



Provision of overnight unit based short breaks for children with disabilities

Foreword

Worcestershire County Council is consulting with families, professionals and wider stakeholders on the proposal to redesign the delivery of overnight unit-based short break provision. This consultation will begin in early January and finish on **Monday 19th February 2018**.

In September 2017, Worcestershire County Council adopted a new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2017-2021 as part of the Council's Policy framework for a whole-system response to improving outcomes for children, young people and families. The Plan is owned by a wide range of agencies working with children, young people and families and has a vision for 'Worcestershire to be a wonderful place for all children and young people to grow up'.

CYPP: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cypp

One of the key commitments in the plan is to reform services for children with special educational needs and disabilities and the Council has also recently approved a Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2017-2021. SEND Strategy: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDupdates

Provision of short breaks for parents and carers

As part of the wider review of services for children with disabilities, the council is asking for your views on the future service design proposals for the provision of unit based overnight short breaks. Details of the proposals and the consultation process are contained in this document and we would welcome your comments. The questions are set out at the end of this document.

Feedback can be provided via an [online survey](#) that will be available at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDupdates or by email to shortbreaks@worcestershire.gov.uk

All families currently accessing one of the four overnight units will be contacted and invited to discuss the proposals in person before the end of the consultation period.

This consultation should be considered in conjunction with the cabinet report dated 14th December 2017 and the position statement for current overnight short break provision, which can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDupdates.

This document can be provided in alternative formats such as Large Print, an audio recording or Braille; it can also be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please contact Vicky Williamson on telephone number 01905 844565 or by emailing shortbreaks@worcestershire.gov.uk. The document is also available in easy read format and can be downloaded from www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDupdates.



Andy Roberts

What are we consulting on?

Consultation on the re-design of overnight unit-based short break provision for children with disabilities

Local authorities are required to provide services which are designed to give respite breaks for carers of children with disabilities in order to assist carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively. In Worcestershire a range of short breaks are available ranging from community-based provision (including holiday and term-time play-schemes) to specialist services including residential and family-based overnight and weekend care. In addition, according to need, families may be eligible for direct payments which enable them to access the support needed to access a short break in ways that suit the family and young person's needs and preferences.

Specialist short breaks are accessed via a social work assessment of need and where possible are provided in a family setting and/or in the community. For a number of children with complex disabilities the assessed need is for overnight respite care which can be provided in the family home, in the home of a host family or in one of four Council funded/commissioned overnight short breaks units. Two of these units (at Providence Road and Moule Close) are delivered by the Council and are registered with Ofsted, and two (at Osborne Court and Ludlow Road) are delivered by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (WHCT) and are currently registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

We are seeking views on the future use of the overnight unit based provision. The purpose of this consultation is to determine how we can redesign services within the funding available to ensure that we still meet the needs of families accessing unit based overnight provision.

The future service re-design proposals are to;

- Review of the needs of all families currently accessing overnight unit-based provision to ensure that the needs of carers and children with disabilities are being met in the most appropriate way.
- Cease the delivery of overnight provision at Ludlow Road, Kidderminster at the end of the summer term 2018 and provide suitable and alternative provision for existing users. This proposal is based on the consideration of availability of other provision in the north of the county, the need to reduce the number of beds available to four, the potential costs of meeting Ofsted registration requirements and the potential to have more flexible and cost effective provision at Providence Road, which is also located in the north of the county.
- Increase the capacity at Providence Road, Bromsgrove by the flexible use of one or two additional bedrooms (subject to the necessary changes to the Ofsted registration) as required.

- Review the use of Osborne Court unit in Malvern to ensure that the current capacity (including the use of the two bed emergency and assessment bungalow) is used effectively.

Families currently accessing provision at all four of the overnight short break units will be consulted by holding conversations with each family on an individual basis and, where appropriate, units will be opened to allow families to visit.

Background information

In 2015 a number of proposals were put forward by the then Director of Public Health in response to in-year Public Health Ring Fenced Grant (PHRFG) reductions. For the financial years 2016/17 and 2017/18, funding sources were switched to better reflect the Council/NHS statutory duties which meant that the majority of Ludlow Road costs were funded by the Council through the PHRFG. Following a period of consultation on the proposals, the use of PHRFG funding up to March 2018 was confirmed. In line with the plans agreed in 2015, the PHRFG funding for Ludlow Road will be removed from March 2018.

A full review of short breaks provision (including community and specialist short break provision) is underway. As part of the wider review of services for children with disabilities, Council officers have talked to families who stated that they want more choice and control, better information and training (both for themselves and for professionals) and earlier intervention to prevent problems escalating and needing more intrusive interventions. In relation to ALL short break provision parents have said they want;

- **Available Services** – services that can accommodate the growing demand and meet individual needs. High value is placed on the short breaks currently being received but more sessions are needed
- **Accessible Services** – geographically accessible with limited travel times and easy referral processes with broad criteria that are open to all
- **Continuous Services** – enabling a smooth transition to adulthood
- **Flexible Services** – services that respond to need rather than being allocated when it is convenient
- **Information & Guidance** – Easy access signposting about what is available
- **Worthwhile Respite for Children & Young People** – where children and young people can develop social skills and independence
- **Worthwhile Respite for Parent/Carer** – where parents/carers can have a 'real break' e.g. without the stress of travel, caring for other children etc.

As part of the ongoing review of all short breaks provision, a Position Statement has been produced to describe and assess the quantity and use of unit-based overnight provision. The Position Statement has raised a number of questions relating to the commissioning of this provision including value for money and differences in regulation of the four units.

