

NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2015-16

EXTENDING AND IMPROVING DISABILITY SHORT BREAKS SERVICES



Rotherham



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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to review provision for the financial year 2014-15 and provide an evidence base for provision of services for the financial year 2016-17.

To ensure that Rotherham has a Short Break Services Statement that is fit for purpose, there is a need to produce a needs analysis document which will inform the development of the refreshed Statement and the future commissioning of the short breaks programme. The Short Breaks Statement will be published on the Council's website by October 2015.

2. BOROUGH-WIDE INFORMATION

Information on the population of the borough of Rotherham, including gender and age profiles are available as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment located <http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/jsna/> and have been used to inform this work.

2.1 Children's Disability Register

Although there is a statutory requirement under the Children's Act 1989 for local authorities to maintain a register of disabled children, because registration is voluntary it is not a good source of data on the actual prevalence and characteristics of disabled children. At 20th July 2015 there were 813 children registered.

The registration form for the Children's Disability Register continues to be heavily promoted to parents and carers by the Disability Team and also through Aiming High Service Providers. Whilst the register is voluntary, parents and carers are encouraged to join in order to receive regular Aiming High updates.

Figure 2.1 below shows a breakdown of registered children by age. As might be expected few children under the age of 4 are identified as having a disability.

Figure 2.1

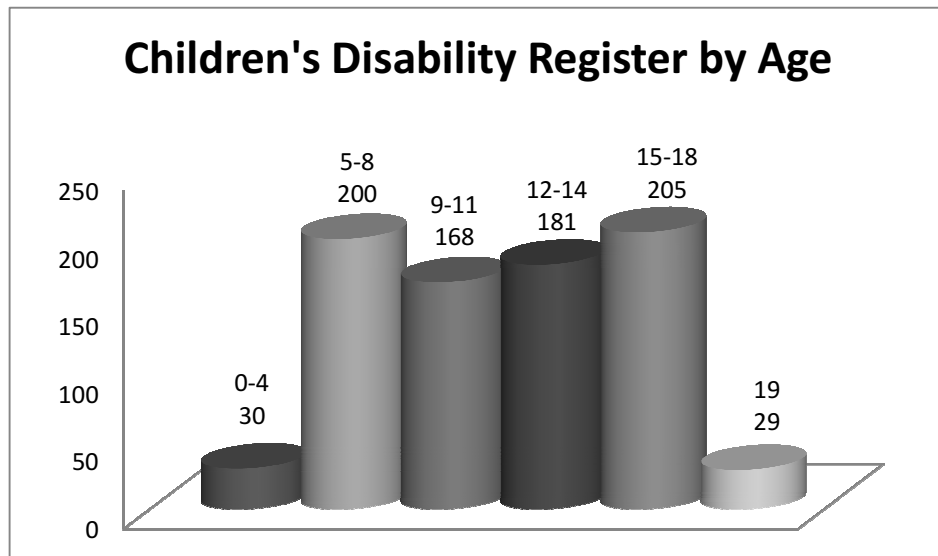


Figure 2.2 shows a breakdown by gender. The gender split shows a much higher number of boys (507) then girls (174) being registered.

Breakdown by single/multiple diagnosis/need is shown at Figure 2.2. with the breakdown of single impairments detailed at Figure 2.4.

Figure 2.2

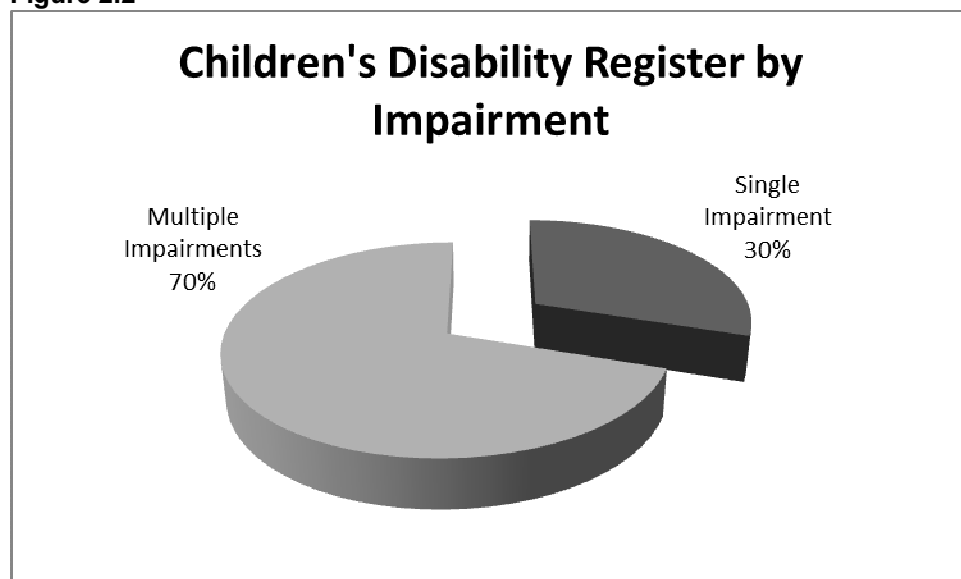
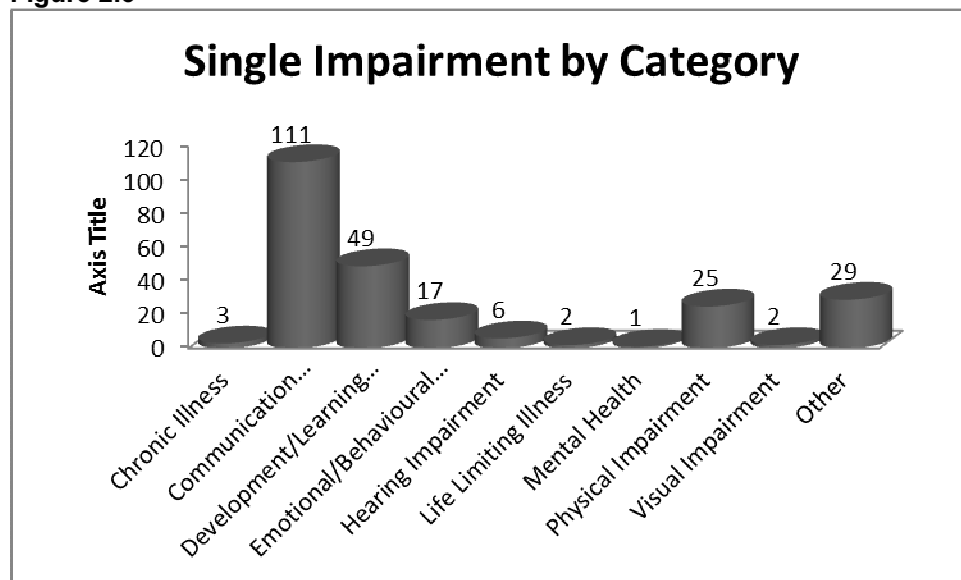


Figure 2.3



2.2 2011 Census Data

The 2011 Census data shows a total of 2,376 children aged 0-15 years with long term illnesses or disabilities which limit their day to day activities. The Census also shows 1,077 children with disabilities which limit their activities a lot. Of these only 30.5% and 67.4% respectively had registered on the Children's Disability Register. It should be noted, however, that 87 registrations on the Register do not include accurate address information.

Figure 2.4 sets out the information from the 2011 Census, showing where in the borough disabled children live based on Area Assembly. Figure 2.5 shows which areas are included in which Area Assembly. From the map at figure 2.6 this can be seen to be well spread across the borough, with areas of higher numbers correlating with areas of higher density populations.

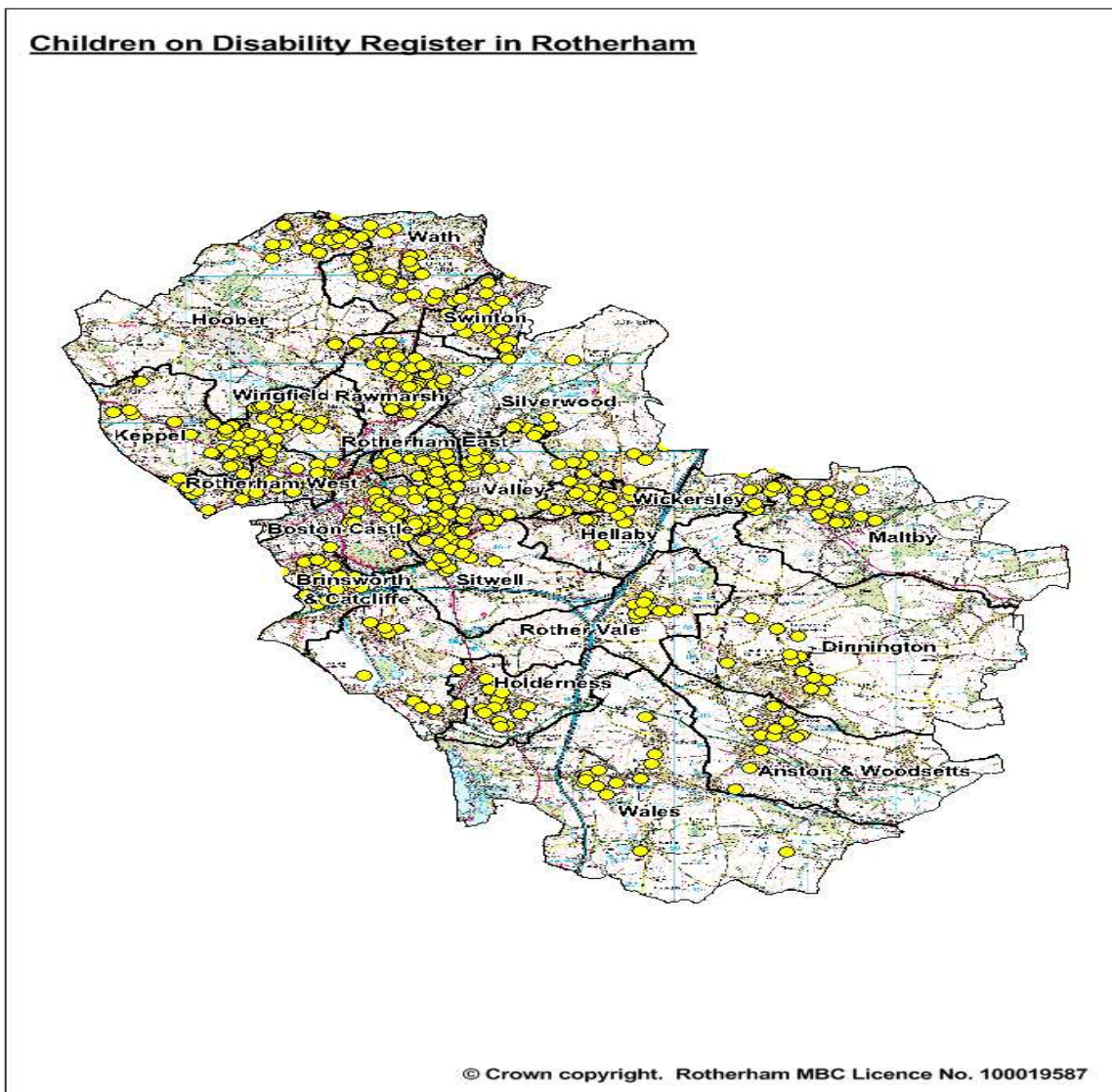
Figure 2.4

Area Assembly	No. of Children on Disability Register	No of Children from Census with Activities Limited	% of Children Registered	No of Children from Census with Activities limited a lot	% of Children Registered
Rother Valley South	57	285	20	131	43
Rother Valley West	93	316	29	141	65
Rotherham North	112	357	31	161	69
Rotherham South	131	376	34	175	74
Wentworth North	101	321	31	148	68
Wentworth South	148	382	38	181	81
Wentworth Valley	84	339	24	140	60
Total	726	2376	30.5	1077	67.4

