

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 8 AUGUST 2018

FUTURE PROVISION OF OVERNIGHT UNIT-BASED SHORT BREAKS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Summary

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families, and the Assistant Director for Early Help and Commissioning have been invited to the meeting to update the Panel on next steps following the decisions of Cabinet on 12 July 2018 relating to the future provision of overnight unit-based short breaks for children with disabilities.

Background and purpose of the report

2. Members will be aware of the consultation on proposals for the re-design of overnight unit-based short breaks for children with disabilities undertaken between 8 January 2018 and 19 February 2018, the Scrutiny Task Group Report on the same subject, and the subsequent report to Cabinet on 12 July 2018 where a number of recommendations to Cabinet from the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families were agreed.
3. A brief chronology of relevant dates in this process is included for clarity:

14 December 2017 – Cabinet agrees consultation with parents, carers, professionals and wider stakeholders on a number of proposals to re-design the provision of overnight unit-based short breaks

8 January 2018 – launch of consultation including on-line survey, meetings with families, unit drop-ins, letters to parent carers and publication of FAQ's on website

19 February 2018 – close of formal consultation

8 March 2018 – Cabinet Member with responsibility meeting with families

26 April 2018 – presentation of Scrutiny Task Group Report to Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

12 July 2018 – report to Cabinet by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families

4. The purpose of this Report is to outline the actions that will now be undertaken to implement the decisions of Cabinet in relation to the future provision of overnight unit-based short breaks for children with disabilities. A Project Team has been established to take forward the recommendations in the Report as appropriate covering the co-design

activity, contractual matters, democratic process and research and intelligence to inform future decision making.

5. The Project Team are aware that there are clear links between this work and improvement activity highlighted in the Worcestershire Local Area SEND Action Plan elsewhere on the agenda.

Next steps

6. The following table considers each recommendation from the 12 July Cabinet Report and details the actions required to take this forward, where required, and whether the actions constitute 'business as usual' or are part of the work overseen by the Project Team. Further detail will be provided at the Panel meeting as work is ongoing.

Recommendation	Next steps
1(a) ...notes the information relating to short breaks provision for children with disabilities contained in this report	No further action required
1(b) ...notes the responses received to the consultation with families, professionals and wider stakeholders, including the report from the CYP Scrutiny Task Group and the CMR response, on the proposals to redesign the delivery of overnight unit-based provision and the additional information and comments received during this period ...	No further action required at this time, however the responses and report received will inform future co-design and decision making as appropriate. CMR has requested more detail on the number and type of responses that informed the Task Group report to aid understanding
1(c) ...adopts the response by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for families and children to the Scrutiny Report "Future Provision of Overnight Unit-Based Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities" ...	No further action required at this time specifically in relation to this recommendation however the response by the CMR will inform future co-design and consultation activity as appropriate. CMR has requested more detail on the number and type of responses that informed the Task Group report to aid understanding
1(d) ... agrees the continued delivery of short breaks overnight respite provision at Ludlow Road, Kidderminster during this financial year 2018/19, subject to further review of contract arrangements and sufficiency with Worcestershire Health and Care Trust and without prejudice to any future proposals for change which may be developed and any further consultation as may be appropriate	An initial scoping meeting has been held with senior officers from Worcestershire NHS Health and Care Trust (25 July 2018) to agree actions in relation to this and recommendations (e) and (g) in the Cabinet Report. Key contact within the Trust senior management established and activity in relation to co-design planning, financial information, monitoring and contract variation discussed. Meeting chaired by AD for Early Help and Commissioning and attended by officers from WCC including lead commissioners for adult and children's services and the Commercial Contracts Manager.

