

CORE OFFER BUDGET FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

WHY DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE AND WHAT DOES IT NEED TO COVER?

The Local Authority has to carry out a number of duties and functions which are set out within legislation, this includes a legal duty set out within The Children Act 1989, to assess and review the care and support needs of disabled children and their carers. The Local Authority has also a statutory duty set by the Government to support disabled children and young adults, and their parents/carers, through the provision of short break support. This duty is set out in The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 which came into force on 1st April 2011.

The Local Authority must ensure there are robust arrangements in place for those young people moving from children's to adults services, the Care Act 2014 states that Local Authorities must carry out transition assessments for those who will be likely to have needs for care and support.

HOW DOES THE CORE OFFER BUDGET MEET THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS?

The Life Stage Service within Adult Social Care supports the Local Authority to meet this requirement. Within the Life Stage Service the 0-25 Team provides support to 165 Disabled Children (0-17) and their families. Each child will have been assessed, and providing eligibility criteria have been met a support plan is provided to assist meeting needs. This can be met in a variety of ways and there will generally be several options for support to meet identified needs. The needs may be met through universal services or through extended family support networks. Many families currently in receipt of paid services prefer to receive these through a Direct Payment, monies paid by the Local Authority directly to families so that they can organise and pay for support themselves. Alternatively, families may prefer to use a provider already identified by the Local Authority as suitable to provide particular types of support .Currently in Darlington approximately 88 families use a direct payment. The Local Authority also provides overnight residential short break services. Harewood Hill Lodge is a short break operated by Darlington Borough Council. The unit offers short break and day care provision for up to 5 children of either sex from 7 – 17 years, with sensory impairment, learning disabilities and physical disabilities. Currently there are 22 children accessing the unit on a regular basis. The unit is staffed by a manager and a team of experienced staff. The unit is regularly inspected by OFSTED and at the last inspection was rated as good

DOES THIS DIFFER FROM THE CURRENT SERVICE?

Although the Local Authority will continue to meet its statutory requirements the core offer budget will include a small reduction in staff, particularly in those areas where there are no duties imposed on us by law. In particular the Early Support service which is part of the 0-25 Team and work with children aged 0-3 and their families will end. Ongoing support will continue to be provided by the remaining staff within the 0-25 Team. Further work will be undertaken to see whether any additional support can be

provided by the Local Authorities early years' service. Efficiencies of approximately £65,228 will be made from the Early Support service ending

WHAT IS THE CORE BUDGET MADE UP OF?**2019/20 - £1,266,300 (Net of income and grants)**

£297,526	Harewood Lodge respite provision (£340,416 gross)
£410,323	Direct payments for children with a disability
£519,727	Life Stages children's disability social work team
£38,724	Overheads