Figure 2.5

Rother Valley South	Anston & Woodsetts Dinnington Wales	Rother Valley West	Brinsworth & Catcliffe Holderness Rother Vale
Rotherham North	Keppel Rotherham West Wingfield	Rotherham South	Boston Castle Rotherham East Sitwell
Wentworth North	Hoober Swinton Wath	Wentworth South	Rawmarsh Silverwood Valley
Wentworth Valley	Hellaby Maltby Wickersley		

Figure 2.6



2.3 Special Educational Needs

In contrast to the number of children registered as disabled, there are 7,697 children in schools who are identified as being in some form of need for additional help to learn (Special Educational Needs or SEN). Special Educational Needs in schools has the following designations:

- **School Action** - a teacher or SEN Coordinator (SENCO) decides to provide something additional to or different to help children learn.
- **School Action Plus** - where the school consults specialists and requests help from external services.
- **Statement** - a child requires support beyond that which the school can provide and the local authority arranges appropriate provision.
- **EHCP** – education health and care plans (replacing statements)

- **SEN Support** – support to replace the categories of school action and school action plus

Figure 2.7 shows the number of pupils by type of school and SEN designation. The number of SEN pupils fell from 9,054 in January 2013 and again to 8,578 by January 2014 and now stands at 7,697 as shown by Figure 2.8.

Figure 2.7

	No Needs	School Action	School Action +	State-ment	EHCP	SEN Support	Total Pupils
Nursery	243		5			22	270
Primary	17,667	1,328	1,185	158	16	502	20,856
Academy Primary	2,833	287	216	13	5	61	3415
Secondary	5,560	345	254	64	41	527	6791
Academy Secondary	9,694	666	422	145	9	770	11,706
Pupil Referral Unit	3	5	75	22			105
Special			1	553			554
Total	36,000	2,631	2,158	955	71	1,882	43,697

Figure 2.8

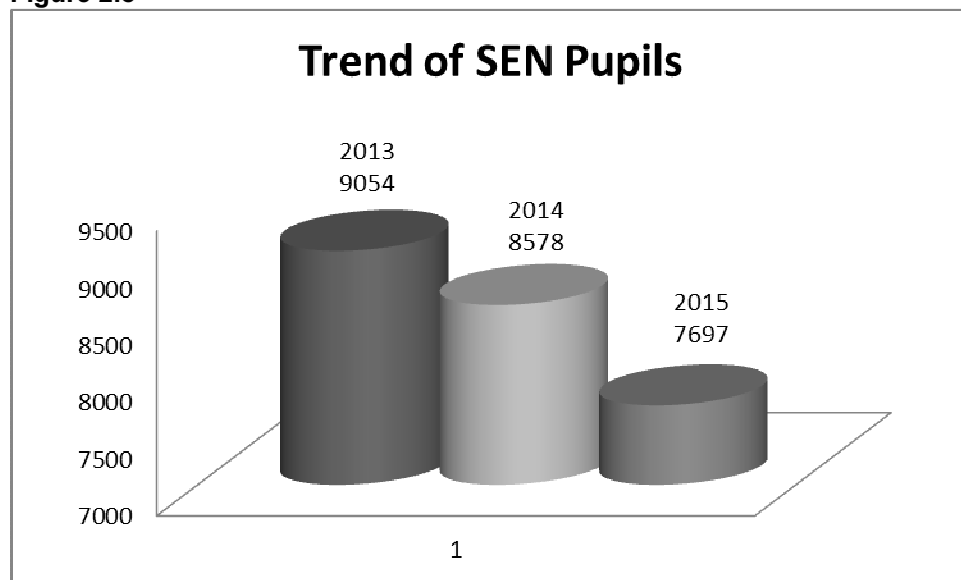


Figure 2.8 shows a downward trend in numbers of SEN pupils. This is due to changes as a result of Ofsted recommendations to ensure that children who were struggling as a consequence of challenging behaviour in the classroom were not identified as special needs.

Children and Families Act 2014

Rotherham is committed to working collaboratively to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families and in developing and implementing services that are in line with the requirements of the Children's and Families Act 2014. We will ensure that resources are maximised across our services to improve outcomes for children and young people (0-25 years of age) with SEND and their families.

The main changes for SEND as part of the Children and Families Act 2014 are:

- Statements of Special Educational Needs are to be replaced with joined-up, holistic Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans from 1st September 2014
- EHC plans will come with the option of a Personal Budget
- School Action and School Action Plus are to be replaced by SEN Support
- All Local Authorities must publish in one place a 'Local Offer' – detailing what services, provision and support is expected to be available across the authority for children and young people with SEND and their families from September 2014

The Children and Families Act 2014 represents some of the biggest changes in 30 years to SEND provision and we are driving forward this work through the SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy that has been developed between Rotherham MBC and Rotherham CCG. In the context of SEND, this consists of two types of commissioning:

1. Individual commissioning for a young person which takes the form of an EHC Plan.
2. Joint commissioning in terms of the Rotherham SEND population, which is the process for deciding how to use the total resources available for families in order to improve their outcomes in the most efficient, effective and sustainable way.

3. MET NEED - CURRENT UNIVERSAL AND NON-SPECIALIST /SPECIALIST SHORT BREAKS PROVISION

3.1 Full Service Offer for the Provision of Short Breaks

In Rotherham we continue to follow the principle of having the Full Service Offer for the provision of Short Breaks, which under Aiming High for Disabled Children requires that there should be a full range of provision covering specific areas. In this section we aim to give an overview of Rotherham services which are currently available, categorised under the heading of the Full Service Offer <http://rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/>

Aiming High for Disabled Children emphasizes the importance of *respite activities and respite care* (known as short breaks) as essential tools to maintain and support families, ultimately enabling parents to care and children to stay at home.

Provision of short breaks should be available at the times when families and young people need breaks, including evenings, weekends and holiday provision, and should be capable of responding to urgent care requirements.

A wide range of short breaks tailored to families' needs are available and include:

- Overnight breaks with care available in both the child's own home and elsewhere;
- Breaks during the day, with care available in the child's own home and elsewhere;
- Breaks in universal settings, delivered through the support of a befriending, sitting or sessional service.

The Full Service Offer provides short breaks services to children who have varying levels of needs:

Group A - Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (who have severe learning disabilities or behaviour which is challenging) **or** those children and young people whose challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments such as severe learning disabilities.

Group B - Children and young people with complex health needs including those with disability and life limiting conditions, **and/or** those who require palliative care **and/or** those with associated impairments such as cognitive or sensory impairments **and/or** have moving/handling needs **and/or** require special equipment/adaptations.

Group C - Children and Young People whose condition and care requirements are described as moderate.

In addition to ensuring we have a range of service provision to meet the Full Service Offer, the Local Authority has to outline universal services that are available and to demonstrate how we are working towards ensuring that these become increasingly inclusive.

3.2 What is available in Rotherham

3.2.1 Universal Services

Disabled children and families have access to a wide range of universal activities recreational spaces, clubs, sports and leisure services across the Borough. Universal services are services which are available for everyone.

The Council's Early Years Team provides support to all Ofsted registered childcare providers providing care for children with SEND. Support includes:

- Providing additional funding to enable providers to enhance staffing levels; from April 2014 to September 2015 146 children accessed the inclusion grant.
- Coordinate individualised planning for all staff working within the setting
- Arrange early transition packages

Early Years also provide an Inclusion Outreach Service to support staff within settings to implement strategies and interventions to support individual children.

Universal service providers include, but are not limited to:

Childcare

46 Pre-school Playgroups

34 Day Nurseries

10 Children's Centres – with childcare

21 Out of School Clubs

13 Holiday Schemes

38 Breakfast Clubs

Further information is available at www.rotherhamfis.co.uk

Integrated Youth Support Service

10 Youth Centers plus 3 delivered in partnership

Details are available at <https://www.youthi.org.uk/youthi/homepage/58/centres>

Leisure Centers

4 Leisure Centers

Additional work is also being undertaken to improve disability provision for young people aged 14+ through support for local sports clubs and organizations in order to develop teams, sessions and competition for young people.

Parks and Green Spaces

425 Accessible Green Spaces including:

- Woodland
- Urban Parks
- Country Side
- Smaller Green Spaces

Work is currently ongoing to develop a funding bid to provide accessible playground equipment in Greenlands Park, Anston. It is hoped that if this approach is successful further accessible playgrounds will be developed in Clifton Park and Rosehill Victoria Park.

In addition there are various community groups such as Brownies and Girl Guides, Cubs and Scouts, sporting groups and clubs across the borough. Universal services such as a theatre, bowling alleys and play centers/soft play areas are also available in Rotherham. Events such as SEND In It Together, Armed Forces Day, annual Christmas and Easter activities, Rotherham Show and Rotherham Christmas Lights Switch On are also held throughout the year. To see Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils events calendar visit: www.rotherham.gov.uk/homepage/70/events

Universal services have a duty under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (2001), subsumed within the Equalities Act 2010, to make reasonable adjustments and not to treat a disabled person less favourably than any other individual.

