different age groups and those with different disabilities. This has been carefully considered and made a central part of the grants process with the desired outcomes being directly informed by this consultation. Grants will be awarded in line with the Council's corporate grants process with support from the Community & Improvement team. The proposed outcomes from the grant funding are included as an appendix to this report.
11. Consultation has taken place with children and young people through Jigsaw, the jointly commissioned health and social care service for children with disabilities. The feedback was that children wanted to take part in activities in the community alongside their non-disabled peers with opportunities to spend time with friends. This will also be part of the grants process and included in the contract specifications.
12. Consultation has also taken place with families and carers of adults with disabilities through two workshops facilitated by the Integrated Commissioning Team. The feedback from these events indicates that communication is a key theme for adult users of short breaks, particularly between the family and the service, to include planning before the break, what happened during the break and how to be part of any monitoring process. Flexibility in booking, and consistent/good support staff were also highlighted. This feedback has been carefully considered when writing the contract specification.
13. Professionals working with families have been consulted with through regular operational short break meetings and their feedback has echoed that from parents, carers, children and young people.
14. Providers have been consulted via an event in which broad proposals were presented and discussed. A market statement was also distributed which aimed to stimulate creative thinking and discussions between providers.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

15. The current budgets available for short breaks are shown in the table below:

2013/14 Budget	Amount
SCC Children & Young People specialist short breaks	£843,200
SCC Children & Young People targeted short breaks	£390,100
SCC Adults externally commissioned residential overnight short breaks.	£140,700
CCG specialist short breaks for adults	£58,900
CCG specialist short breaks to meet the needs of children with complex health needs	£203,000
Total	£1,635,900

The specialist short break budget includes £200,000 which is accessed by families via a direct payment.

16. The proposal is to commission four different short break areas and have a commissioned grants programme to develop a wider range of community based activities. The short break funds will be split as follows:

Service	Amount per year
A. Residential Overnights	£748,600
B. Family Based overnights	£47,200
C. Outreach and support in the home	£390,100
D. Activity Schemes	£70,000
E. Grants for community based services	£180,000
Total	£1,435,900

In addition around £200,000 per year will continue to be accessed by families via a direct payment.

17. Continuation of available revenue funding will be subject to the annual budget setting process approved by Council in February of each year.

Property/Other

18. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

19. The Children Act 1989 outlines the responsibilities of Local Authorities to support disabled children who are included in the Act's definition of children in need. Short Breaks are an important contributor to meeting children's needs.
20. The 2011 Short Break Regulations place more detailed requirements on local authorities to provide a range of short break services and to assist carers to continue to provide care to their child or to do so more effectively.
21. The Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons' Act (CSDPA) 1970 outlines the responsibilities of Local Authorities to facilitate the taking of holidays by disabled people. Short breaks are an important contributor to meeting adult's needs.

Other Legal Implications:

22. The Children & Families Bill 2013 outlines proposed changes to the Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25 years. One element of the reforms is greater joint commissioning between local authorities and CCG's. This short break commissioning process will support compliance with the new regulations when they come into force in September 2014, subject to royal assent.
23. The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities to consider whether carers wish to work, study or have some leisure activities. The provision of Short Breaks will support compliance with this duty.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

24. The proposals set out in this report will contribute directly to the achievement of the outcomes set out in the Health & Well-being Plan, in particular priority 1 to support vulnerable families.
25. The proposals set out in this report will also contribute to both social priorities within the Southampton City Council Plan 2013-2016 to:
 - Improve health and keep people safe
 - Help individuals and communities to work together and help themselves

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Southampton Short Breaks Market Statement
2.	Short Break Grants – Desired Outcomes

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Yes
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	Equality Impact Assessment	
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