

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

19 JANUARY 2016

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES – COMMISSIONING UPDATE

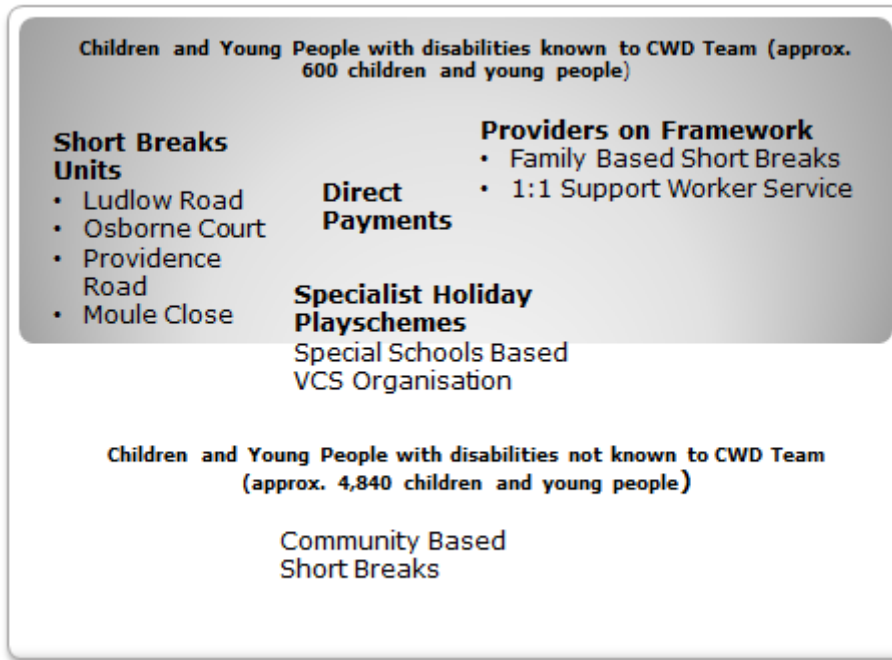
Summary

1. The County Council commissions a variety of community short break services and overnight short breaks for children and young people with disabilities. A short break is a positive activity or service which:
 - helps to develop a child or young person's health, social and emotional development by giving them opportunities to take part in and enjoy new experiences
 - gives parents and carers a break from caring responsibilities from time to time, allowing them time to re-fresh familial relationships.
2. This paper provides an update around future commissioning plans for services for children with disabilities.
3. The current provision of short breaks is in compliance with the Children's Act 2006 statutory regulations for Children in Need and in particular: Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2005 requires local authorities to provide Short Breaks for Disabled Children, and the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011.

Background

4. Worcestershire provides a variety of specialist short breaks services for eligible children and young people who require support after assessment of their needs (assessment undertaken by Children's Social Care), and community short breaks that are accessed on a self-referral basis. These are in addition to universal and targeted services delivered by providers from all sectors.
5. Specialist short breaks provision is jointly commissioned and funded by the Local Authority (LA) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and delivered through:
 - 5.1. Family based residential and 1:1 support worker provision delivered through a framework of preferred providers and funded through LA budget
 - 5.2. Specialist summer holiday playschemes (through special schools and voluntary sector providers) funded by LA, with a contribution from CCGs
 - 5.3. Residential stays at 4 Short Breaks Units:
 - at Providence Road, Bromsgrove and Moule Close, Kidderminster run by the Local Authority with the budget from the LA
 - at Ludlow Road Kidderminster and Osborne Court, Malvern run by Worcestershire NHS Health and Care Trust (HACT) with the CCGs budget.

6. Community short Breaks services are commissioned by Worcestershire to complement what is already provided by the voluntary and community sector. They are provided in addition to the above specialist short breaks that are exclusively accessed after a social care assessment of needs that provide support for those families with children and young people who require the highest levels and the specialist services.
7. The current contracts for these community short breaks were extended to end on 30 September 2016.
8. Community short breaks are largely accessed on a self-referral basis except for specialist playschemes that take on both referred and self-referred children and young people. These include:
 - 8.1. Community short breaks being delivered by providers from the public, voluntary and independent sectors
 - 8.2. District based positive activities short breaks being delivered by Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers
 - 8.3. Special schools based playschemes, weekend and after school clubs including those being delivered in partnership with voluntary sector providers accessed on referral and self-referral basis.
9. The diagram below shows an outline of the approximate numbers of children with disabilities in Worcestershire. Approximately 600 children and young people are known to the Children with Disabilities Social Care team, and approximately a further 4,840 are known to require additional support.



Feedback on current service

10. Feedback about current services from parents and young people through engagement undertaken within 2015-16 outlined the following points:
 - They most enjoy the specialist facilities at the venues i.e. sensory rooms, soft play etc.
 - They outlined the importance of them having a chance to socialise with friends or other children and young people with the same needs as themselves.
 - That beyond specialist play opportunities that they do not access many, if any, other types of activities.

11. A further engagement exercise to start to collate feedback about current services, and what works well was conducted in the Summer term of 2015. The summary is outlined in **Appendix 1**.

Needs Assessment

12. The County Council intends to conduct a detailed needs assessment of services for children with disabilities to ensure that planning for future demand is undertaken. Also, further work with parents, carers and young people will be undertaken to understand how short breaks can be further developed to meet the needs of families, children and young people.

13. The Council will focus on:
 - Promoting independence for young people and preparing young people for adulthood through a robust transition pathway.

- Prevention and early intervention in order to reduce demand on specialist provision, where appropriate.
- Improve flexibility of service provision.
- Promote easier access to a directory of services for families to be able to seek advice and support themselves
- Address financial challenges across health and social care.

Purpose of the Meeting

14. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny panel are asked to:
- Support a needs assessment
 - Participate in discussion around future ideas and designs for services

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 - Children & Young People Community Health Services
Community Short Breaks Service Report: Parent Carer Focus Groups – Summer Term 2015

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

Worcestershire County Council 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specific Contact Points for this report

Hannah Needham, Strategic Commissioner 01905 728914

Email: hneedham@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children, Families and Communities) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.