

AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

V1.7

NEEDS ASSESSMENT REFRESH 2014-15

EXTENDING AND IMPROVING SHORT BREAKS SERVICES

This project is made possible by



**Aiming High for
Disabled Children**

short breaks programme funding



Rotherham



Where Everyone Matters

CONTENTS

	Page Number
1. Introduction	3
2. Generic Borough Wide Information	3
2.1 Children's Disability Register	3
2.2 2011 Census Data	5
2.3 Special Education Needs	7
3. Met Need – Current Universal & Non-Specialist / Specialist Short Breaks Provision	9
3.1 Full Service Offer for the Provision of Short Breaks	9
3.2 What is available in Rotherham	10
3.3 Profile of Children & Young People Accessing Provision	14
3.4 Children's Disability Services	21
3.5 Personalisation	21
3.6 Complaints	23
3.7 Workforce Development	23
3.8 How we have Acted Upon Previous Consultation	24
4. Unmet Need – Consultation	26
4.1 Children & Young People	26
4.2 Parents/Carers	27
4.3 Service Providers	28
4.4 Universal Services	28
4.5 Self Assessment	29
5. Recommendations	30

1. INTRODUCTION

Following on from the 2013-14 Short Breaks Needs Assessment, the purpose of this document is to review provision for the financial year 2013-14 and provide an evidence base for provision of services for the financial year 2015-6.

Further information and background detail can be found in the 2013-14 Needs Assessment available at:

http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/907/short_breaks_needs_assessment_2013-14

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 2014.

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 1st July 2014 there were 681 children registered. By the first week in September 2014 (just prior to this document being finalised) this number had increased to 807; all the data within this document refers to the 681 children not the 807.

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 and Figure 2.2 shows a breakdown by gender.