3.2.2 Commissioned Short Breaks Services

For the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, Rotherham Council commissioned services from the public, voluntary and independent sectors to deliver short breaks. Commissioned short breaks services are open referral, so that parents are able to contact Service Providers directly. Rotherham developed an Aiming High for Disabled Children Short Break Process and Eligibility Criteria for this purpose; this can be found at [http://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/Resources/Councils/RotherhamOffers/short-breaks/Short Breaks Process and Eligibility Criteria-2.pdf](http://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/Resources/Councils/RotherhamOffers/short-breaks/Short%20Breaks%20Process%20and%20Eligibility%20Criteria-2.pdf)

Service Providers prioritise children and young people in categories A and B, but do not exclude those who fall within category C.

Commissioned services from April 2014 to March 2016 are detailed below.

Yours Project Activities for children and young people aged 0-19 years, transport can be provided at an additional cost. The project is delivered by a range of providers to offer a variety of activities.

Contact: 01709 830154

Day of the week	Activity Provider	Venue	Time	Age Range	Frequency
Monday	Activate – After school club	High Street Centre, Rawmarsh	5 – 6.30pm 6.30 – 8pm or 5pm – 8pm	8yrs plus	Term time only
	Open Minds Theatre Company – Creative Arts, Music, Dance and Drama	Unity Centre, St Ann's	4.30pm – 7.30pm	8yrs plus	Term time only
Tuesday	YMCA White Rose – Youth Club	St Barnabas Centre, Broom	5pm – 8pm	14yrs – 19yrs	Term time only
	Ulley Activity Centre – Outdoor adventure and water sports	Ulley	4pm – 6pm	8yrs plus	April – October
Wednesday	YMCA White Rose – After school club	St Barnabas Centre, Broom	3.30pm – 6.30pm	9yrs – 13yrs	Term time only
	Rotherham United Community Sports Trust – Rolling programme of sports	St Anne's Leisure Complex	4pm – 6pm	8yrs plus	Term time only
Thursday	YMCA White Rose – After school club	St Barnabas Centre, Broom	4pm – 6pm	Under 8yrs	Term time only
	Swinton Lock Activity Centre – Canal based environmental activities, boating on the canal	Swinton Lock, Dunn Street, Swinton	4pm – 7pm	8yrs plus	May – November 2015 and January to March 2016
Friday	Rotherham United Community Sports Trust – Fit 4 Football	Clifton Community School, Cranworth Road	4pm – 6pm	8yrs plus	Term time only
Saturday	YMCA White Rose – After school club	St Barnabas Centre, Broom	10.30am – 1.30pm	All ages (rotation)	All year

Chat & Chill

Term-time youth clubs for young people aged 13-25 years.

Tuesdays 18:30 – 20:30 at Chislett Youth & Community Centre.

Thursdays 18:30 – 20:30 at Maltby Linx Youth Centre

Contact: Autism Communication Team
01709 336413

Whilst no longer directly commissioned, work continues in partnership to deliver the following activities.

Active Rotherham Inclusive sports opportunities for disabled people to start, stay and succeed in sport. A range of provision targeting different ages and abilities and designed to meet the needs of the individual is provided, working closely with local leisure services and community based sports clubs to provide a high level of sports coaching whether at recreational or competition level.

Contact: 01709 363355
Leon.wormley@rotherham.gov.uk

Black Minority Ethnic Youth Group Youth club environment for young BME people aged 13 years upwards held at The Place Young People Centre.

Contact: 0797774032 or showkat_ali@outlook.com

Children's Disability Family Support Service provide workshops for parents/carers relating to a common theme such as promoting positive behaviour, positive parenting and exploring sleep strategies. These workshops are usually delivered through a six week programme.

Contact: 01709 555967

Habershon House Summer holiday break for 2 or 3 nights for the whole family, aged 13 years upwards, at a residential property in Filey

Contact: 01709 255266

Hilltop / Kelford Schools Summer Holiday Clubs 10:00 – 15:00 for children and young people aged 2-18 years.

Contact: 01709 813386
01709 512088

Kimberworth Place Short Breaks Facility has areas specifically equipped for children with disabilities including fully accessible toilet facilities. These facilities are used by the **Rotherham Branch of the National Autistic Society** who run family drop in sessions.

Contact: 07554 439427
rotherham@nas.org.uk

Rotherham Parent Forum Limited Sessions for parents, children and young people to attend on Monday evenings at Kimberworth Place where they can access areas which are specifically furnished for children with disabilities including fully accessible toilet facilities.

Contact: 01709 296262
<http://www.rpcf.co.uk/public/rotherham336.html.nc>
facebook page: Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

Youth Service/Elephants in Step Club A youth club environment which usually consists of a 'theme night' such as Bond, Harry Potter and Doctor Who for young people aged 13 years upwards, provided at Dalton Youth Centre.

Contact: 01709 822189

3.2.3 Specialist Short Breaks Providers

Specialist short breaks are accessed following referral to and assessment by Social Care. The assessment is then considered by a multiagency Short Breaks Panel. The panel is able to allocate short breaks (subject to availability and risk assessment of and by the Service Provider) from the following menu of services.

Orchard Children's Centre consists of 3 elements:

Liberty House provides a warm, homely and safe environment for young people between the ages of 8 -18 years who experience a severe physical or learning disability and/or sensory impairment

Cherry Tree House provides medium to long term residential care in a warm, homely and safe environment for up to five young people between the ages of 8 to 17 years who experience a severe physical or learning disability

Children's Disability Family Support Service provides target focused short break activities for disabled children and young people and support for families relating to areas of need

Families Together Service offers disabled children, young people and their families short breaks in a home based environment with experienced carers

Complex Nursing Team provides short breaks for children and young people between the ages of 0 -19 years with complex health needs and who may require palliative care. Services are offered throughout the week, both day and night and in a variety of settings including the child's own home

Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice provides care and support to families who have a child or young person who has a life limiting condition and is not expected to live into adulthood. They support the whole family, both at the hospice and in families' own homes

3.3 Profile of Children & Young People Accessing Provision in 2014-15

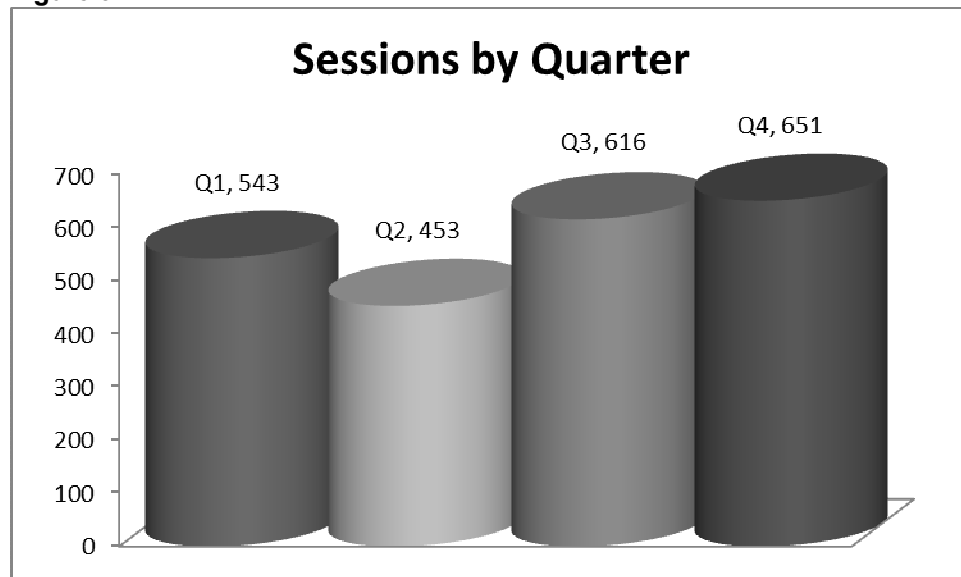
2,750 sessions were accessed by 328 individual children and young people during the financial year 2014-15 giving an average of approximately 8 sessions per child. This is in line with the approximate 2,350 sessions accessed by 374 individuals in 2013-14 giving an average in the region of 6 sessions.

It should be noted that not all information is held for all children due to inconsistencies in reporting creating an element of 'not known'. Figures given are either for the 328 individuals attending sessions or the 2,750 sessions accessed to address reporting inconsistencies where possible.

Figure 3.1 shows the spread of attendance at sessions throughout the year. As with previous years, the data shows a drop in sessions over the summer due to reduced numbers of clubs

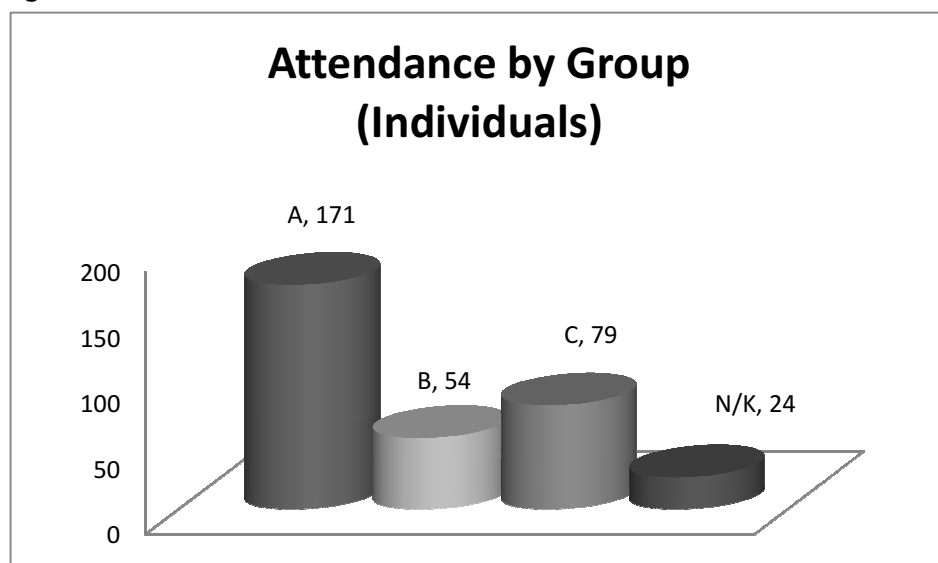
in the summer holidays. The data has an anomaly of 493 sessions not recorded by month of attendance.

