

Central Bedfordshire Council

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

22nd January 2018

Short Breaks: Future Partnership and Grant Funding with Voluntary Organisations

Report of: Cllr Steve Dixon, Executive Member for Families, Education and Children and Lead Members for Children's Services, (Steven.Dixon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Responsible Director(s): Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services (Sue.Harrison@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

This report relates to a decision that is Non-Key

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update on the recent activity and funding arrangements with voluntary organisations who deliver Short Breaks to families and children in Central Bedfordshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked:

1. To note recent activity on the short breaks programme
2. To note the decision to stabilise grant funding to voluntary organisations that provide short breaks, to March 2020
3. To note the plan to deliver the personalisation agenda from April 2020

Issues

1. Please see Appendix 1 for presentation detailing updates '**Short Breaks: Future Partnership and Grant Funding with Voluntary Organisations**'.
2. The presentation will be co-delivered by Sue Harrison (Director of Children's Services), Kirsty Green (Director and Participation Manager, Special Needs Action Panel Parent Carer Forum (SNAP PCF)) and Emma Reade (Chief Executive Officer, Autism Bedfordshire).

Reason/s for decision

3. Stabilising the grant funding will enable the local authority to work in partnership with voluntary organisations towards the personalisation agenda, whilst families continue to receive the support they need.

Council Priorities

Protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing

4. Short breaks (respite) provide activities for disabled children and young people giving families and carers a break from caring. They provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend time away from their families and have fun and provide families with a break from their caring responsibilities.

Corporate Implications

5. The transformation of short breaks project is governed by the Children's Services Transformation Portfolio.
6. From January 2019, the project will be governed by the multi-agency Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Delivery Board, chaired by Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services.
7. It also 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, multi-disciplinary teams and the local health sustainability programmes.

Legal Implications

8. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Financial and Risk Implications

9. The additional Children with Disabilities (CWD) grant funding released this financial year is being delivered within the 2018/19 CWD budget.
10. The CWD total grant funding committed in 2019/20, is the same as 2018/19. This will be covered within the planned budget for 2019/20.
11. The additional Childcare grant funding released this financial year is being carried forward to 2019/20 (due to money released in February of this financial year to be spent by the voluntary organisations in the summer of 2019).
12. The Childcare total grant funding committed in 2019/20, is the same as 2018/19.

Equalities Implications

13. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

14. 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 project but will be reviewed going forwards and updated accordingly.

Conclusion and next Steps

15. In summary:
 - a. In line with the national personalisation agenda and decision at Executive in 2017, changes were made to funding given to voluntary organisations that provide short breaks to children and families who have additional needs and/or a disability.
 - b. The funding changes have impacted the services and support available to children and families.
 - c. Moving forwards, the move towards personalisation will be co-constructed with voluntary organisations, children and families.
16. Next steps include:
 - a. Co-construct, with voluntary organisations, a plan to map provision, services, and support across all levels of need in Central Bedfordshire.
 - b. Co-develop a personalisation strategy and funding methodology for Central Bedfordshire. This will be effective from 1st April 2020 and may involve a wider range of organisations delivering short breaks.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Short Breaks: Future Partnership and Grant Funding with Voluntary Organisations (PowerPoint).

Appendix 2: SEND Delivery Board – Purpose and Membership (Word).

Report author(s): Branwen Harris

Head of Transformation and Resources

Branwen.harris@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk