5. Summary

This paper accompanies the Short Breaks Needs Assessment Refresh and Short Breaks Statement 2012/13. A new short breaks duty came into force in April 2011. As part of this duty every local authority has to prepare a statement for parents/carers and a range of services on what short breaks will be available in each local area.

The regulations state that by 1st October, 2011, all local authorities must publish a statement and review this annually for parents, carers in their area setting out:

- Details of the range of short breaks services provided.
- How to access the criteria against which eligibility to services will be assessed
- How the range of services is designed to meet the needs of children, young people and carers in Rotherham.

This is Rotherham’s Second Short Breaks Service Statement

6. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member is asked:

1. To endorse the Short Breaks Statement 2012/13.
7. Proposals and Details

A new Short Breaks Duty was introduced in April 2011 as part of this duty each local authority has responsibility to publish a Short Breaks Services Statement by 1October, 2011, and review this annually. The Short Breaks Statement provides information for services, practitioners, parents, carers in their area setting out:

- Details of the range of short breaks services provided.
- How to access the criteria against which eligibility to services will be assessed
- How the range of services is designed to meet the needs of children, young people and carers in Rotherham.

The Cabinet Member is asked to consider and endorse the statement which is appended to this report:

The details of the Short breaks services statement is that:

- A local authority must, by 1st October, 2011, prepare a statement for parents and carers in their area and review this annually (a "short breaks services statement") setting out details of—
  - (a) the range of services provided in accordance with regulation 4,
  - (b) any criteria by which eligibility for those services will be assessed, and
  - (c) how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of parents, carers in their area.
- The local authority must publish their short breaks services statement, including by placing a copy of the statement on their website.
- The local authority must keep their short breaks services statement under review and, where appropriate, revise the statement.
- In preparing and revising their statement, the local authority must have regard to the views of parents and carers in their area.

The new Short Breaks Duty builds upon the *Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme introduced in 2007 (Appendix A).

In preparing the Short Breaks Service Statement 2012/13 the Short Breaks Provider / Strategy Group undertaken a self evaluation process. This group consists of individuals from:

- NHS Rotherham
- The Voluntary and Community Sector Services
- Rotherham Parent Carer Forum
- Local Authority Representatives.

In parallel to the work of the Planning Group a series of consultations has taken place across Rotherham with a number of disabled children and young people, parents and carers, universal services and short breaks service providers. A detailed analysis of the consultation feedback can be found in the Short Breaks Needs Assessment Refresh 2012/13. The feedback gained has informed the recommendations set out within the Short Breaks Service Statement 2012/13.

It is good practice that the impact of short breaks as detailed within the Short Breaks Statement is under constant review.
The statement will be made available electronically and will be published on the local authority webpage: www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks. Parents and carers of the children on the voluntary disabilities register will be sent a copy of the statement via the post. The option for text to be available in alternative formats will be offered. An electronic version will also be sent to mainstream and special schools across the Borough.

8. Finance

In March 2011 until the end of March 2013 we commissioned a wide range of short breaks providers, principally from the voluntary & community sector, but also Rotherham Parents and Carers Forum, services from health, education and social care to continue to deliver short breaks activities. £900k is allocated from the Early Intervention Grant for this activity.

The Short Breaks Service Statement will be made available electronically at no cost. There will be a small print of 100 copies of the statement, which will be distributed to the parents/carers of children on the disability register at a cost £808.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Parents frequently comment on the difficulty of finding information about short breaks services. Families need to receive timely information about the full range of services in plain language and in accessible formats so they can make informed choices.

Families with disabled children need clear information to access services. This is why each local authority must publish a statement about short breaks services in their area. Failure to do this would be a breach of our legal responsibilities.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Work to support disabled children is a high profile service area both locally and nationally. The Green Paper, Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability was published by the Department for Education in March 2011.

A subsequent ‘Progress and Next Steps’ follow-up was published in May 2012. There are a number of proposals within the document which will significantly change our current policies, procedures and practice. These proposals include:

- Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) Birth to 25 years
- Joint Commissioning via pooled / aligned budgets
- Personal (Individual) Budgets
- Development of a “Local Offer”

Draft legislation on the Reform of provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs has now been published for consultation and will be introduced to Parliament in early 2013.

- All services for disabled children should be consistent with the CYP Plan, the Corporate Plan and the LSP Priorities.
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AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN (AHDC)

AHDC emphasised the importance of respite activities and respite care [known as ‘Short Breaks’] as essential tools to maintain and support families, ultimately in enabling parents to care and children to stay at home. The introduction of AHDC brought with it a challenge for each local authority to deliver a full service offer, which from April 1st 2011 has become a legal duty placed upon LA’s to deliver sufficient short breaks for disabled children and families. Further guidance is expected from the DfE on the content of the required Short Breaks Statement which each LA has to publish by 1st October 2011.

This offer includes providing 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.

The AHDC agenda has stated that LA’s should prioritise short breaks for children in groups A & B but not exclude children in group C. **Rotherham has extended the range of and access to short breaks services for children who fall into groups A, B and C from 237 in 2009 to 458 by the end of 2010.**

The table below shows the breakdown of children in groups A, B & C who were accessing short breaks via AHDC commissioned services at the end of March 2010 and the end of March 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>March 2010</th>
<th>March 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>195 children</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>58 children</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>66 children</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>319 children</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The increase in short breaks available in Rotherham has resulted in greater choice for children, young people and parents/carers. A recent consultation by Rotherham Parents Carer Forum (RPCF) shows that 39.2% of their members surveyed said that their child had attended some form of AHDC short break. Of these 96% stated that the short break had been a positive experience for the child and family as a whole.

In March 2011 we commissioned a wide range of short breaks providers, principally from the voluntary & community sector, but also RPCF, services from health, education and social care to continue to deliver short breaks activities. £900k is allocated from the Early Intervention Grant for this activity.

_JP_
_July 2012_