Figure 3.1



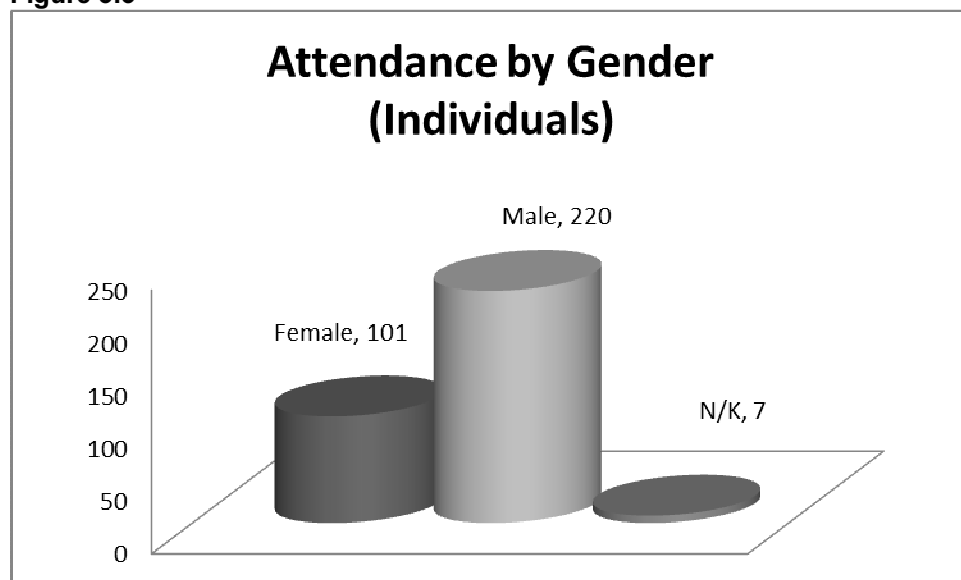
The Aiming High for Disabled Children agenda stated that Local Authorities should prioritise short breaks for children and young people in groups A and B, but not exclude children in group C (detailed at section 3.1). Figure 3.2 demonstrates that this has been achieved with 52% of the individual children and young people attending sessions being from group A.

Figure 3.2



A survey of Local Authorities (Report DCSF-RR042) reported that boys are twice as likely to be recorded disabled as girls, which is consistent with the 2005 Children in Need Census. This trend is reflected in the attendance at Short Breaks in Rotherham. Figure 3.3 shows that in excess of double the number of boys access Short Breaks.

Figure 3.3



As well as reflecting where services are targeted it is also important to provide age appropriate services. The breakdown of children and young people accessing Short Break services by age group is shown at Figure 3.4. This data shows that children and young people aged 15-18 years are the largest group accessing services, which is possibly to be expected as non-disabled teenagers are largely able to access clubs and create their own social lives at this age.

Figure 3.4

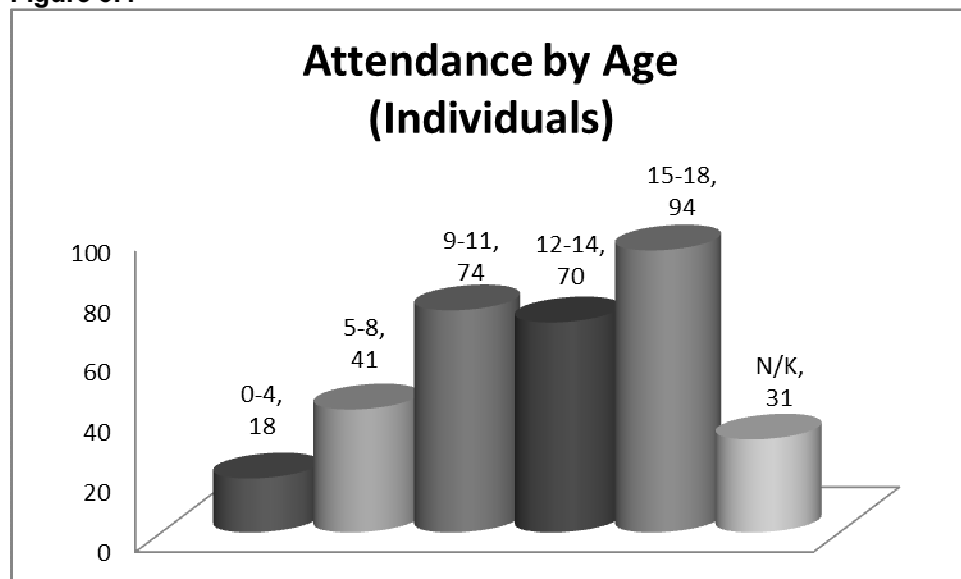


Figure 3.5

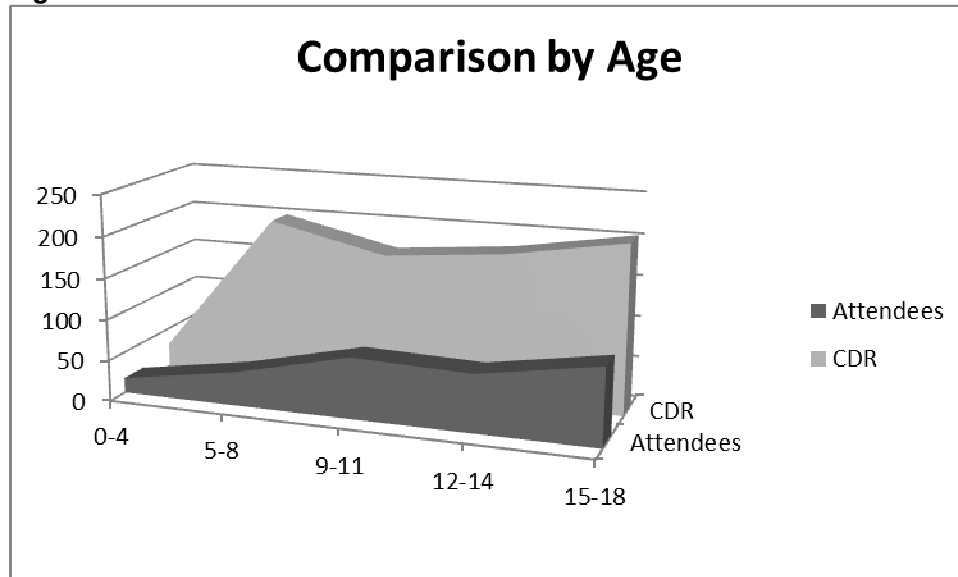


Figure 3.5 compares the age range of attendees of sessions to those on the Children's Disability Register and Figure 3.6 provides the same information in a table format. This demonstrates that the 0-4 age group is over-represented by provision and the 5-8 group is significantly under-represented. There is currently only 1 club for disabled children under 8 years.

Figure 3.6

Age Range	CDR	Attendees	%
0-4	30	18	60
5-8	200	41	20
9-11	168	74	44
12-14	181	70	38
15-18	205	94	45

As well as ensuring that provision is appropriate by group, gender and age, it is also important to ensure that provision is accessible for all children and young people in the borough. Figures 3.7 and 3.8 compare the Areas Assemblies where the children and young people who accessed provision in 2014-15 live with the Area Assemblies of those on the Children's Disability Register and the Census data.

Whilst the figures differ (the 2014-15 figures show children attending multiple times) the trend is the same with peaks at Rotherham South and Wentworth South and troughs at Wentworth North and Wentworth Valley. This supports the existing approach in locating and promoting activities. Figure 2.5 on page 6 shows which Wards are included in each Area Assembly.

Figure 3.7

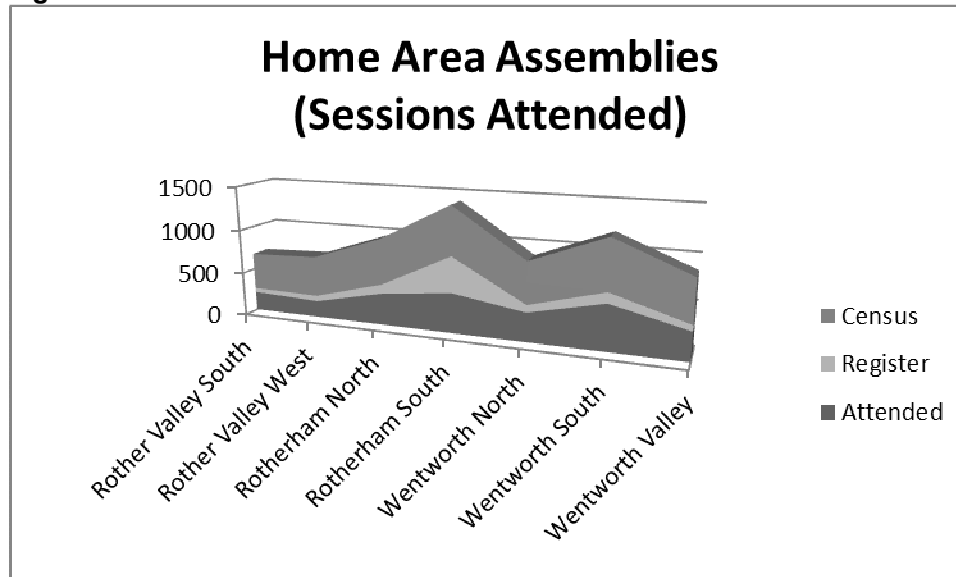


Figure 3.8

Area Assembly	No. of Sessions Attended	No of Children on Register	No of Children from Census
Rother Valley South	217	48	416
Rother Valley West	188	65	457
Rotherham North	363	104	518
Rotherham South	452	107	551
Wentworth North	326	83	469
Wentworth South	514	117	563
Wentworth Valley	318	65	479
Out of Authority	37		
Address Not Recorded	335		
Total	2750	589	3453

The most recent Census data (2011) showed Rotherham as having a total ethnic minority population of 8.1%, i.e. those who define themselves as not white British. Figure 3.9 shows that 10.5% of sessions during the year 2014-15 were attended by children and young people who did not identify themselves as white British which demonstrates that Short Breaks have been successful at encouraging participation by children and young people from ethnic minority backgrounds. Figure 3.10 shows the ethnic breakdown of the 10.5%. In line with local demographics the largest ethnic group accessing provision is Pakistani.

