

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING  
CABINET MEMBER**

**SHORT BREAKS INFORMATION STATEMENT 2017-2020**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet Member approval of the revised Short Breaks Information Statement 2017-2020.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011' provides the framework for the development of short breaks. These regulations place statutory duties upon all local authorities (LA's). These are:

1) **Duty to make provision**, under which a local authority must:

- a) have regard to the needs of those carers who would be unable to provide care unless breaks from caring were given to them
- b) have regard to the needs of those carers who would be able to provide care for their disabled child more effectively if breaks were given to them to allow them to -
  - I. undertake education, training or any regular leisure activity,
  - II. meet the needs of other children in the family more effectively, or
  - III. carry out day- to-day tasks, which they must perform in order to run their household.

In performing this duty the regulations specify, in so far as is reasonably practicable, that a range of services be provided sufficient to assist carers to continue to provide care or, to do so more effectively, these include:

- a) day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere,
- b) overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere,
- c) education or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes, and

d) services that are available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays

## **2) Duty to provide a Short Break Services' Statement**

The Regulations place a duty on Local Authorities to develop, and publish a Short Breaks Information Statement. The statement must be prepared in consultation with local carers of disabled children, be kept under review and be updated as appropriate, to enable sufficiency to be maintained. The detailed 'statement' informs carers in the area of the range of short break services available and outlines how these services can be accessed, including how any eligibility for the services will be assessed.

2.2 North Lincolnshire Council's original Short Breaks' Statement was published in 2011, with a revised copy being published in July 2014. This statement has now been reviewed and refreshed in order to reflect current short breaks arrangements and developments. The revisions have taken into account consultation with Parents/ carers and young people.

2.3 A recent recommissioning project regarding group based short breaks, involving significant consultation with parents/carers and young people led to cabinet member approval for a change in service delivery. From April 2017 Group based short breaks will be delivered internally as opposed to an externally commissioned service. The revised Short Breaks Information Statement reflects these changes.

## **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 Approval of the Information Statement.

3.2 The Information Statement is not approved

## **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Approval of the Information Statement will enable North Lincolnshire's statutory duties to continue to be met, with parents/carers, and young people being informed of the Short Breaks available to them, how to access these and how they will be delivered.

## **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 No identified implications in respect of finance, staffing or property.

5.2 The Information Statement will be published on the North Lincolnshire Local Offer Website.

## **6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Not required

## **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 Consultation has taken place with all key stakeholders (including parents, carers, disabled children and young people) who were keen to highlight the elements of the service they most valued as well as those where they would like to see improvements and developments.

7.2 Key themes from the consultation embrace the inclusion agenda particularly emphasised the following :

- A wider range of engaging activities for the varied age and ability of children and young people
- Engagement within community settings such as the Hubs and Early Years Settings
- More activities for children and young people with autism; and those aged 16+ to promote independence and life skills
- Development of a befriending/buddying service to support young people transitionally into mainstream activities
- Wider range of activities during school holidays
- A balanced provider workforce to deliver short breaks

7.3 Outcomes of the consultation have been incorporated into the revised statement they have also informed service specifications and delivery methods.

7.4 The revised Information Statement has been shared with the PIP group, who are in agreement with its content.

7.5 There are no conflicts of interests to declare.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet approves The Short Breaks Information Statement 2017-2020

**DIRECTOR OF LEARNING, SKILLS AND CULTURE**

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Short Break Regulations 2011

Short Breaks Information Statement 2014-2017.

Short Breaks Information Statement 2017-2020

You Said - We did Document 2016