Figure 2.1

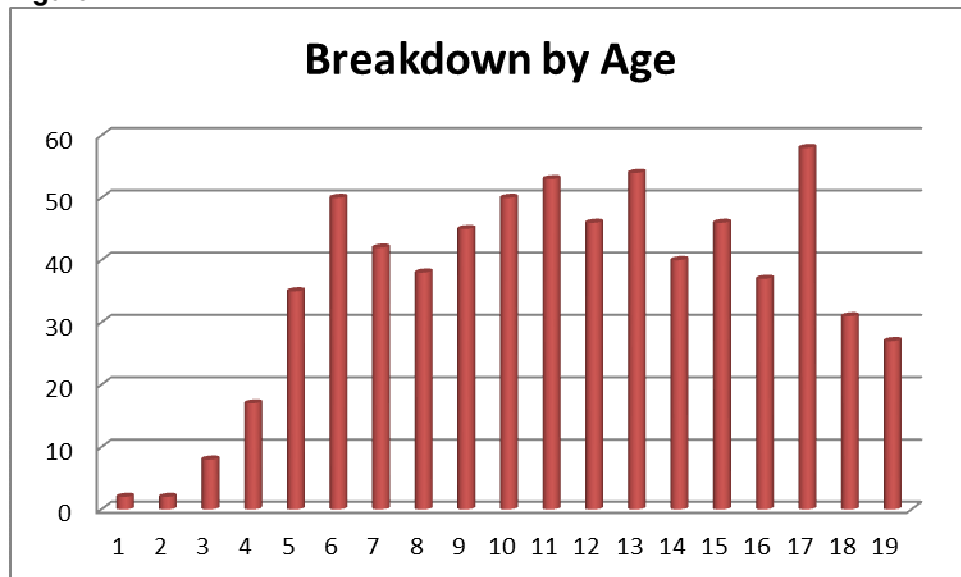
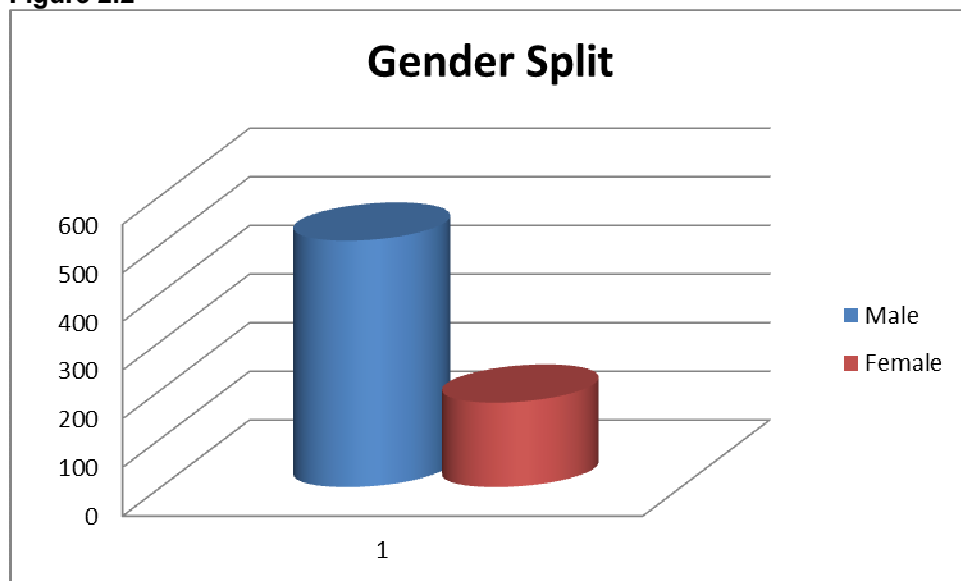
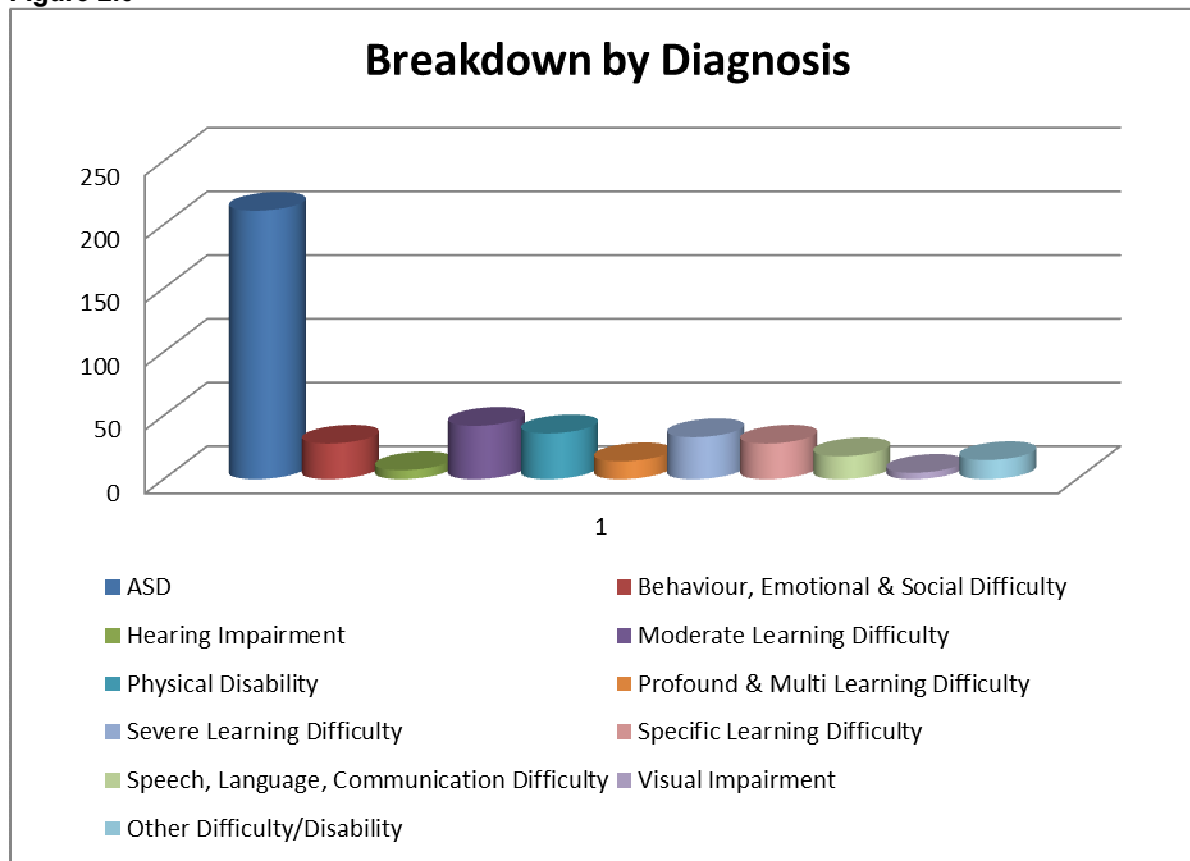


Figure 2.2



As might be expected few children under the age of 3 are identified as having a disability. The gender split shows a much higher number of boys (507) than girls (174) being registered. This reflects the number of children and young people on the register with a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) (211), which is diagnosed much more commonly in males than females. Breakdown by diagnosis/need is shown at Figure 2.3.

