
LEARNING DISABILITY SHORT BREAKS

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Copeland,
Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of People

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval from Cabinet to undertake a review of current short break opportunities for adults with a learning disability.

Summary

2. The Council currently provides a specialist short break service for people with a learning disability. The current provision is only used at approximately 80% of its capacity. There is evidence that the increased use of personal budgets has led to service users using alternative provision.
3. The scope of the proposed review will include
 - (a) transition between children's and adults services and the changing nature of provision required
 - (b) alternative models for the allocation and delivery of short breaks
4. The review will explore whether a service commissioned in a different way would deliver longer term efficiencies.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Cabinet approve the proposal to review in house short break services subject to ongoing consultation with staff affected and service users.
 - (b) Cabinet receive a subsequent report that provides options for future delivery of the service.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
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- (a) The current service model is not in line with the wider personalisation agenda
- (b) Delivering short breaks in different ways can deliver better outcomes and result in more efficient use of current resources.

Murray Rose
Director of People

Background Papers

Our Care, Our Health, Our Say – DoH 2006
 A Life Like Any Other? – House of Parliament 2008
 Valuing People Now – DoH 2009
 Putting People First – Gov 2007
 Commissioning for Citizenship Darlington 2009
 Think Local, Act Personal – Gov 2010

Mark Humble Extension 3821

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	This report has implications to address health and wellbeing for the residents of Darlington and specifically for service users and family carers who use specialist learning disability services.
Carbon Impact	The issues contained within this report do not have an impact on Carbon Emissions.
Diversity	The provision of short breaks is targeted at vulnerable local people with assessed needs.
Wards Affected	This report impacts on residents with a learning disability within all Wards of Darlington,
Groups Affected	This report impacts on adults with a learning disability, their family and carers.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend any changes to the Council’s Budget or Policy Framework.
Key Decision	This is a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This links to theme 3 ‘Healthy Darlington’ specifically addressing health inequalities to narrow the gaps in health and wellbeing.
Efficiency	This report identifies the potential for efficiency savings.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. The importance of short breaks in supporting family carers to continue in their caring role is well documented and remains a key component of the support that the Council plans to offer to people with a learning disability and their families.
8. However, an increasing number of people are looking to have their short break needs met away from traditional, residential models and through the use of personal budgets are choosing from a range of alternatives.
9. The Council currently provides a registered residential short break service from 93 Newton Lane. A recent table top review of the current service highlighted the following:
 - (a) There are currently 37 individuals who use the service on a regular basis.
 - (b) The service is under used, 79.5% of capacity used in 2009/10.
 - (c) A unit cost of £158.82 per person day. The current budget for the service is £230,282 per annum including £214, 382 in staffing costs.
 - (d) A lack of choice for some individuals and their carers.
 - (e) Due to current staffing, restricted opportunities for community access.
 - (f) Limited new referrals being made to the service.
 - (g) There are currently a small number (seven) who use the resource that require specialist support equipment.
 - (h) The number of people who book the service, the service staff's itself and the clients fail to turn up.
10. As an alternative to Newton Lane, a number of individuals are using direct payments or directly managed services to tailor support for what works for them as a family, including existing services such as Avalon's, family living service as well as existing residential option.
11. It is proposed that a detailed review and cost benefit analysis of the current service is undertaken which will explore how the provision can be commissioned in the future. It is anticipated that this review will take approximately six months.
12. The service currently employs 11 members of staff who will be fully consulted and involved in the review process.

Outcome of Consultation

13. No formal consultation has taken place with staff, users of the service or carers. It is proposed that this will be built into the review.

14. Similarly, a disability equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the review process.

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