The review concluded with a set of future service design proposals that now need to be consulted on. **These proposals aim to ensure that where unit-based overnight provision is assessed as the appropriate provision, this continues to be available to families who are currently accessing the service and those who may be offered the service in the future, at an appropriate unit.** However, the needs of children with disabilities and their carers can change therefore it is also recognised that a review of need should be regularly undertaken to ensure that the needs of carers and children with disabilities continue to be met in the most appropriate way.

How to find out more and have your say

Your views on the future delivery of overnight unit-based short breaks (listed in the questionnaire below) will help to determine their future. A synopsis of views expressed by stakeholders, service users and service providers will be made available after the consultation period ends.

You can keep up to date with the proposals, and find links to reports and documents on our webpage www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDupdates

The consultation is open from Monday 8th January 2018 to Monday 19th February 2018 at 12 noon. We want to hear from current and future service users, stakeholders and professionals. You can give us your views in the following ways;

- Respond on-line by completing the survey: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDupdates
- Email your views to: shortbreaks@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Complete and return the questionnaire below to:

Debbie Herbert

Lead Commissioner, Vulnerable Children and Families
Early Help & Partnership Service
Worcestershire County Council
Spetchley Road
Worcester WR5 2NP

Overnight Unit Based Short Breaks Consultation

Local authorities are required to provide services which are designed to give respite breaks for carers of children with disabilities. We want to ensure that through our offer of Short Breaks a child or young person with a disability can get the support they need to be included in activities that they choose. Short Breaks also provide a break from caring responsibilities for parents, carers and siblings, enabling them to access opportunities for themselves that enhance the quality of life of their family. In Worcestershire a variety of short breaks are available ranging from community-based provision (including holiday and term-time play-schemes) to specialist services including residential and family-based overnight and weekend care.

We are seeking views on the future use of the overnight unit based provision. The purpose of this consultation is to determine how we can redesign services within the funding available to ensure that we still meet the needs of families accessing unit based overnight provision.

The future service re-design proposals are to;

- Review of the needs of all families currently accessing overnight unit-based provision to ensure that the needs of carers and children with disabilities are being met in the most appropriate way.
- Cease the delivery of overnight provision at Ludlow Road, Kidderminster at the end of the summer term 2018 and provide suitable and alternative provision for existing users. This proposal is based on the consideration of availability of other provision in the north of the county, the need to reduce the number of beds available to four, the potential costs of meeting Ofsted registration requirements and the potential to have more flexible and cost effective provision at Providence Road, which is also located in the north of the county.
- Increase the capacity at Providence Road, Bromsgrove by the flexible use of one or two additional bedrooms (subject to the necessary changes to the Ofsted registration) as required.
- Review the use of Osborne Court unit in Malvern to ensure that the current capacity (including the use of the two bed emergency and assessment bungalow) is used effectively.

What this means for families

This means that, for some families, the delivery of their respite care may change. The needs of children with disabilities and their carers will continue to be met in the most appropriate way.

The closing date for submissions for this consultation is **Monday 19th February 2018 at 12 noon.**

Confidentiality

The information you provide will be kept confidential. The information will be used by Worcestershire County Council only for the purposes of the consultation. The results will be analysed for general themes and will never contain anything that could identify you. Your personal details will not be linked to your opinions in any way.

Q1. What is your interest in overnight unit based short breaks? Please let us know whether you are a:-

- Child/Young Person
- Parent/Carer
- Professional
- Provider – please specify below

- Councillor
- Other – please specify below

Q2. Do you or your child currently access an overnight unit based short break in Worcestershire?

- Yes
- No

Q2a. If yes, which unit do you access?

Q3. Where do you live (child/young person/parent/carer) or work (professional/provider/councillor)?

- Bromsgrove
- Malvern Hills
- Redditch
- Worcester City
- Wychavon
- Wyre Forest
- County-wide
- Outside of Worcestershire

Q4. Please state whether you agree/disagree/neither agree nor disagree with each of the below proposals:

Proposal 1: Review of the needs of all families currently accessing overnight unit-based provision to ensure that the needs of carers and children with disabilities are being met in the most appropriate way.

- Agree
- Disagree
- neither agree nor disagree

Please comment on Proposal 1 in the box below;

Proposal 2: Cease the delivery of overnight provision at Ludlow Road, Kidderminster at the end of the summer term 2018 and provide suitable and alternative provision for existing users. This proposal is based on the consideration of availability of other provision in the north of the county, the need to reduce the number of beds available to four, the potential costs of meeting Ofsted registration requirements and the potential to have more flexible and cost effective provision at Providence Road, which is also located in the north of the county.

- Agree
- Disagree
- neither agree nor disagree

Please comment on Proposal 2 in the box below;

Proposal 3: Increase the capacity at Providence Road, Bromsgrove by the flexible use of one or two additional bedrooms (subject to the necessary changes to the Ofsted registration) as required.

- Agree
- Disagree
- neither agree nor disagree

Please comment on Proposal 3 in the box below;

Proposal 4: Review the use of Osborne Court unit in Malvern to ensure that the current capacity (including the use of the two bed emergency and assessment bungalow) is used effectively.

- Agree
- Disagree
- neither agree nor disagree

Please comment on Proposal 4 in the box below;

Q5. Considering all four proposals as a whole, do you feel that the overnight short break needs of you and your family or the families you work with can be met?

Please provide feedback in the comment box below:

Q6. Please include any additional comments you have here:

Please give your email address here if you wish to receive feedback about the consultation or in case we need to contact you (*optional*)

Thank you for your response. Please return your completed survey to;

Debbie Herbert

Lead Commissioner, Vulnerable Children and Families
Early Help & Partnership Service
Worcestershire County Council
Spetchley Road
Worcester WR5 2NP