Figure 2.3



2.2 2011 Census Data

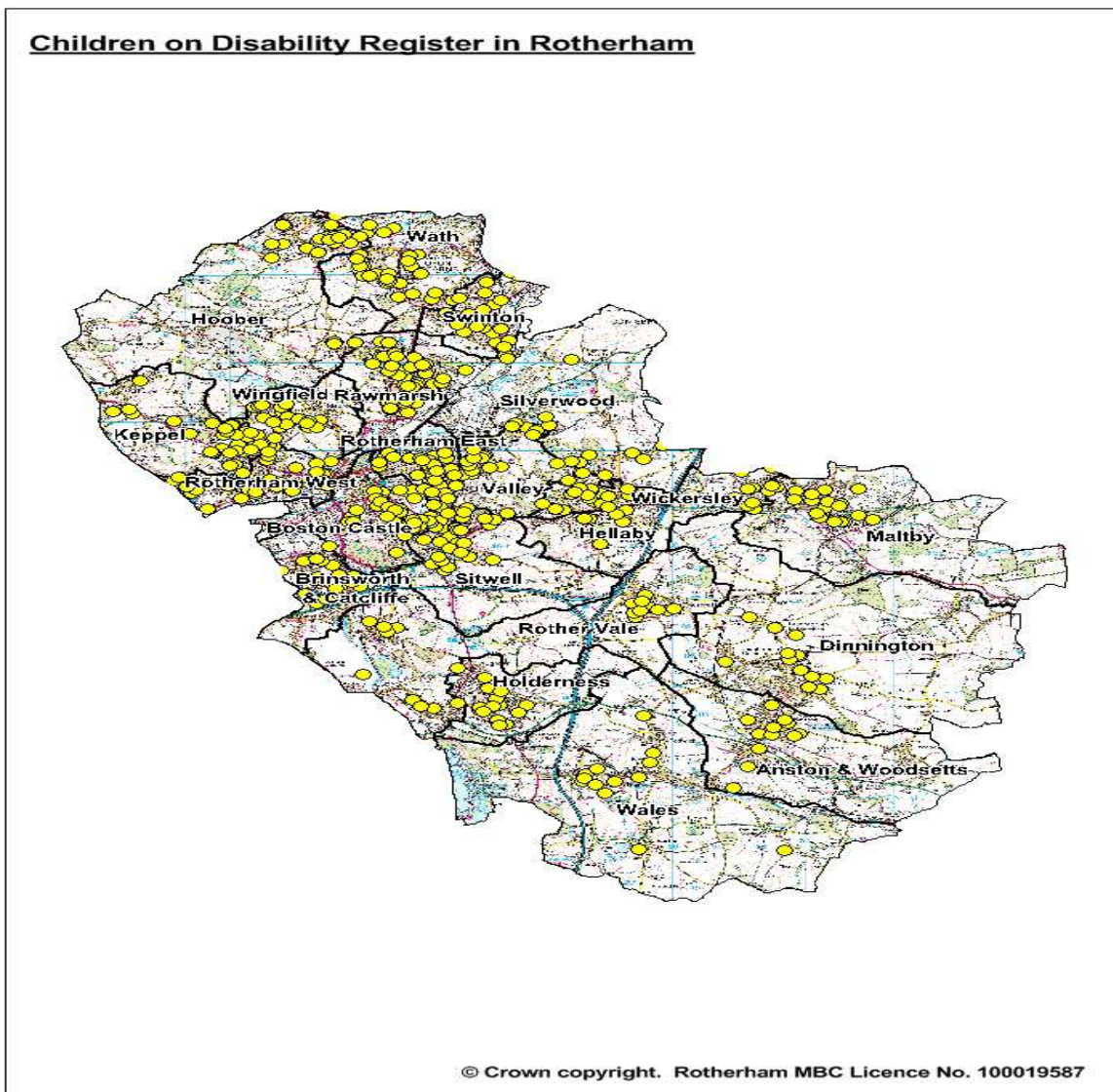
The 2011 Census data shows a total of 2,376 children aged 0-15 years with long term illnesses or disabilities which limit their day to day activities. The Census also shows 1,077 children with disabilities which limit their activities. Of these only 24.8% and 54.8% respectively had registered on the Children’s Disability Register.

Figure 2.4

Ward	No. of Children on Disability Register	Activities Limited	% of Children Registered	Activities limited a lot	% registered
Anston & Woodsetts	13	82	15.9%	31	41.9%
Boston Castle	38	118	32.2%	53	71.7%
Brinsworth & Catcliffe	25	100	25.0%	52	48.1%
Dinnington	17	126	13.5%	61	27.9%
Hellaby	20	90	22.2%	37	54.1%
Holderness	18	107	16.8%	42	42.9%
Hooper	24	97	24.7%	42	57.1%
Keppel	30	100	30.0%	48	62.5%
Maltby	22	139	15.8%	63	34.9%
Rawmarsh	46	121	38.0%	61	75.4%
Rother Vale	22	109	20.2%	47	46.8%
Rotherham East	44	176	25.0%	86	51.2%
Rotherham West	37	150	24.7%	64	57.8%
Silverwood	25	87	28.7%	43	58.1%
Sitwell	25	82	30.5%	36	69.4%
Swinton	21	104	20.2%	58	36.2%
Valley	45	174	25.9%	77	58.4%
Wales	18	77	23.4%	39	46.2%
Wath	38	120	31.7%	48	79.2%
Wickersley	25	110	22.7%	40	62.5%
Wingfield	37	107	34.6%	49	75.5%
Total	590	2,376	24.8%	1,077	54.8%

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

Figure 2.5



2.3 Special Educational Needs

In contrast to the number of children registered as disabled, there are 8,578 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.

Figure 2.6 shows the number of pupils by type of school and SEN designation. The number of SEN pupils fell from 10,738 in January 2009 to 9,054 in Jan 2013 and again to 8,578 by January 2014.

Figure 2.6

SEN by School Type January 2014

	Statements	School Action Plus	School Action	Total SEN
Nursery	0	43	27	70
Primary	169	1741	1875	3785
Secondary	153	634	1163	1950
Academy	126	807	1175	2108
Special	542	0	0	542
Pupil Referral Units	24	98	1	123
Total	1014	3323	4241	8578

The Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) reform is a transformation of the way support is provided for children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities up to the age of 25. Support will be focused on enabling children, young people and their families to achieve their long term aspirations.

The basis for the reform comes from the Government’s green paper ‘Support and Aspiration’, published in 2011. The proposals have been included in the Children and Families Act 2014, which has now been passed by Parliament. Further detail has been set out in the Code of Practice for SEN. The new laws and Code of Practice will be implemented from 1st Sept 2014.

