Report of the Director:
Learning Skills and Culture

Decision to be taken after:
31 December 2019

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURE
CABINET MEMBER

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S SHORT BREAKS DUTY INFORMATION STATEMENT FOR DISABLED CHILDREN 2017 – 2020

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To seek cabinet approval of the updated Short Breaks Duty Information Statement for Disabled Children 2017-2020.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 placed a statutory duty on councils to prepare a "statement" to inform parent/carers of the range of Short Break services available in their local area.

2.2. The Information Statement for Disabled Children 2017–2020 was further updated in November 2019 to reflect the most current situation.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 To approve the updates made to the Information Statement for Disabled Children 2017 - 2020.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Updating the Information Statement takes account of previous decisions to enhance the local offer, including that Individualised Short Breaks and Homecare Support will be delivered by North Lincolnshire Council. These service changes will be developed involving parents, carers and young people. The existing steering group will also be an integral part of the transition to ensure parent, carer and young person's voice is at the centre of service design.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 There are no financial, staffing or statutory implications.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 None.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable to the updating of the Information Statement.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 Not applicable to the updating of the Information Statement.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Cabinet Member approves the amendments made to The Short Breaks Duty Information Statement for Disabled Children 2017 – 2020.

DIRECTOR: LEARNING SKILLS AND CULTURE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
North Lincolnshire Council Short Breaks Duty Information Statement

Short Breaks for Disabled Children

Information Statement

2017 – 2020

(Updated 2019)

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North Lincolnshire Council

www.northlincs.gov.uk

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1. Introduction and background

This statement is for Parents/ carers living within North Lincolnshire who have a disabled child aged 0 - 18 years. ‘The breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011' placed a statutory duty on councils to prepare and publish a ‘statement' to inform parents/carers of the range of short break services available. It has to include how eligibility for these services will be assessed and how they can be accessed. The original statement was published in October 2011. The statement has been reviewed annually in consultation with local parents/carers of disabled children, providers of short break services and other partners.

The North Lincolnshire Parents' Involvement and Participation Group (PIP) continue to work very closely with North Lincolnshire Council in the ongoing development of short break provision and their continued input has informed this statement.

2. What are short breaks?

A short break is a valuable break from caring for a Parent/carer of a disabled child or young person.

It is also an opportunity for a disabled child or young person to take part in meaningful and fun activities. Short breaks can take a variety of forms, including the provision of day, evening, overnight and weekend activities.

Short breaks can take place in the child's own home, in a community setting, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential setting.

Short breaks can help contribute to the child and young person's social inclusion and personal development.

3. Our Vision: that North Lincolnshire is a place where children are safe, families are supported and people's lives are transformed.

Children feel safe and are safe:

- Children know where they can get help if they don't feel safe at home.
- North Lincolnshire is a safe place to grow up.
- Children are empowered to make safe lifestyle choices.

Children enjoy good health and emotional wellbeing:

- Children are making informed choices about healthy lifestyles.
- Children are able to talk about emotional wellbeing and positive mental health.
- Increased opportunity to access physical, cultural and community activity.

Children recognise and achieve their potential:

- Children being ready for school.
- Young people being ready for work.
- Children being self-confident.

The framework for short breaks takes account of the following key principles:

- That universal and mainstream provision (services we all use) are accessible to all disabled children and their families whilst acknowledging that some children will always need specialist support/services.
- That need arises from a combination of barriers to accessing universal and mainstream provision and family environmental factors.
- That level of need can change and those children, young people and their families can move up and down through the levels of support.
- That for some families a short break will form part of a package of services that enables their needs to be fully met.
- That in order to provide a valuable break for parents/carer they need to be confident that their children are in a safe, nurturing environment whilst on activities.
- That there is full acknowledgement of the child/young person's and family's views/preferences in assessing and designing their individual package of short break care and support.

Short break provision in North Lincolnshire will support this vision and these strategic priorities by ensuring that:

- Disabled children will have the same opportunities to develop and fulfil their potential as all other children.