Figure 3.9

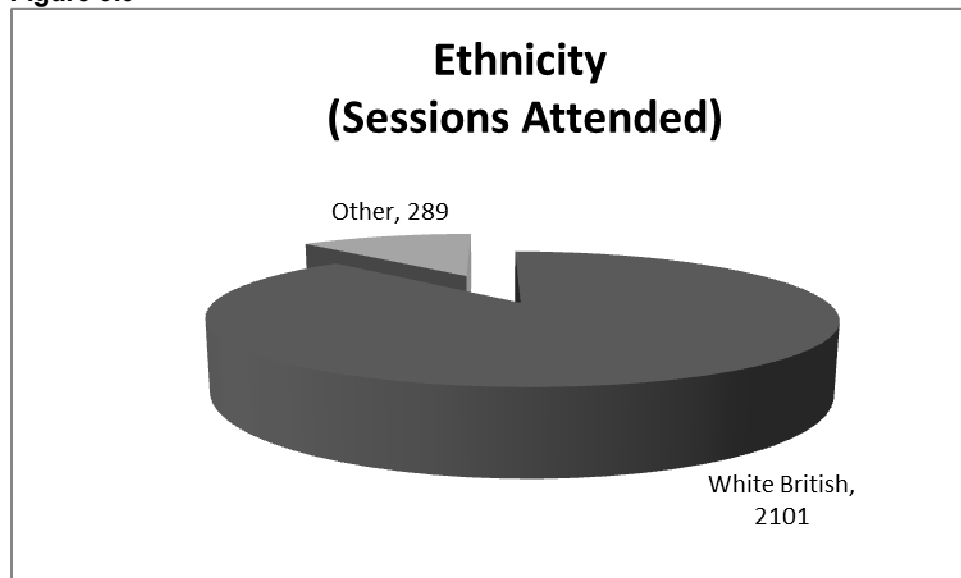


Figure 3.10

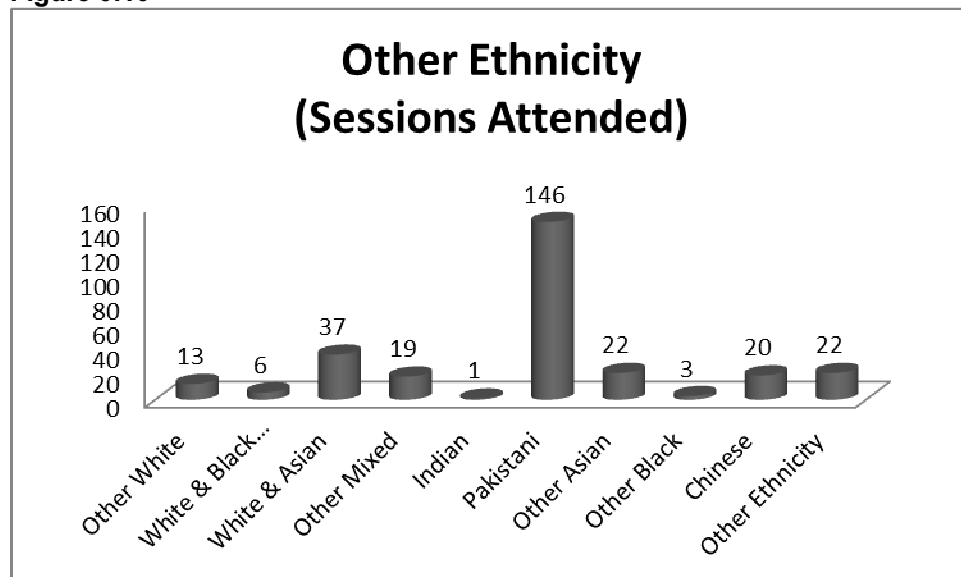
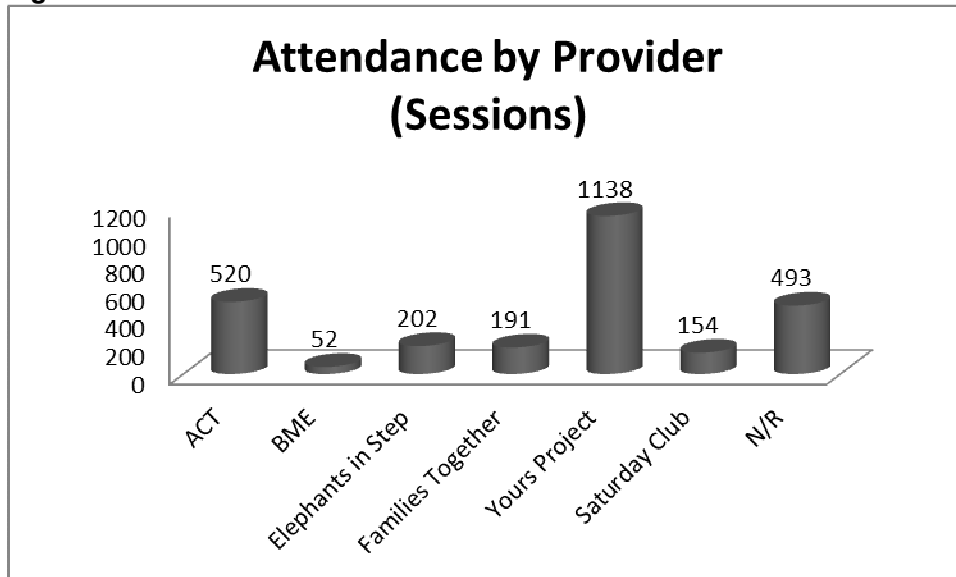


Figure 3.11 shows a breakdown of which services were accessed by children and young people during the last financial year of 2014-15. As the Yours Project provides the most activities and clubs it is not surprising that they have the highest numbers of children and young people accessing their services.

Figure 3.11



3.4 Outcomes Achieved

In order to better understand the outcomes achieved for children and their families, services have been submitting case studies as evidence. Below is a sample of some of the outcomes achieved.

J has shown considerable development in terms of his communication and interactions with staff and peers. J has made requests to use the bathroom and play with toys.

Mum has reported that the service has enabled her to spend more time with her other two children which has helped to improve family relationships in the home. She has been in the process of moving and has used the respite to pack and plan for the move.

Previously L had been very distressed and had been reluctant to play with other children, preferring to be held/cuddled by staff. During this session L played alongside children, helping to build dens and bring sensory toys into the soft play area.

Children have been able to enjoy experiences which would not have been available, such as the visit to Meadowhall and meeting new children and people.

A positive impact was achieved as C enjoyed time with his carer whilst his principal carer was able to rely upon the consistency of a weekly overnight stay to allow her time to focus on her needs.

S enjoys his short break whilst his mother appreciates the opportunity to focus on daughter's needs.

Quality of life for whole family improved as a result of reduction of stress factors.

3.5 Children's Disability Services

The Disabled Children's Information Officer post is funded through the SEND grant. The post holder empowers parents by giving them information, guidance and advice about relevant services at a crucial point in their child's life which assists them to make informed choices. This offers parents and carers of disabled children and children undergoing assessment access to information and Early Support, with referral to suitable short breaks services if appropriate. The post of Disabled Children's Information Officer has been recruited to on a permanent contract.

Short breaks provision is promoted through the Exchange Newsletter which is sent to parents and carers of disabled children in Rotherham. A separate leaflet is also produced which gives details of all the Service Providers of short breaks in Rotherham and what activities are available. An Aiming High for Disabled Children webpage has been created on Rotherham Council's internet site which gives short breaks information and contact details for the Families Information Service

http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/200071/parental_support/878/short_breaks_for_disabled_children
information can also be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ahdc.shortbreaks>

3.6 Personalisation

Personalisation is the process of enabling children, young people and their families to be more in control of the services they receive. Working in a person centered way will enable families to exercise choice and control over the shape of that support. To enable us to do this we will ensure that disabled children, young people and their families:

- Have their needs assessed promptly and accurately by individuals who work in a person centred way
- Are fully informed and in control at all times
- Are active and valued equal partners in decision making
- Have the opportunity to shape service delivery and experience improved and enhanced access to appropriate services.

Independent living is one of the goals of personalisation. It does not mean living on your own or doing things alone, but rather it means "having choice and control over the assistance and/or equipment needed to go about your daily life having equal access to housing, transport and mobility, health, employment and education and training opportunities" (Office of Disability Issues 2008).

A Personal Budget is a sum of money to secure provision which the Council and / or NHS has set out in an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC) and where the parents or young person have choice and control in securing that provision. Some or all of a personal budget can be made through a Direct Payment which a parent or young person uses to purchase the support or services they need.

Direct Payments are cash payments made directly to individuals or those caring for others who have assessed eligible needs. Direct payments help people who want to manage their own support to improve their quality of life. Direct Payments promote independence, choice

and inclusion by enabling people to purchase the assistance they need in order to live in their own homes, to be fully involved in family and community life, and to engage in work, education and leisure. Annual Direct Payment figures for Child Disability from 2008/09 to 2014/15 are shown in Figure 3.12.

Figure 3.12

Direct Payments	
	Direct Payments for Child Disability
2008/09	£230,258
2009/10	£317,254
2010/11	£328,398
2011/12	£233,562
2012/13	£278,608
2013/14	£230,558
2014/15	£335,061

Day-to-day control of the funds and EHC plans passes to the person who has the strongest incentive to ensure that it is spent properly on the necessary service and who is best placed to judge how to match available resources to the assessed eligible needs. Some people may need help in managing the payments made to them. Carers or other third parties can receive and manage payments on behalf of the recipient. When day-to-day management of the funds is delegated in this way, the payment is known as a Third Party Payment.

Where an individual chooses to take all or part of their assessed personal budget as a Direct Payment, this part of their personal budget will be subject to the legislative rules and guidance governing all Direct Payments; payments arranged in this way are not differentiated from any other Direct Payments.

The Personal Budget can include funding from education, health and social care. A Local Authority cannot make direct payments in respect of any good or services which are used or provided in a school, post 16 institution or early years education provider without the written consent of the head teacher, principle or early year provider. "The Special Education Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014".

Direct Payments can be accessed to provide a range of services and support. One payment has been accessed to provide an Autism Assistive dog. This was applied for using the Resource Allocation System and approved at Short Breaks Panel. The outcomes have been extremely positive for both the child, family and dog.

The list below gives some of the uses of Direct Payments:

- Family employ a Personal Assistant.
- Employing an agency
- Day Care
- Social Activity
- Nursery Fees
- Overnight care
- Transport (Following Specific Transport Assessment)
- Equipment

Rotherham will continue to work in partnership across education, health and care to develop a clear and understandable pathway for children, young people and their families to enable increased access to a Personal Budget.

3.7 RMBC Complaints

No complaints relating to the provision of short breaks were received by the Local Authority in the financial year 2014-15. The Council's complaints policy can be found at http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/200025/complaints/516/complain_about_council_services

3.8 Quality Assurance Process

All commissioned short breaks providers are subject to an annual quality assurance visit. The quality assurance visit observes short breaks service delivery, checks policies and procedures and discusses and shares good practice with professionals. Each service receives a report following the visit which identifies good practice and any areas for development which are followed up by an action plan and subject to quarterly review. Where required, follow up visits are undertaken to confirm actions taken.