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 reforms are some of the biggest changes in 30 years to Special Educational Needs and Disability provision.

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

3.1 Full Service Offer for the Provision of Short Breaks

The Full Service Offer for the provision of short breaks 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.

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 September 2013 to April 2014 72 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

32 Pre-school Playgroups
53 Day Nurseries
14 Children's Centres – with childcare
20 Out of School Clubs
15 Holiday Schemes
39 Breakfast Clubs

Further information is available at http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/200076/pre-schools/147/families_information_service

Integrated Youth Support Service

15 Youth Centres

Details are available at <https://public.rgfl.org/youthservice/>

Leisure Centers

4 Leisure Centres

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

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 Rotherham By the Sea, Fairs Fayre and Rotherham Show are also held throughout the year.

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 2013 to 31 March 2014, 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, attached at Appendix A, for this purpose. Service Providers prioritise children and young people in categories A and B, but do not exclude those who fall within category C.

From 1 April 2014 services were recommissioned following a tendering exercise in late 2013/early 2014 which included input from young people and parents/carers into the selection of providers.

Commissioned services from 2014 are detailed below.

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 663413

Yours Project Activities for children and young people aged 0-18 years with transport provided. The project is delivered by a range of providers to offer a range 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	Rotherham Leisure Complex, St Ann's Road	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 2014 and January to March 2015
Friday	Rotherham United Community Sports Trust – Fit 4 Football	Rotherham Leisure Complex, St Ann's Road	4pm – 6pm	8yrs plus	Term time only

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

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

Contact: 01709 334937

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

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 Carer's Forum 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: 07747 447392

<http://www.rpcf.co.uk/public/rotherham336.html.nc>

facebook page: rotherhamparentcarersforum

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.

Contact: 01709 822189

Sports Development 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 that be at recreational or competition level.

Contact: 01709 363355

Leon.wormley@rotherham.gov.uk

3.2.3 Specialist Short Breaks Providers

Specialist short breaks are accessed following a referral to, and an 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 2013-14

During the financial year 2013-14 over 2,350 sessions were accessed by 374 individual children and young people, as shown by figure 3.1. This is a substantial increase on the 1,430 sessions accessed by 574 individuals in 2012-13. This would show an average of 6 sessions per child through the year, compared with an average of 2.5 sessions in 2012-13.

It should be noted that reporting issues during the year have resulted in an amount of missing data which may account for the drop in individuals accessing provision.

Figure 3.2 shows the spread of attendance at sessions throughout the year. Previous years have shown a drop in sessions as the year progresses; this annual trend has been due to summer holidays and inclement weather across the winter. However, whilst there has been a dip in August and September, figures have remained fairly consistent across the winter which

may have been due to the milder weather we had. Figure 3.3 shows a comparison by quarter for the years 2013-14 and 2012-13.

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 3.4 demonstrates that this has been achieved with 50% of the individual children and young people attending sessions being from group A.