- Disabled children will have the same opportunity to enjoy fun, meaningful experiences independently of their primary carers, thereby contributing to their social development and reduce social isolation.
- Families with disabled children will get the support they need, when they need it.
- Universal children's services will be more genuinely inclusive of disabled children including those with complex needs.
- Parents/carers and families will have a valuable break from their caring responsibilities, whilst being confident that their children are safe within their short break activity.

4. Who is responsible for this statement?

North Lincolnshire Council.

5. How will the short breaks statement be published?

North Lincolnshire Council's short break statement will be published on:

- North Lincolnshire's Local Offer- www.northlincslocaloffer.com
- North Lincolnshire PIP Forum website - www.northlincspipforum.co.uk
- Family Information Service - the statement will be available in hard copy format where required.

6. Breaks for carers of disabled children regulations (summary)

A copy of the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 is available for detailed reference at www.legislation.gov.uk In order to meet the requirements of the Regulations, councils must have regard to the needs of carers in respect of their capacity to care for, or continue to care for, their disabled child and must provide a range of services designed to meet this need. A Short Break Services Statement must be prepared and published, outlining how this is to be achieved. The Statement must be kept under review and revised, as appropriate (Section 5 of the Regulations).

> **Duty to make a provision (section 3)**
Councils must take into account the needs of carers who would:
- Be unable to continue caring for their disabled child unless breaks from caring were given:
OR
- Be able to give more effective care, if breaks were given to allow them to, for example, attend educational classes or training, or regular leisure activities or meet the needs of other children in the family, or carry out necessary day to day tasks in the household.

> **Types of services that must be provided (section 4)**
Councils must, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide a range of services sufficient to meet the needs of carers to care or to care more effectively, including:
- Services in the evenings, at the weekends and during school holidays.
- Daytime care in the child's own home and elsewhere.
- Overnight care in the child's own home and elsewhere.
- Educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside of their own homes.

7. Short Breaks in North Lincolnshire

Short Breaks continue to develop within North Lincolnshire with the authority maintaining a commitment to consult with and engage both parent/carers and children/young people in working groups and through ongoing feedback.
Our partner agencies, including the PIP forum are consulted regularly with regard to the development of short breaks within North Lincolnshire.

8. Continuing progress on identified actions from 2014-2017: You Said, We Did:

Continual feedback has been sought from parents/carers and young people, with a full re-commissioning project regarding group based short breaks being completed in 2016. The project included significant consultation with parents/ carers and young people.

What Parents/Carers said:

- Would like activities to be closer to home.
- Would like community venues.
- Would like something for teenagers in the local area.
- Would like more of a range of activities.
- Would like access to activities that are not solely for Disabled Children.
- Would like their children and young people to develop more independence, develop socially and have a buddy to accompany them to activities.
- Would like children and young people to have fun and enjoy themselves.

What Children and Young People Said:

- Would like a friend/buddy for support.
- Would like activities in the evenings during the week and during the day at weekends.
- 38% would like activities just for young people with a disability.
- 62% would like activities that any young person could attend.

- Would like to attend regular arts, music, drama and film activities.
- Would like to develop their skills and learn new skills.
- Would like holiday clubs, trips away and social evenings.

What we did:

- New group based activities are based within localities.
- Community wellbeing hubs, and other community based venues are being utilised.
- Age appropriate activities have been made available, for example age 14+ specific activities, including independence work.
- Short breaks will be integrated within mainstream activities.
- Activities will focus on fun, with young people being involved in the continual development/reviewing of activities.
- Activities will be available on an evening, weekend and throughout holidays.
- Discrete activities for children with disabilities will be made available as required.
- A range of activities will be on offer, including art, music and social evenings.