Young Inspectors were also involved in reviewing our quality assurance processes this year and have provided feedback which will inform the process for next year. Previous reviews of the process have included recommendations to improve how we gather views of children and young people and to achieve this, officers have been trained in Makaton to communicate where verbal communication is limited.

3.9 Transitions from Child to Adult Services

The Children's Disability Team has established a very close working relationship with the Adult Learning Disability Team in terms of transitions planning, including having a key worker who straddles both children's and adults' teams and links into the adults' Learning Disability Service.

Working practice is being reviewed during the coming year due to new SEND legislation and as the Care Act 2014 (for adults) is implemented in Rotherham.

The development of Person Centred Reviews in Rotherham and the use of early assessment prior to Adult Services has enabled us to begin to tailor packages of care which are most likely to be replicated in Adult Services. This is now embedded in all school processes.

By having this bespoke service, workers have been able to identify where short breaks services can provide early intervention strategies to support with independence skills for young people and this has included money management, support with travelling and support with accessing college or local community social activities.

3.10 Workforce Development

A wide range of workforce development opportunities have been offered to both commissioned and specialist short breaks providers historically. Providers are able to access complex medical care needs and moving and handling training upon request, enabling the needs of individual children with more complex medical and physical needs to be met.

The Aiming High for Disabled Children strategy group works in partnership with short breaks providers to identify, support and provide continuing professional development opportunities to short breaks providers for example the Safeguarding Disabled Children training.

A number of parents and carers and practitioners from Education, Health and Social care attended an Early Support Training for Trainers course. Learning outcomes included:

- Working in partnership with parents/carers – team around the family
- Person centred thinking
- Information sharing
- Improved multi-agency working

Jack Pitchford who coaches a weekly session at the Yours Project has been recognized for his work with the community and named South Yorkshire Disability Coach of the Year. Jack has been described as an *“inspiration and role model to the disabled children he coaches.”*

3.11 Short Break Provider Group & Strategy Meeting

A monthly group comprising officers from Disabilities, Commissioning, service providers, and parents and carers meets to monitor the delivery of Rotherham’s Short Breaks Offer and reviewing the identified recommendations from the annual Short Breaks Statement. The group also shares examples of good practice and information and progress connected to the SEND reform agenda.

3.12 How we have acted upon Previous Consultation & Recommendations

3.12.1 Recommendations from 2014 Statement

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
1	Continue to work in partnership with current commissioned short break providers to develop a process which will aid sustainability of services in the future	Case studies produced with YMCA White Rose and Families Together to go to senior managers to promote their work. Personal budget strategy to be developed and to include work in partnership to aid sustainability.	Work ongoing
2	Discuss potential for a Mystery Shopping scheme, where by young people assess the quality and young people friendliness of provision, with colleagues in IYSS	IYSS have recruited two new roles to support young people 0-16 and 16-25 years respectively. This work will be progressed by them.	Complete for the purpose of this plan
3	Continue to support the AHDC Short Breaks Provider Forum and explore additional opportunities for partnership working	The Forum continues to be attended by Commissioning, Disability and the Families Information Officer. Working together through the forum and on this project has resulted in additional partnership working, particular over the Christmas period in 2014.	Complete for the purpose of this plan but work ongoing
4	Follow up on the provision of disability friendly equipment in parks with the Parks & Open Spaces Department	Work is ongoing to prepare a funding bid for an accessible playground at Greenlands Park, Aston. This work is being carried out by the Council's parks and green spaces department working with local partners. It is hoped bids for accessible equipment will be developed for Clifton and Rosehill Victoria parks.	Complete for the purpose of this plan but work ongoing through other Council department
5	Develop good practice case studies for circulation	Case studies produced with YMCA White Rose and Families Together to go to senior managers to promote their work.	Complete for the purpose of this plan, but work ongoing
6	Performance manage short breaks against outcomes for service users and their families/carers, delivering evidence of achievement for annual monitoring	Work has been ongoing to evidence outcomes with a 'case on a page' approach to demonstrating outcomes for individuals, eg 1 young person attending swimming sessions, another enjoying a trip to Meadowhall.	Complete for the purpose of this plan, but work ongoing
7	Set out clearly how to access personal budgets and promote access	Information updated at page 7 of the Statement and key message of who to contact added	Complete

3.12.2 Recommendations from Children & Young People

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
8	Consider the possibilities to extend frequency of short breaks	Work has been undertaken to look at how this may be achieved with some amendments to practice, eg Saturday club is now on a 6 week cycle in line with other YMCA clubs. However, there is limited opportunity without additional resource.	Complete for the purpose of this plan
9	Promote the Rotherham SEND Local Offer website	The Local Offer has been promoted in the annual Statement, regular Exchange newsletters and via Facebook. Work will continue to promote the website.	Complete for the purpose of this plan, but work ongoing

3.12.3 Recommendations from Parents/Carers

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
10	Promote the Rotherham SEND Local Offer Website	The Local Offer has been promoted in the annual Statement, regular Exchange newsletters and via Facebook. Work will continue to promote the website.	Complete for the purposes of this plan, but work ongoing

3.12.4 Recommendations from Short Breaks Providers

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
11	Continue to promote short breaks and AHDC with senior management	Work is ongoing and will be taken forward with case study work. Links are being strengthened with the Safeguarding Board and quarterly reports on Short Breaks will be taken.	Complete for the purpose of this plan, but work ongoing
12	Consider how to extend the range and variety of short breaks available	Work has been undertaken to look at how this may be achieved with some amendments to practice, eg Saturday club is now on a 6 week cycle in line with other YMCA clubs. However, there is limited opportunity without additional resource. Work is also ongoing on awareness raising and upskilling universal providers.	Complete for the purpose of this plan, but work ongoing

3.12.5 Recommendations from Borough Statistics and Service Provider Data

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
13	Undertake comparison of age range of children and young people on the Disability Register and age range of children and young people attending short breaks	Comparison undertaken see section 3.3 above	Complete
14	Consider how to work with Universal Providers to improve access to disabled children and young people	Parent Carer Forum working with Tesco to look at helping parents to Shop. Also arranged for swimming sessions at Badsley Moor Lane.	Complete

3.12.6 Recommendations from Self Assessment

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
15	Ensure Statement is outcome focused	Additional information on outcomes added to statement	Complete
16	Link Statement to SEND reforms	Added at page 2 of the Statement	Complete
17	Include a link in the Statement to the Local Offer	Added at page 2 of the Statement	Complete
18	Ensure eligibility criteria is clear	Windscreen image to be amended to show eligibility/access	Complete
19	Enhance information on personal budgets and direct payments	Information updated at page 7 of the Statement and key message of who to contact added	Complete
20	Include information in the Statement on the quality assurance process	Information added at page 9 of the Statement	Complete

4. UNMET NEED – CONSULTATION

4.1 Children & Young People

4.1.1 Provider Consultation

Providers undertake consultation with the children and young people attending sessions throughout the year and consultation is also undertaken during quality assurance visits. Some of the comments received this year are:

I enjoy everything.

I like to draw and paint.

I like the friendly and supportive atmosphere Chat 'n' Chill creates, especially the staff being there to talk to you who treat you like a human being not someone who is stupid.

I didn't like the loud music at the beginning but it gets better later.

I like doing the games.

I like swimming and rafting.

I can't wait for next week.

I talk more since coming here, I talk to everyone.

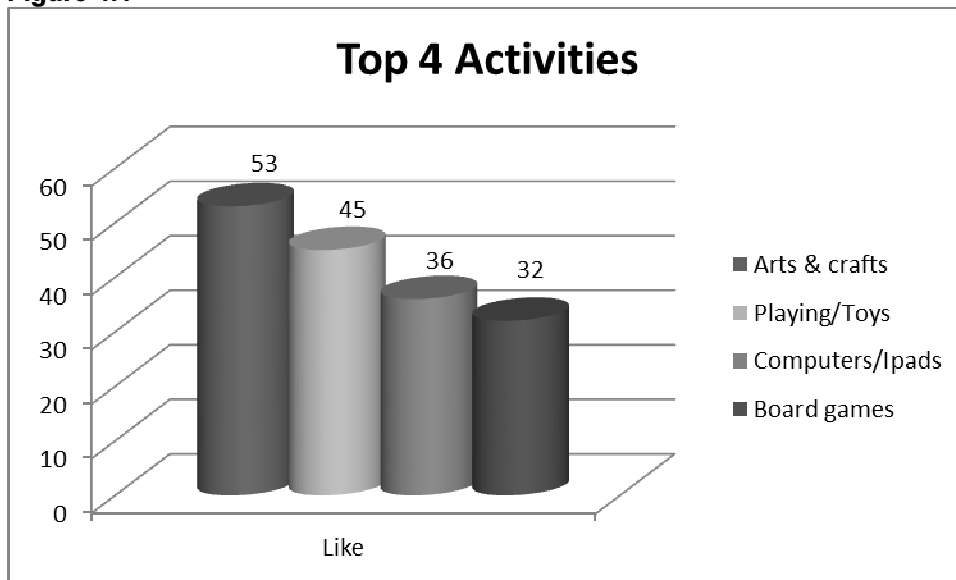
4.1.2 Local Authority Consultation

During this year's quality assurance visits, officers also undertook consultation with children and young people to find out what activities they like to do, they don't like to do and they would like to try. This was done through posting cards showing pictures, words or Makaton symbols into boxes to enable everyone to participate. This was successful in that all children who wished to participate could, for example one young girl in a wheelchair who has no verbal skills was taken cards by a friend who held them up so that the first young girl could nod at the ones she wanted to go in the boxes.

However, there were also some challenges as the box system was not practical at some of the outdoor activities, for example sailing, and some children and young people struggled to differentiate between 'I want to' and 'I would like to'. The results of individual clubs consultation has been fed back to providers and the overall results shown below.

Figure 4.1 shows the top 4 activities liked by children and young people and figure 4.2 shows the 4 most unpopular activities and figure 4.3 the top 4 requested activities. Playing/Toys appears on all top 4 lists and this is perhaps reflective of the wide age demographics across the clubs.

Figure 4.1



A total of 608 responses were given by children and young people across 8 activities and it is very positive to note that 62% of responses were on activities enjoyed, as shown at Figure 4.4. A full breakdown of responses is shown at Figure 4.5.