Figure 3.1

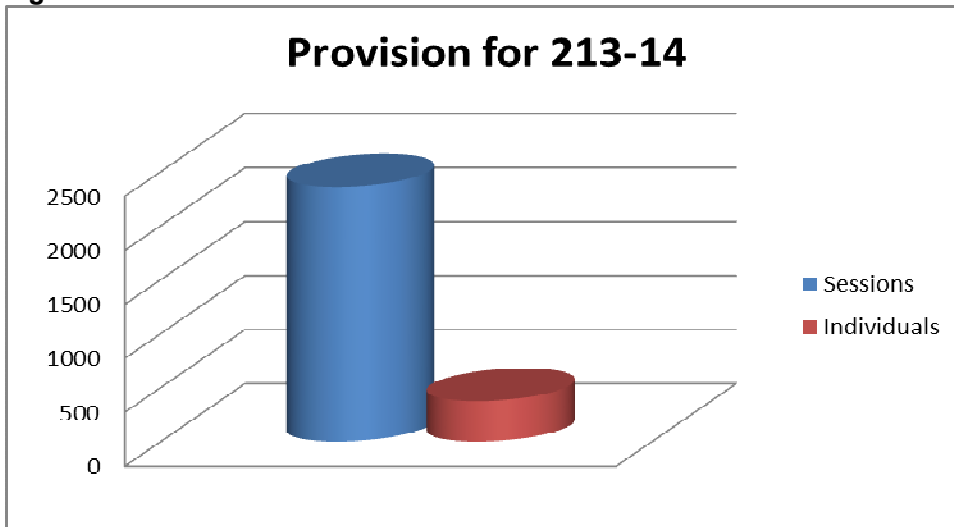


Figure 3.2

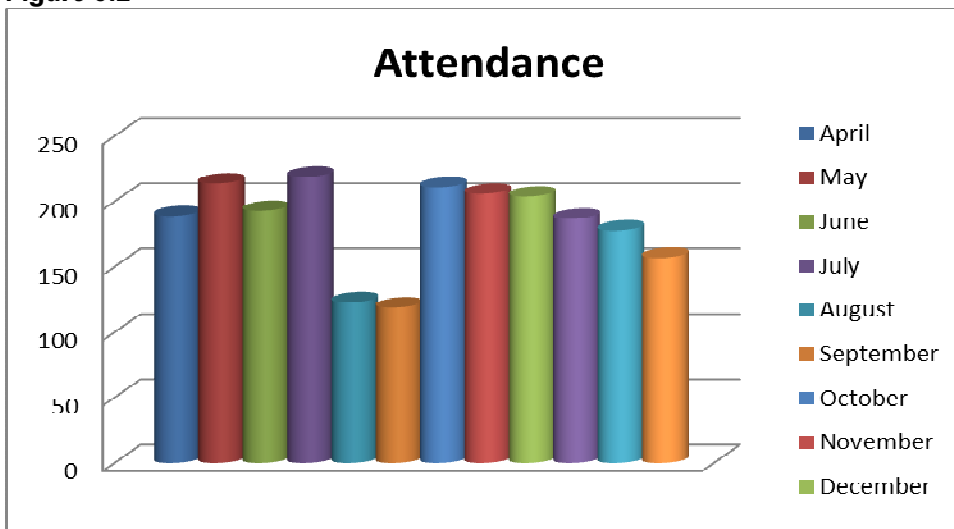


Figure 3.3

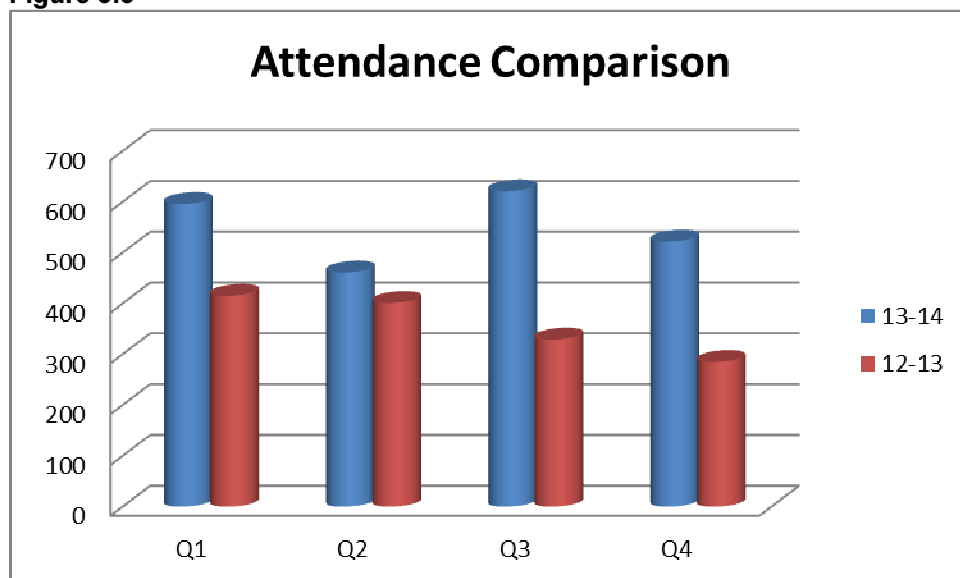
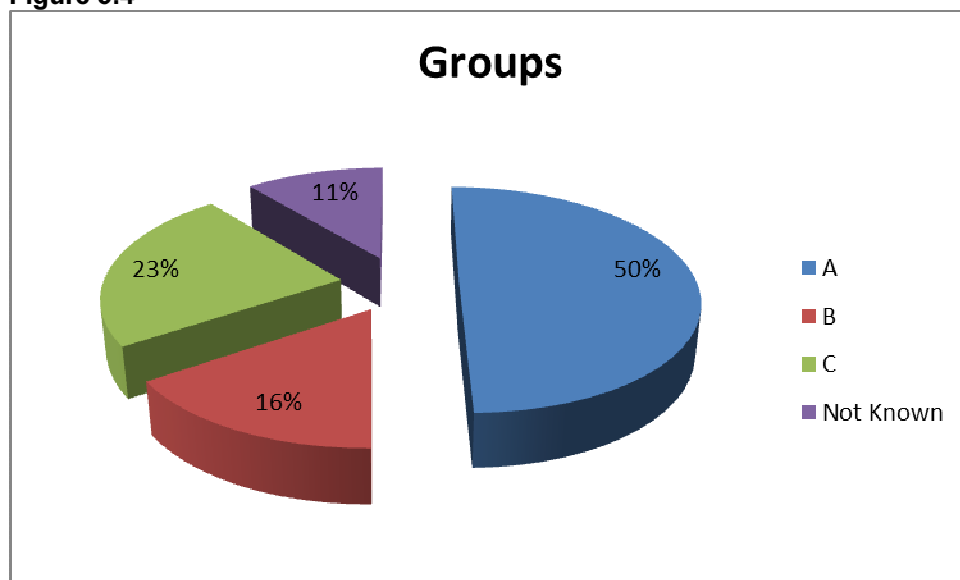


Figure 3.4



As well as ensuring that provision is appropriate by group it is also important to ensure that provision is accessible for all children and young people in the borough. Figure 3.5 sets out the Area Assemblies where the children and young people who accessed provision live.