	<p>A core task and finish group will take the actions forward with the Trust and further detail is included below in respect of specific recommendations.</p>
1(e) ... authorises the Director of Children, Families and Communities to work collaboratively with the Director of Adult Services to negotiate with the Worcestershire Health and Care Trust a variation of their contract, effective from 1 August 2018, for the delivery of overnight provision at Osborne Court and Ludlow Road in order to provide clarity on the service specification including cost, capacity and monitoring arrangements and to build into the contract the flexibility required for the service to adapt appropriately to future changes in demand including, where necessary, changes to the location of service delivery and/or age range of service users	<p>See next steps in recommendation 1(d) above.</p> <p>Arrangements in relation to contract variation, costs, monitoring and service specification to be taken forward by:</p> <p>Commercial Contracts Manager Lead Commissioners from Children and Adult Services</p>
1(f) ... authorises the Director of Children, Families and Communities to implement the proposal within the consultation to increase the capacity at Providence Road, Bromsgrove by the flexible use of one or two additional bedrooms (subject to the necessary changes to the Ofsted registration) as required to meet the needs of families who have an assessed need for overnight respite care now or in the future without prejudice to any future consideration in relation to Ludlow Road	To be taken forward within the service as 'business as usual' management of the unit in order to meet the needs of families.
1(g) ... authorises the Director of Children, Families and Communities in consultation with the Director of Adult Services to undertake co-design activity with parents, carers and wider stakeholders on short break/respite provision for children with disabilities, including the provision for young people approaching the age of 18 to ensure appropriate transition to adult services and/or independent living	<p>See also next steps in recommendation 1(d) above.</p> <p>Families in Partnership (Worcestershire's parent/carer forum) have nominated their Vice-Chair to work with officers on the planning and delivery of this co-design activity. Officers have met with FiP and explored options for this activity.</p> <p>Following the meeting with WHCT, officers have also met with the Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Patient Involvement at the Trust to discuss co-design activity. Further detail of the plans arising from these discussions will be shared at the meeting of the Panel.</p>

<p>1(h) ... endores the proposals to engage with an appropriate level and type of advocacy and parent carer forum(s) in order to address concerns raised throughout this process in relation to pre-engagement with parent carers to support engagement and contribution to service redesign and improvement</p>	<p>As above, Families in Partnership (Worcestershire's parent/carer forum) have nominated their Vice-Chair to work with officers on the planning and delivery of co-design activity.</p> <p>Officers are also meeting with the Trust's Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Patient Involvement to discuss co-design activity.</p> <p>Where necessary appropriate advocacy services for parents and/or children and young people will be engaged in the process.</p>
<p>1(i) ... endorses the intention for the Council's commissioners to work with the providers of overnight short break services to remodel the way services are provided in order to meet needs now and in the future and ensure maximum value for money, by exploring options and implementing improvements where appropriate</p>	<p>Initial meeting held with WHCT and regular internal meetings with manager for WCC provided short break services continue.</p> <p>Wider market engagement activity will be considered as appropriate throughout the redesign process.</p>
<p>1(j) ... notes that financial savings are still required and that to the extent that any future proposals for service change require formal consultation with relevant stakeholders, a further report will be brought back to Cabinet at a future date as required to authorise consultation on such proposals</p>	<p>As noted further reports will be produced as required as part of financial planning for 2019/20 and should formal consultation be required on any redesign proposals. Dates tbc.</p>

7. Work is also planned in the following areas to support the redesign of services:

- Further research on the likely future demand for overnight short break services due to wider demographic changes will be undertaken to inform co-design discussions in the autumn and future decision making. Where available this will include trends in birth rates, data on numbers of children with disabilities (in Worcestershire and nationally) and trends in the number of young people transitioning to adult services.
- Comparative data to be sought on the level and type of provision of overnight short breaks in other local authority areas including where available the numbers of beds/units available together with other alternative provision that provides overnight or equivalent short breaks, again to inform co-design activity in the autumn and future decision making.
- As part of wider work to prepare a financial plan to support the SEND Strategy and the delivery of shared statutory responsibilities for SEND, the provision of

funding by CCG's to support short breaks provision will be clarified. This work is scheduled for completion by December 2018.

Contact Point

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no further background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and minutes of the Cabinet on 14 December 2017, 12 July 2018
Agenda and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 30 January 2018, 26 April 2018

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)

