

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	25 March 2013
Title:	Short Breaks Grant awards: Specialist playschemes in Basingstoke (2013-14)
Reference:	4685
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Kieran Lyons

Tel: 01962 846399

Email: Kieran.lyons@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek the approval of the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services for Short Breaks grants to be allocated to the value of £105,689 to voluntary sector organisations in Basingstoke for 2013/14.
- 1.2. Grants awarded in this report will enable organisations to provide services for disabled children and young people, as part of the range of services required to be provided within the framework of The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011.
- 1.3. The Short Breaks panel will consider smaller grants throughout 2013/14, for Basingstoke and the whole of Hampshire, including applications that support individual disabled children and young people to access mainstream leisure and recreation activities. In particular where specific individual provision is required to ensure their full participation. These Grants are all under £5,000 and are allocated by officers, under delegated powers, with parent representatives included on the panel reviewing applications.
- 1.4. There is one remaining larger grants round planned for the whole of Hampshire, to consider larger grants to deliver activities in 2013/14. This will ensure any remaining gaps across the county are covered.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 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. The Regulations state that “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”.
- 2.3. The Regulations also define short breaks with the caveat that provision shall be made, in so far as is reasonable and practicable, for a range of services which are sufficient to assist carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively. In particular the local authority must provide, as appropriate, a range of:
 - day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere;
 - overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere;
 - educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes;
 - services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays
- 2.4. The Panels evaluating applications for this grant round comprised a variety of HCC officers including the Short Breaks team, Procurement colleagues, parent representatives and Parent Voice representatives.

3. Finance

- 3.1. The grants referred to in this report are proposed as part of the whole budget for children with disabilities short breaks services which is £5.24m (including specialist services such as overnight breaks, and open access short break activities).
- 3.2. The short breaks programme supports over 3,500 children and young people to access Short Breaks activities and services. As in 2012/13, grants of under £5,000 will continue to be awarded across Hampshire by officers under delegated powers following this report; with the grant funding remaining of this allocation.

4. Grants for Approval

- 4.1. Grants totalling £105,689 for specialist playschemes in Basingstoke are recommended to the Executive Member for approval. The grants are recommended following the evaluation of bids received from providers following an advert requesting applications for specialist playschemes in Basingstoke, in order to provide services for April 2013- March 2014.

4.2. Grant Recommendations:

Basingstoke Play Council – Play Schemes at Maple Ridge

£30,689

This will provide holiday and some Saturday play sessions for children with learning disabilities and autism (aged 4 to 11 years).

Kids – Pebbles Holiday Play Schemes

£10,000

This is a contribution towards an inclusive holiday playscheme for early years and primary-aged children, based at Kids Pebbles site in Popley.

Disability Challengers – Challengers Basingstoke Playscheme

£65,000

This will provide holiday and Saturday play sessions for children aged 4-12 with complex needs and disabilities.

5. Criteria of grant

5.1. Short breaks grants are awarded to a range of organisations providing safe, fun and interesting activities for disabled children and young people aged 0-19 years, who live in Hampshire or attend a Hampshire school. The activities will take place outside of school time (for school-aged children), during after-school, evenings, weekends and holidays. Further information about eligibility to apply for short breaks grants is available at the Hampshire grants homepage www.hants.gov.uk/grants/childrens-services-grants.htm.

5.2. The decision-making process was challenging for this grant round, where the total amount of money requested in grant applications far exceeded the amount of money the Panel had to allocate. The Panel's focus for decision-making included the following:

- Coverage for different age groups within areas and for different disabilities and levels of need
- Value for money
- Continuity for existing activities that are successful and valued by families
- The Equalities Impact Assessment for the Short Breaks programme

6. Recommendation(s)

6.1. That the Executive Lead Member approves those Grant applications totalling £105,689 to the organisations listed in 4.2.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	No
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	No
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Short Breaks Grant Awards	3353	17 October 2011
Short Breaks Statement of Future Provision and Grant Awards	3153	28 September 2011
Short Breaks for Disabled Children	2589	6 April 2011
Short Breaks Grant Awards	3440	18 January 2012
Short Breaks Grant Allocations for 2012-13	3441	1 February 2012
Short Breaks Grant Allocations for 2012-2013	3717	17 July 2012
Short Breaks for Disabled Children: Service Statement Review	4120	6 December 2012
		23 January 2013
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulation 2011	2011	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Short Breaks: Statutory guidance on how to safeguard and promote the welfare of disabled children using short breaks	https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00183-2010
Short Breaks: Advice for Local Authorities	http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/short%20breaks%20-%20advice%20for%20local%20authorities.pdf

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the Short Breaks programme and along with our stakeholders we will continue to progress the action plan as agreed. The outcomes and action from the Equalities Impact Assessment were shared with all grants panels. The proposals support that the needs of disabled children and their carers are met within local services and that parents and their representatives have an opportunity to be consulted and to influence services.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder: N/A

3. Climate Change: N/A