Figure 3.6 compares the Areas Assemblies where the children and young people who accessed provision in 2013-14 live compared with the home Area Assemblies of the children and young people registered on the Disable Children’s Register and the Census data from 2011. Whilst the figures differ (the 2013-14 figures show children attending multiple times) the trend is the same with peaks at Rotherham South and Wentworth South and troughs at Rother Valley South, Rotherham South and Wentworth Valley. This supports the existing approach in locating and promoting activities.

Figure 3.5

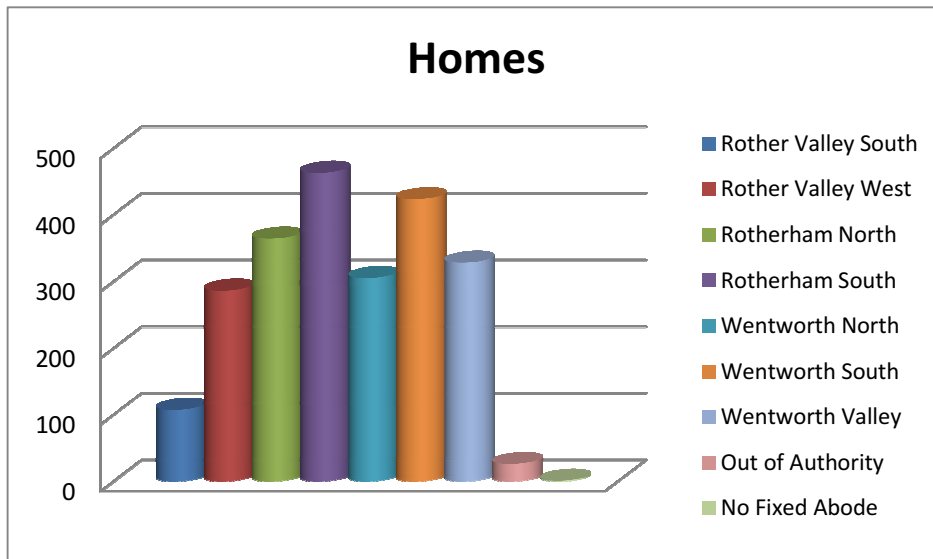


Figure 3.7 shows which Wards are included in each Area Assembly.

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 children and young people accessing Short Breaks, with double the number of boys than girls attending, as shown in Figure 3.8.

Figure 3.6

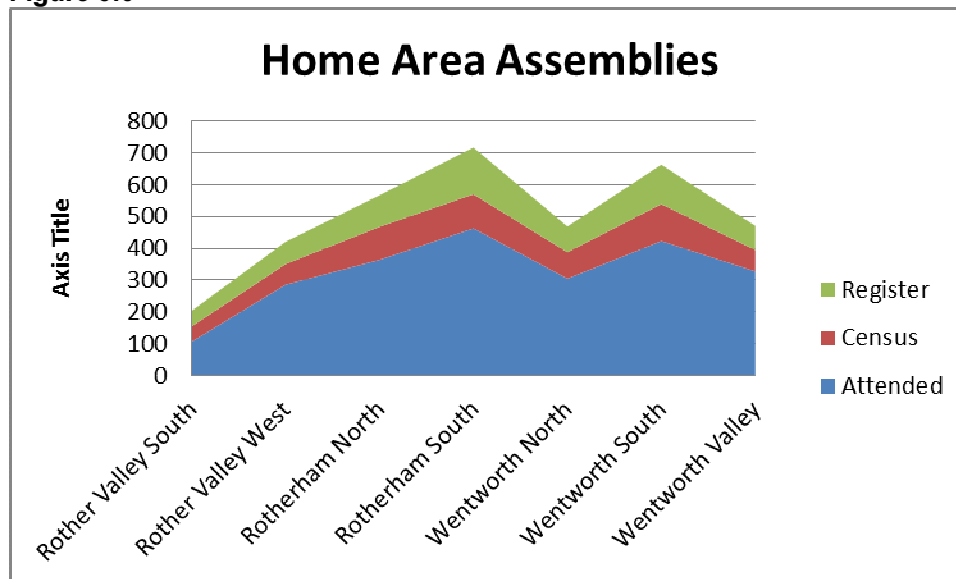
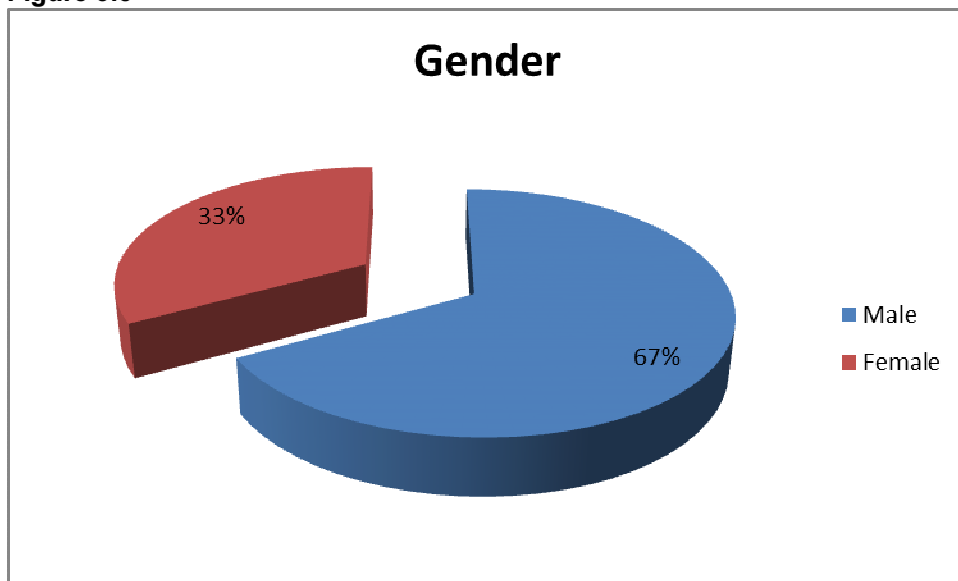


