

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	6 April 2011
Title:	Short Breaks for disabled children and their carers
Reference:	2589
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member endorses the delivery plan for targeted short breaks
- 1.2. That the Executive Member agrees the proposed Grants to independent sector organisations set out in section 6 of the main report
- 1.3. That the Executive Member receives a further report later in the year prior to publication of a short break service statement as required within the Regulations.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2010 bring into effect Paragraph 6(1)(c) of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 (inserted by section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008), requiring local authorities to provide services to assist individuals who provide care for disabled children to continue to do so, or to do so more effectively, by giving them breaks from caring.
- 2.2. Short breaks developed within the (former) Aiming High for Disabled Children programme have been targeted to those attending a special school or eligible to claim higher rate Disabled Living Allowances. There are a total of 3600 children within this target group and no assessment of need is required in order to access a service. In the order of 2300 children and young people accessed services in 2010/11.
- 2.3. In order to meet obligations within the Regulations it is proposed to continue with the existing approach by offering a range of evening, week end and schools holiday care and activity schemes. Some of these service are located in special schools and others within community sport and leisure centres.

- 2.4. A budget of £3.25m to maintain services in 2011/12 has been confirmed and, based upon take up potentially increasing to 75% of the target group, the level of service will be potentially greater than that available in 2010/11.
- 2.5. Services will be delivered directly by some schools and by a range of independent sector organisations supported by Grants

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. The Regulations require Local Authorities to make arrangements for a range of day time, overnight and schools holiday short break schemes and a disabled child is defined as - “ a child is disabled if he is blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from mental disorder of any kind or is substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disability as may be prescribed ”
- 3.2. Short breaks for disabled children, and their carers, are provided to two groups of children and young people

Children with complex needs

- 3.3. Short breaks and other services are provided to those children and young people with complex needs who access services following a needs assessment, often jointly with health services. In the order of 900 children and young people access these services, which are funded from the Children's Services core budgets at an annual cost in the order of £11m. Services include a range of overnight short breaks, help within family homes, access to family link schemes and local care services at weekends and in holiday periods. Some of these services can be accessed by taking a Direct Payment should families wish to make their own arrangements.

Targeted short breaks

- 3.4 Short breaks developed within the (former) Aiming High for Disabled Children programme are targeted to those attending a special school or eligible to claim higher rate Disabled Living Allowances. There are a total of 3600 children within this target group and no assessment of need is required.

- 3.4. The Regulations require that Local Authorities publish a service statement by October 2011 setting out the range of services available and the eligibility criteria for access. Subject to further consultation it is anticipated that the existing range of service to those with complex needs, accessed through a needs assessment, and the proposed service framework targeted to those attending a special school or eligible to claim higher rate Disabled Living Allowances will meet obligations.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

None

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent:

Not applicable

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

6 April 2011

**Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Councillor Roy Perry**