

Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire
County Council

Short Break Activities Commissioning Strategy: October 2019 to March 2021

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Department: Children's Services

Date of assessment: 18/04/2019

Description of current service/policy

The Short Breaks activity programme offers opportunities for parents and carers of children with a disability and/or additional needs to have a break from their caring duties.

Geographical impact: All
Hampshire

Description of proposed change

It is proposed to commission Short Break Activities based on the following priorities identified by stakeholders (including parents and carers):

- i) Holiday club provision
- ii) Weekend club provision
- iii) Youth club provision

This re-focus may lead to a reduction in the range of different types of activities available.

Additionally, some activity providers may no longer be prioritised for grant funding which could potentially lead to some services ceasing to operate.

However, it is anticipated that this change will also lead to a more consistent and equitable offer across the county, with additional activity potentially being offered where geographical gaps have been identified.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

A full public consultation was undertaken in Spring 2018 which asked for respondents to identify priorities for future Short Break Activity funding.

A targeted parent/carer survey was issued to all Gateway Card holders, and via Short Break Activity providers and Disabled Children's Teams in March 2019.

Additionally, views from other key stakeholders were sought via targeted sessions.

The feedback from the recent survey and stakeholder engagement echoed the earlier consultation findings and has informed the proposed priorities.

Statutory considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Age: Positive	By the nature of the Short Break Activities programme these changes will impact children and young people under the age of 18 years. The proposed changes have been informed by a range of feedback and data analysis. The proposals seek to offer a more consistent and equitable offer for families across the county.	
Disability: Low	By the nature of the Short Break Activities programme these changes will impact children and young people with a disability and/or additional need. The proposed changes have been informed by a range of feedback and data analysis. The proposals seek to offer a more consistent and equitable offer for families across the county. Further mitigation to any impact is the Exceptions Fund; a budget of £100,000 will be available for projects to apply to that do not meet the proposed priorities and are able to demonstrate and evidence demand.	

Sexual orientation: Neutral		
Race: Neutral		
Religion and belief: Neutral		
Gender reassignment: Neutral		
Gender: Neutral		
Marriage and civil partnership: Neutral		
Pregnancy and maternity: Neutral		
Other policy considerations	Impact	Mitigation

<p>Poverty: Medium</p>	<p>It is proposed that some activities such as after school clubs which have not been identified as a priority by stakeholders will not be funded by Short Breaks going forward. Families accessing these services are likely be required to pay additional fees to cover the short fall in income. Alternatively, these services may cease to operate. This may have an impact on low income families.</p>	<p>The proposed changes have been informed by a range of feedback and data analysis. The proposals seek to offer a more consistent and equitable offer for families across the county.</p> <p>Short Break Activity providers are required to offer concessions for families on low income.</p> <p>Further mitigation to any impact is the Exceptions Fund; a budget of £100,000 will be available for projects to apply to that do not meet the proposed priorities and are able to demonstrate and evidence demand.</p>
<p>Rurality: Positive</p>	<p>The proposals seek to offer a more consistent and equitable offer for families across the county and seek to address the geographical gaps in provision that have been identified by stakeholders.</p>	

Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)

Any other information