Figure 3.7

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	Hooper Swinton Wath	Wentworth South	Rawmarsh Silverwood Valley
Wentworth Valley	Hellaby Maltby Wickersley		

Figure 3.8



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 3.9. This data shows that children and young people aged 9-18 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 3.9

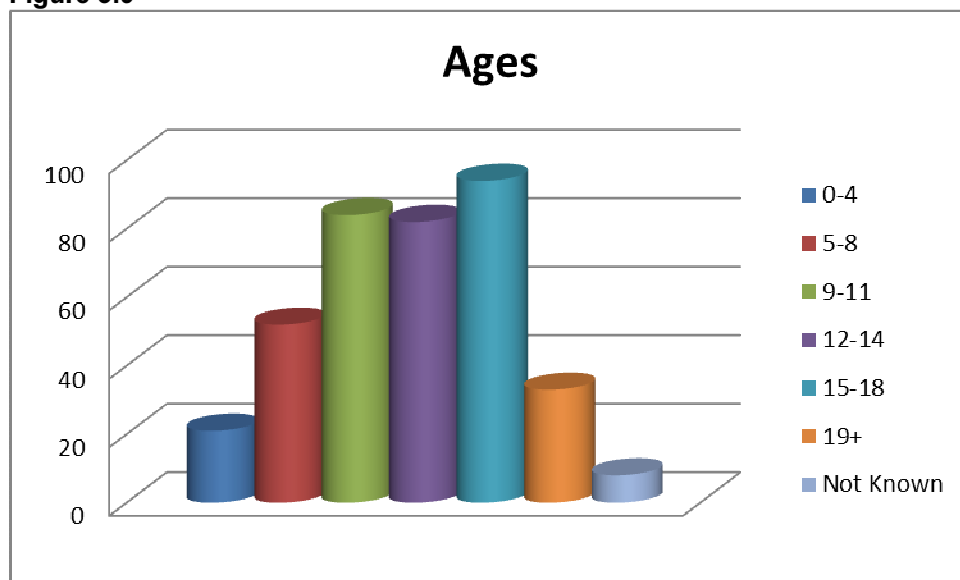
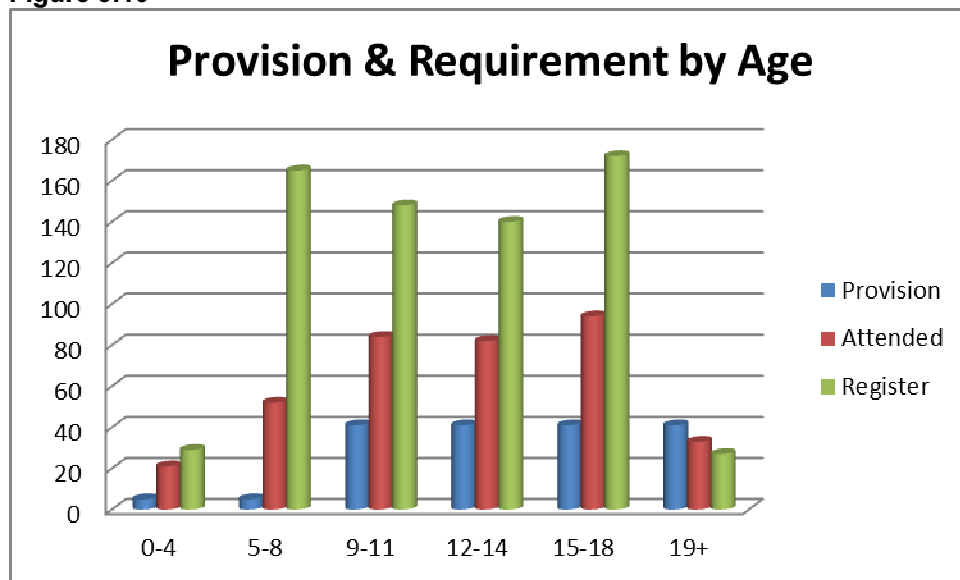


Figure 3.10 maps provision of groups by age range and compares this to attendees and numbers from the Children’s Disability Register. This information shows that the 5-8 age range has increased demand, yet there is currently only 1 club with a capacity of 10 children for disabled children under 8 years.

Figure 3.10



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 3.10 shows that 17% of sessions during the year 2013-14 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 3.11 shows the ethnic breakdown of the 17%. In line with local demographics the largest ethnic group accessing provision is Pakistani.

