

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1	Meeting	Cabinet Member for Children & Education Services
2	Date	13 October 2014
3	Title	Aiming High for Disabled Children – Short Breaks Statement
4	Directorate	NAS

5. Summary

From 1st October 2011 all Local Authorities have had a duty to publish a Short Breaks Statement. Short Breaks Statements must be reviewed annually and include information for services, practitioners, parents, carers and young people in their area and include:

- 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

This reports sets out background information on the development of a Needs Analysis to inform the 2014-15 Short Breaks Service Statement and the Statement itself.

The report also includes information on commissioning activity to support the Short Breaks Service.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member is asked to:

- Approve the Short Breaks Statement 2014-15

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Short Breaks Needs Analysis

The Needs Analysis incorporates demographic information of service users and potential service users, met and unmet need, and makes recommendations on how to take the service forward.

Met need details what is currently available in Rotherham and how this addresses the needs of service users, including how the Council has acted on previous consultation.

Unmet need looks at stakeholder views of the current service and how the service could be improved. This information is based on consultation with:

- Children and Young People
- Parents and Carers
- Service Providers
- Universal Services

The Needs Analysis resulted in a number of recommendations which have been included in the Short Breaks Statement. The Needs Analysis is attached at Appendix A.

7.2 Short Breaks Statement

The new Short Breaks Duty builds upon the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme and requires that the Council reviews the Short Breaks Statement and publishes an update on an annual basis, usually each October.

The Statement has been updated by building on the Needs Analysis and working with partners and stakeholders to gather their views. A self-evaluation of the 2013-14 Statement was also undertaken by several officers involved in the Short Breaks programme. .

The refreshed Short Breaks Statement 2014-15 is attached at Appendix B and sets out current provision and recommendations which will be investigated and implemented, where applicable, during the year.

The statement will be made available electronically by publishing on the Council's webpage: www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks and on the new SEND Local Offer website: www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org Parents and carers of children on the voluntary disabilities register will be sent a copy of the statement via the post and an electronic version will also be sent to mainstream and special schools across the Borough.

7.3 Commissioning Activity

Short Breaks provision was re-commissioned from 1 April 2014 for a period of two years and comprises of the YMCA 'Yours Project' Weekday Evening

Project, the YMCA 'Yours Project' Weekend Project and the RMBC Autism Communication Team 'Chat n Chill' Project.

The commissioned provision will, as in previous years, work alongside officers to implement the recommendations outlined in the Short Breaks Statement.

8. Finance

The value of commissioned Short Breaks provision for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016 is £341,033.

The Short Breaks Service Statement will be made available electronically at no cost. There will be a small print of 1,000 copies of the statement at a cost of £1,026, which will be distributed to the parents/carers of children on the disability register with postage costs of £147. This cost will be met from the Short Breaks communications budget.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to publish a short breaks statement would be a breach of the councils legal requirement

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Children and Families Act 2014

SEND reforms

All services for disabled children and young people should be consistent with the CYPS Plan, Corporate Plan and LSP Priorities.

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