

# Short Breaks: Future Partnership and Grant Funding with Voluntary Organisations

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# Short Breaks: Future Partnership and Grant Funding with Voluntary Organisations

§ **Context**

§ **Recent progress**

§ **Stabilisation of grant funding**

§ **Moving forwards**

§ **Governance**

# CONTEXT

- § The **voluntary sector is critical** to the way in which children and families with disabilities and/or additional needs are supported
- § Historically, the council has provided grants directly to voluntary organisations to deliver short breaks for these families
- § In line with the central government **personalisation agenda**, we have been discussing these changes with the voluntary organisations since 2015
- § **Changes were agreed in 2017 at Executive.** Since 2016, traditional grant funding has been reduced/then reallocated with the aim of transitioning to personal budgets
- § **Changes in funding have impacted on some children and families** receiving the services and support they needed over the summer of 2018

# RECENT PROGRESS

## The last two months have been critical to re-establishing partnerships

**SNAP PCF, Autism Bedfordshire and Families United Network raised significant concern with the Council**

Council working group formed to respond to concerns and impact on families

**Council officers met with voluntary organisations to discuss:**

- Impact of funding changes on their families
- Funding required to deliver 'at risk' services between now and March 2020
- Plan to move towards personalisation
- Ways of working

**17<sup>th</sup> December: Council confirmed funding and partnership working going forwards**

**Together, voluntary organisations and the Council agreed messaging to be communicated to families and members**

**PROMPT ACTION WAS TAKEN TO SUSTAIN SERVICES AND REASSURE FAMILIES**

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

# STABILISATION OF GRANT FUNDING

## Sustaining support to families has been the priority

- § All voluntary organisations have received their **full funding arrangements this financial year**
- § Grant funding will remain in place until **March 2020**, this is confirmed
- § Stabilising the grant funding will enable us to **work in partnership** towards the personalisation agenda whilst families continue to receive the support they need

# MOVING FORWARDS

## Co-construction will enable positive steps

- § Co-construct and agree a plan to map provision, services, and support across all levels of need in Central Bedfordshire
  - § Publish a **clear offer for families and children** with additional needs and/or disabilities in Autumn 2019
  
- § Co-develop a **personalisation strategy and funding methodology** for Central Bedfordshire
  - § System agreement to a way forward in Autumn 2019
  - § Mobilise and prepare from Autumn 2019
  - § Effective from 1 April 2020 - involving a wider range of organisations to deliver short breaks

# GOVERNANCE

Timely and representative governance will be critical

