

Central Bedfordshire Council

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny July 2018

Progress report on the transformation of short break provision for disabled children and their families

Report of: Executive Member for Cllr Steven Dixon
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Purpose of this report

1. To provide an update on the transformation of short break provision to disabled children and their families.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive or Committee is asked to:

1. Note the progress of the short break transformation programme
2. Agree the next steps of the short break programme.

Background

2. Short breaks are opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to spend time away from their primary carers, and provide opportunities for their parents and carers to have a break from caring responsibilities, thereby contributing to their personal and social development.
3. The Transforming Short Breaks Provision to Disabled Children was presented to Executive on the 10th October 2017. This set out a step change in provision which is aspirational for disabled children, young people and their families and is based on the principle that funding will follow the child.
4. The transformation supports the principles of the Children and Families Act 2014 which are:

- a) Children, young people and their parents are at the heart of our offer and involved in co construction of individual support and local provision.
 - b) Parents and children have greater choice and control over support including access to personal budgets which allow support to be individual to the child and family.
 - c) High quality accessible provision is developed with partners to support children and families.
 - d) Young people are supported to make a successful transition to adulthood.
5. Other legal duties in relation to short breaks include both duties owed to individual children and families in relation to assessment and care planning and wider commissioning obligations on local authorities. The key statutory duties are found within the following legislation:
- a) Children Act 1989
 - b) Children's Home Regulations 2015
 - c) Breaks for Carers Regulations 2011
 - d) Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
 - e) Children Act 2004
 - f) Care Act 2014

Progress since October 2017

- 6. The new commissioning framework for community services has been implemented resulting in a range of new external agencies being available to support disabled children and their families.
- 7. The threshold criteria categories for short breaks have been revisited using the comments provided by key stakeholders to ensure they are better understood and can be appropriately applied.
- 8. A Local Offer Group has been established. The group has reviewed the Local Offer pages and is continuing to update the information with input from stakeholders.
- 9. Meetings have been held with the Active Lifestyles Team to explore what options might be available for disabled children and their families from the services which include leisure and outdoor spaces.
- 10. All relevant materials have been updated to reflect the agreed changes to the way in which short break provision is now assessed and provided.
- 11. The relevant staff have been briefed and are implementing the 4 tiered model of delivery.

12. Funding arrangements for the Voluntary Organisations for the period of April to September were agreed with a plan for further opportunities for grant funding from September 2018 to March 2019.
13. The short break transformation programme has been co constructed with the Parents Carer Forum (SNAP) and their relationship with the local authority provides a healthy level of confirm and challenge.
14. A multiagency working group has been set up to focus on the design of the Autism Pathway for children and young people. The work of this group will inform the Local Offer and provide greater transparency for children and families affected by autism. The work is being led by the Cambridgeshire Community Health NHS Trust.

Council Priorities

15. The transformation of short break provision for disabled children supports the following priorities:

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire
- Great resident services
- Improving education and skills
- Protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing
- Creating stronger communities
- A more efficient and responsive Council.

Corporate Implications

16. The transformation of short breaks has governance within the Children's Services Transformation Plan and has clear links to the overall Partnership Vision for Education, the Home to School Transport Policy, the commissioning of services across children and adult services, and the local health sustainability programmes.

Equalities Implications

17. A detailed Equalities Impact Assessment was completed as part of the short break consultation. This document is still relevant for the work being undertaken in the programme.

Next Steps

18. There will be a focus on consolidating what is available to children and young people in universal and targeted settings such as leisure centres and outdoor spaces.

19. There will be focus on developing the market place to offer greater choice and control through the provision of personal budgets and direct payments.
20. Future short break modelling will include strategic discussions with neighbouring Bedfordshire authorities.
21. The future stages of development and delivery of short break provision will be co constructed with parents and disabled children and young people.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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