9. Range of short break services available in North Lincolnshire

The information received from feedback, and consultation has shaped and evolved the way in which we will deliver short breaks moving forward within North Lincolnshire. These short break services meet the requirements of the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011'. These are:

- **Day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere (S.4 (2) a): Individualised Short Breaks** is care that could take place in the child's own home on any day of the week. It could also mean that a worker could be employed by a registered care provider to accompany a young person to an activity of their choosing. Alternatively, a parent/carer could use a Direct Payment to purchase a service in lieu of that delivered by North Lincolnshire Council.
- **Overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere (S.4 (2) b):**
  Overnight Short breaks are available to disabled children and young people who are assessed as having additional needs which impact on the family causing ongoing sleep deprivation for family members and/or high levels of family stress.
  If assessed as appropriate overnight care could be offered within the child's home, or elsewhere.

- **The Cygnets** is a residential short breaks home that provides overnight breaks to children who have a learning difficulty and complex needs; they provide this care for those children aged 5 to 18.
- **The Butterflies Short Break Foster Scheme** provides overnight short breaks to disabled children, whose needs can be best met by individual care within a family based setting. This can be provided for those children aged 0 to 18 years.
- **Group Based Specialist Short Break Activities**
  Each locality within North Lincolnshire will provide a range of group based activities at appropriate venues for disabled children and young people to engage in on a regular basis.

- **Playscheme for disabled children.** This is a scheme that is held during the Easter and Summer school holidays. The scheme is for children aged 5-18 who attend a specialist Educational setting and have been nominated to attend.

- **Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays (S.4 (2) d):**
  Parent/Carers can choose to use their short break sessions flexibly throughout the year at a time which best suits the needs and requirements of their family the most. Group Based activities will be available locally within each of the localities in North Lincolnshire. Parents can choose to have a direct payment in lieu of short breaks provided by the Local Authority.

10. How do I get a short break?

To be eligible for short break services the child or young person must have a disability (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) and live in North Lincolnshire. You are ‘disabled' as defined by the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial' and ‘long-term' negative effect on
Your ability to do normal daily activities.

How do I access Short Breaks?
Request a registration form on (01724) 407988, or attend The Brumby Centre, Grange Lane North, Scunthorpe, DN16 1BN

What happens next?

A member of the Short Breaks Team will contact you to discuss your needs and to make sure you have information about the services that are available to you.

What will I receive?

At the first level you will receive a number of sessions which is this authorities 'local offer'. You will be able to access a range of group based activities without the need for any assessment. Our 'local offer' is up to 78 sessions (approx. 2 per week) and you can use this flexibly throughout the year.

What if my child's needs are more complex?

Disabled children and young people with more complex needs, or those children living with more complex situations, may require a higher level of short breaks and more specialist support to meet their needs. This will be achieved through an assessment by a Children's Specialist Disability Social Worker.

How will I be kept informed?

A worker from the Short Breaks Team will make sure that you are kept involved and informed as to what is happening and that you are allocated an appropriate level of short breaks following the assessment.

Short Breaks will be regularly reviewed to ensure they continue to meet need. Greater emphasis will be given to how short breaks can be offered within young people's local community, for example utilising the community wellbeing hubs. It is hoped that this integration within localities will aid transitions to adulthood and community resilience. Support, advice and guidance will be available for young people, and their families in relation to preparing for adulthood.

11. Actions for 2017/2020

Group based short breaks are now delivered internally by North Lincolnshire Council and have been since 1st April l 2017. The beginning of our new journey started with a launch event at the Scunthorpe Hub where children/young people and their parent/carers could attend and look at what we were proposing to do over the coming months and to offer their input. Over the last 2 years, the activities have grown and evolved and we will continue to work with and fully consult with parents/carers and young people. A steering group has been developed to ensure parent/young person voice is a driving force behind the development.

The complex needs playscheme will continue to be delivered by the current provider, with continual feedback being gained from parents/carers and young people to ensure it remains fun and meaningful for young people, whilst enabling parents/carers to have a break from their caring role.

It has now been agreed that Individualised Short Breaks and Homecare Support will be delivered by North Lincolnshire Council, rather than the current commissioned arrangements. This will developed gradually involving all parents/ carers and young people where appropriate. The existing steering group will also be an integral part of the transition to ensure parent, carer and young person's voice is at the centre.

12. Key Contacts

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