Figure 4.2

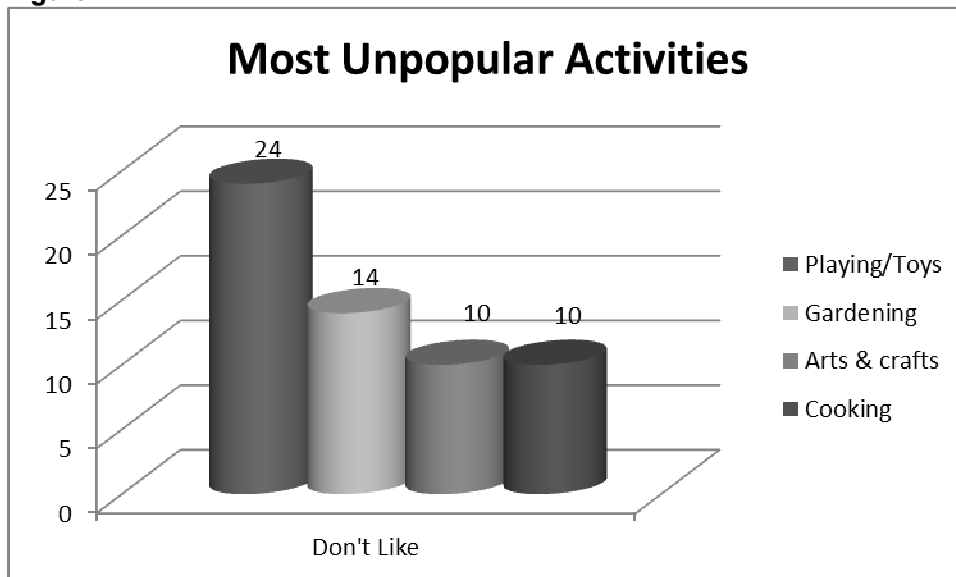
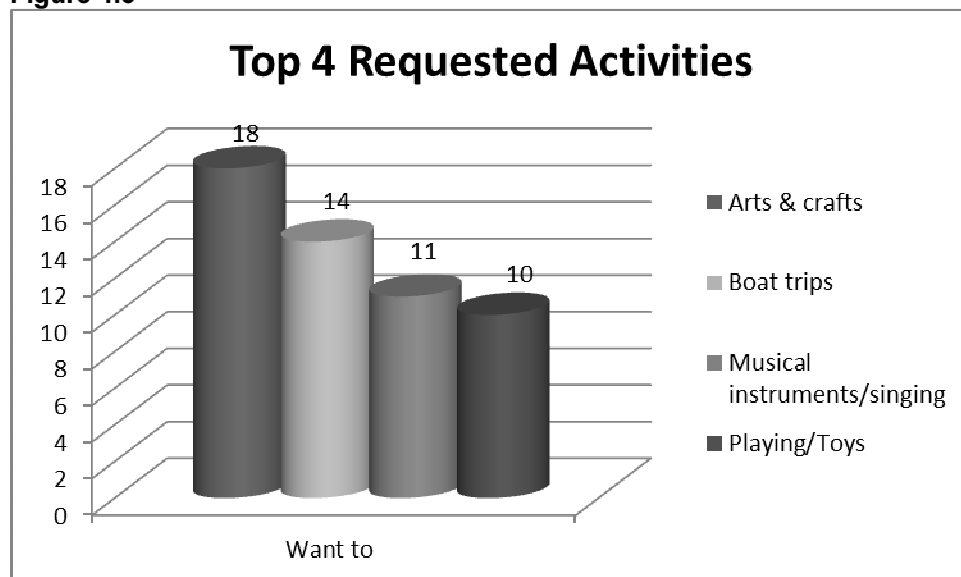


Figure 4.3



Children and young people clearly enjoy the activities they attend and gain a lot from the experience, with one young woman having left a club and returned as a volunteer and many others bringing cakes to celebrate birthdays and sharing special news with friends and staff. Children and young people help one another at the clubs and it was noted that a young man who has no verbal communication nevertheless is seen as member of the group at one club where many of his peers come over to speak to him for a few minutes or to sit and play a game with him.

Figure 4.4

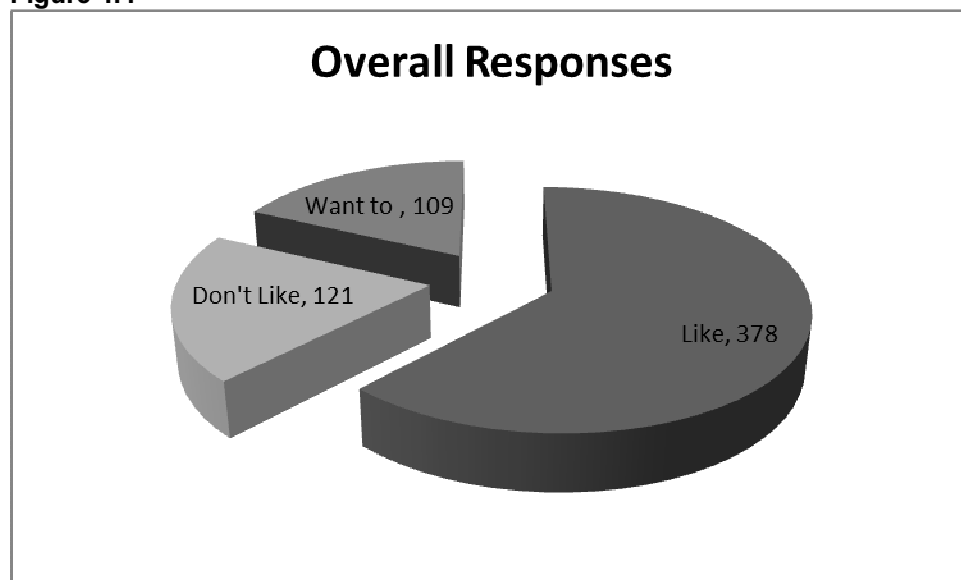


Figure 4.5

	Like	Don't Like	Want to
Arts & crafts	53	10	18
Ball games	9	7	5
Bikes & scooters	6	2	2
Board games	32	3	
Boat trips	24	6	14
Books/reading	17	8	5
Computers/Ipad	36	2	7
Cooking	24	10	7
Dancing	1	1	1
Dressing Up	7	9	2
Friends	11		2
Gardening	18	14	8
Hair & Beauty	7	9	1
Musical instruments/singing	21	3	11
Noise		2	
Outdoor play	9	7	1
Playing/Toys	45	24	10
Sitting down		1	
Table top games, pool, air hockey	23	1	4
Trips			3
TV	8		
Wordsearch	1		
Writing	8		1
Xbox/PS3	18	2	7

4.2 Parent/Carers

4.2.1 Provider's Consultation

Providers also undertake consultation with parents and carers to ensure that satisfaction levels are good. Some of the responses from parents and carers during the year have been:

Gives a feeling of belonging, a social life and friendships.

Allows me quiet time with my husband and gives me and my child time apart.

It's nice to have the break and nice to hear what G has been doing at the group.

She looks forward to going and gets to meet her friends.

It is nice to know she has somewhere to go.

S gets to go out and meet with people his own age.

4.2.2 Local Authority Consultation

All parents and carers with children and young people on the voluntary Children's Disability Register were invited to attend one of seven sessions during June and July to discuss their views on Short Breaks. The aim of the consultations was to give a more interactive approach to gathering the views of parents/carers on Short Breaks. It was also an opportunity to provide information on the range of services available to these parents/carers living in Rotherham.

Seven venues were picked to be used for the consultations, one in each of the seven areas of Rotherham so that parents/carers were able to attend a consultation in their local area.

Over the seven consultations a total of 28 people attended. The highest attendance of a single consultation was the one held jointly with Rotherham Parent Career Limited at Tesco's in the centre of Rotherham, 13 people attended.

Parents and carers were asked to give their views on the Short Breaks currently available to them, what they liked about them, how we can improve them, and what they would like to see in the future. The most common topics for discussion over all the consultations were: age, payment for Short Breaks, sensory activities and Short Breaks through the holidays. Some comments from parents are below:

"Nothing available for under 8s"

"Happy to pay for a Short Break, if it is the same price as a child without a disability would pay for a similar activity"

"Would like water play, sensory and challenging behaviour Short Breaks"

"Would like holidays for under 13"

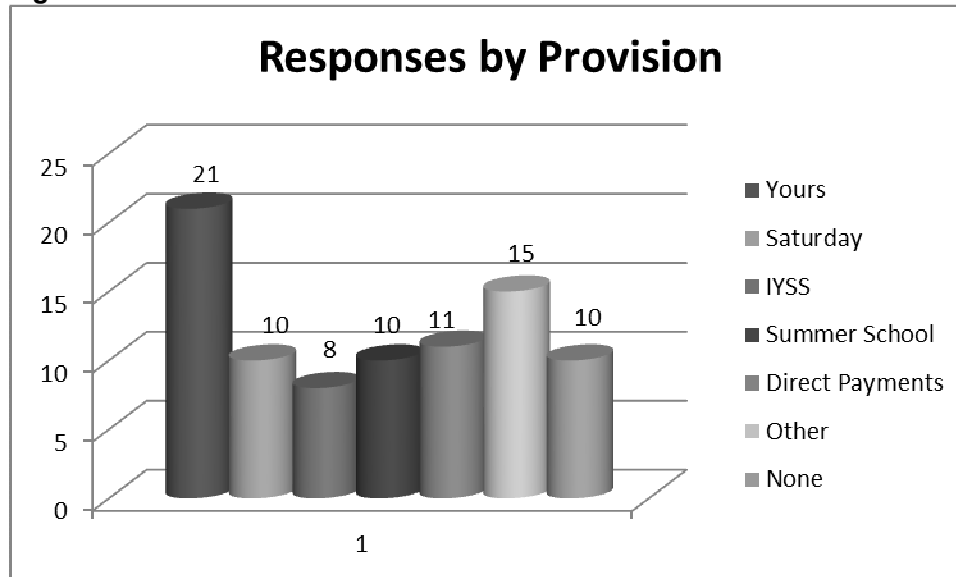
"Portage service is a very helpful/excellent service"

View the full case study at:

<http://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/s4s/WhereILive/Council?pageId=844&lockLA=True>

Where parents were unable to attend the consultation events a survey was provided to give their views. 42 completed responses were received. Figure 4.6 shows which of the short breaks had been accessed by parents and carers during 2014-15.

Figure 4.6



24% of respondents had not accessed short breaks, of the responses given 6 felt that the activities available were not appropriate for their child and 7 required more information to access/had not been aware they could access.

32 responses were received to the question 'what works well' and included mention of specific short breaks attended but mainly centred around the enjoyment children and young people got from the activities and the support provided by staff. Some specific comments included:

It's a chance for children to mix with other children like themselves.

My little boy loved it.

Multi sports clubs have been fantastic, good variation of activities and support staff are helpful, respectful and extremely understanding.

It was good and organised, plenty to do.

These breaks have given J a chance to mix with other young people.

All have worked well and enjoyed fully.

20 responses were received to the question 'what does not work well' and were predominately around the frequency and availability of sessions (10) and 5 comments related to more provision for younger children being required. Some specific comments included:

Should run continuously with no breaks for as long as the child is enjoying going.

Increase the hours. 2 hours is very short.

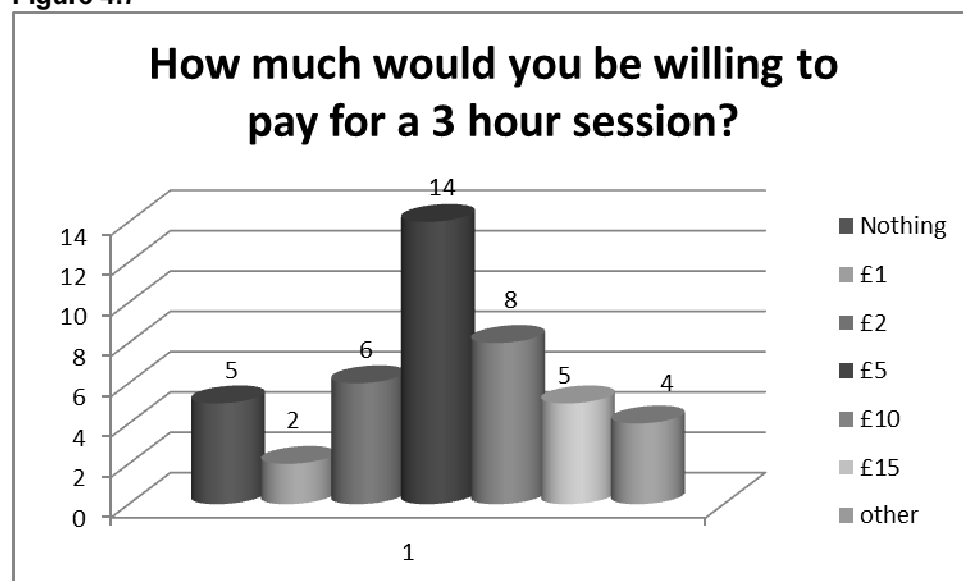
More activities for school holidays.

Need to have provision in the holidays.

J is almost 19 and lots of the clubs will stop then ... it would be helpful to have some other things for older young people.

Responses to potentially contributing to short breaks resulted in the majority of respondents (14 out of 36) being willing to contribute £5 towards the cost of a 3 hour activity, although some additional comments were received around the price being dependent on the type of activity. Figure 4.7 shows the responses.

Figure 4.7



The final question put to parents and carers was to make any other comments they wished to. There were a number of comments around the need for more information on both short breaks available and universal services. The Rotherham Send Local Offer website went live on the 1st September 2014 and is designed to provide information on health, education, social care and activities for children 0-25 years with special education needs and disabilities. The website can be accessed at <http://rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/>

4.2.3 Enquiries Received

The Children's Disability Information Officer receives a number of telephone enquiries each year, to help inform future provision these are recorded by type. Between January and July 2015 219 enquiries have been received. These have been predominately in respect of Short Breaks, 46% as shown by Figure 4.8. Information at Figures 4.9 and 4.10 give the details behind the headline figures.

Figure 4.8

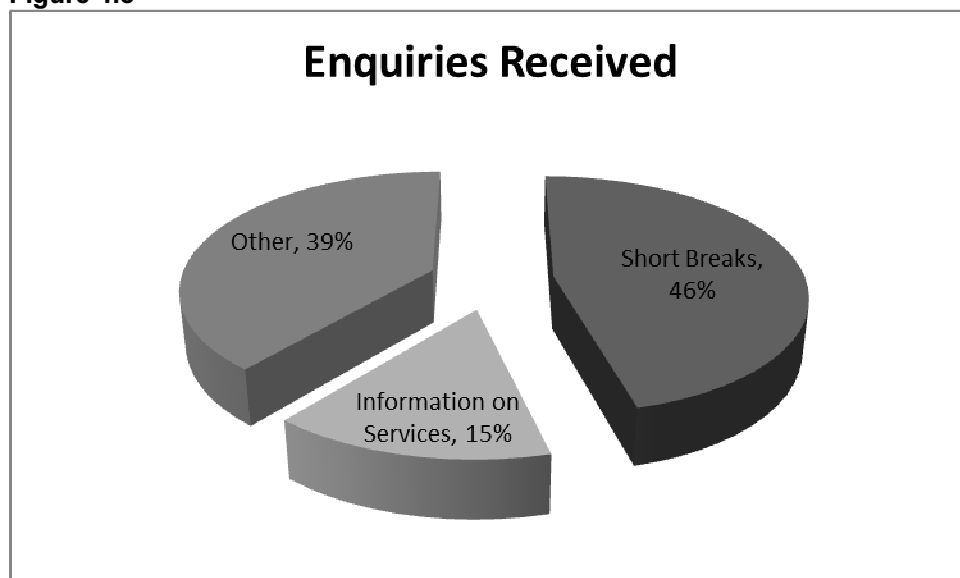


Figure 4.9

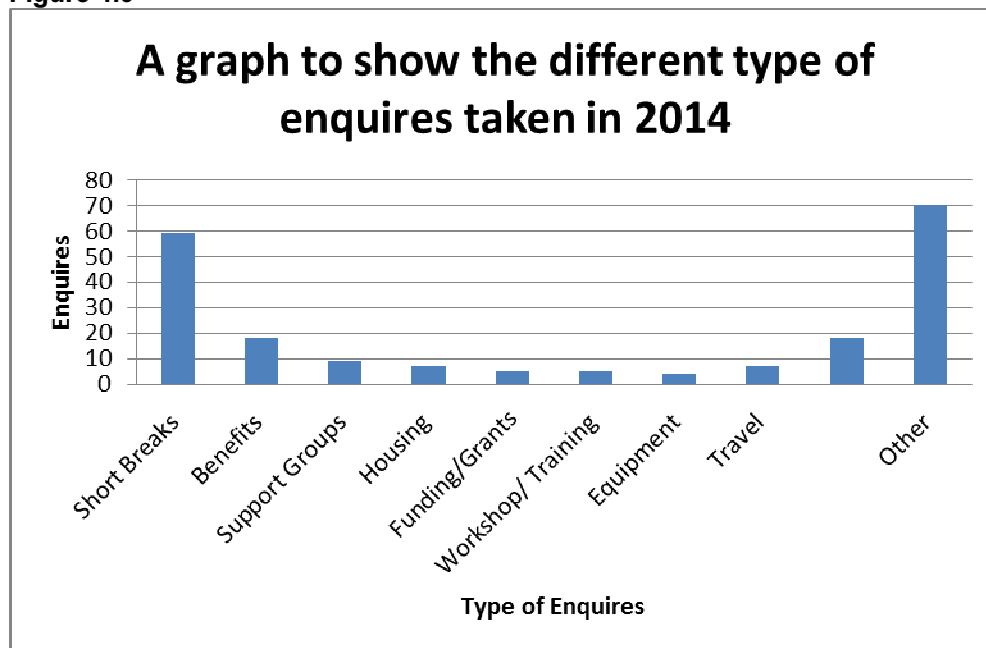


Figure 4.10

Category of Enquiry	Number of Enquires	Percentage of Enquires
Short Breaks	59	29
Benefits	18	9
Support Groups	9	4
Housing	7	3
Funding/Grants	5	2
Workshop/ Training	5	2
Equipment	4	2
Travel	7	3
Information on services	18	9
Other	70	35
Total	202	100

4.3 Service Providers

Service Providers were asked 3 questions to assess their views of the service; the questions and responses are below.

4.3.1 What is working well?

- The Yours Project as a whole works well and is still receiving regular referrals.
- The relationship between children, staff and parents/carers. Children appear to enjoy their time and look forward to coming to Liberty House. Feedback from parents and social workers is positive.

4.3.2 What are the areas for improvement?

- More funding is needed to allow for a second under 8 years session and to be able to offer a year-round service.
- Communication with health professionals especially around provision of training and agreeing packages of care.

4.3.3 What would you like to see in the future?

- More flexibility to allow for a more needs led service.
- Clarity on the capacity and function of Liberty House.
- Stronger links with Health and Social Care.

4.4 Benchmarking & Self Assessment

Since producing our last annual Statement in 2014 we have been reviewing Statements from other Councils to look at best practice and learn from how they produce their statements. We have also undertaken a critique of our 2014-15 Short Breaks Statement, looking at 25

questions to assess the document and the information it contains in order to check it is fit for purpose.

From this we will be making a number of changes to our 2015 Statement to include:

- An introduction by an Elected Member
- Highlighting key messages
- Information on transitions
- Information on how to complain

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for service delivery are based on the examination of the generic borough statistics, data from service providers and key messages from stakeholders, parents and carers and disabled children and young people.

	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONSULTATION
1	Work with providers to implement changes to activities in response to feedback from children and young people
2	Use consultation data to inform future Commissioning decisions

	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PARENTS AND CARERS CONSULTATION
3	Increase short breaks for under 8 year olds by a defined % to be set in consultation with providers
4	Increase sensory activities available within short break provision
5	Increase short breaks during school holidays

	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOROUGH STATISTICS AND SERVICE PROVIDER DATA
6	Increase provision for 5-8 year olds by a defined % to be set in consultation with providers

	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS & BEST PRACTICE REVIEW
7	All providers to develop a longer term sustainability plan for their disability offer
8	Identify 'Disability Champions' within universal services to advocate on behalf of children and young people and extend the reach of their disability offer
9	All in-house partners to develop a 'Disability Offer'
10	Develop mechanisms which allow disability offers from universal partners to be assessed and feedback provided to inform and influence positive change
11	Evaluate children and young people's experiences in order that this can be used to challenge, lobby and promote inclusion
12	Develop options for the future of Short Breaks in line with the Children and Families Act 2014