Figure 3.11

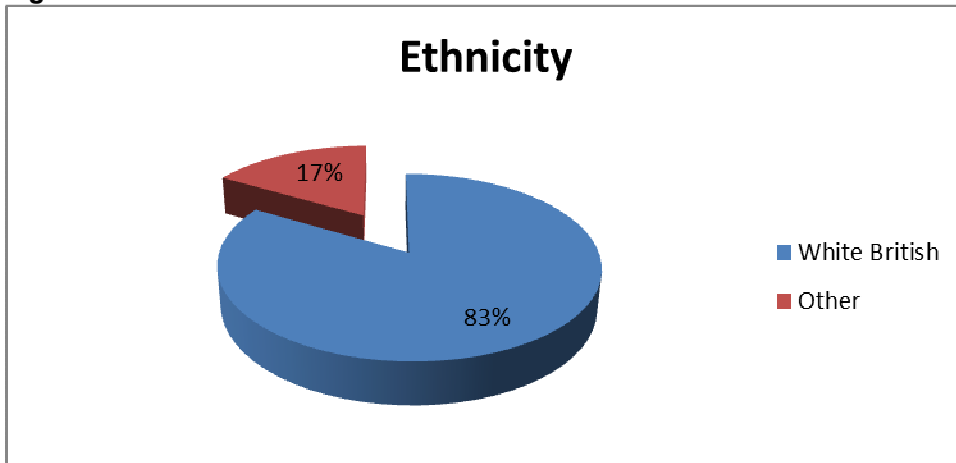


Figure 3.12

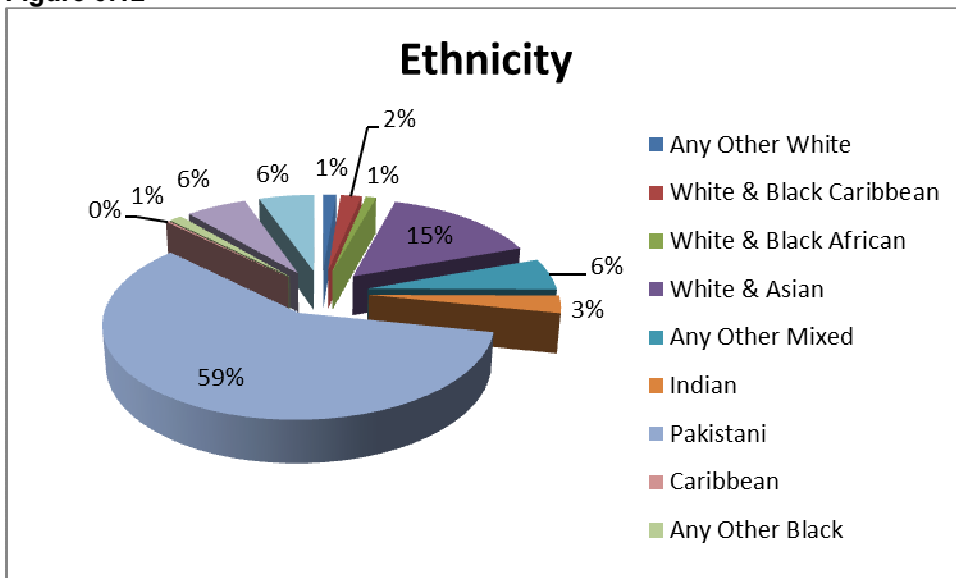
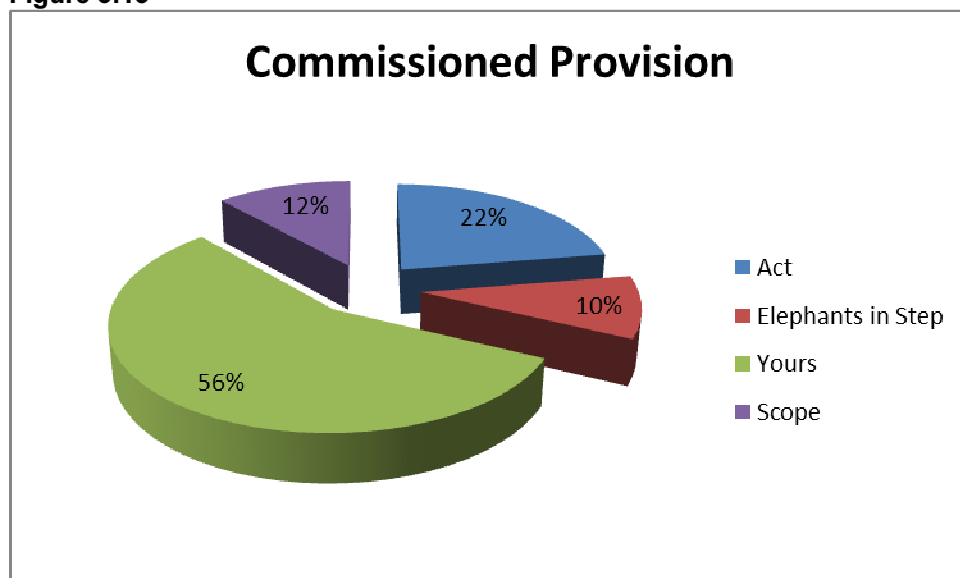


Figure 3.12 shows a breakdown of which services were accessed by children and young people during the last financial year of 2013-14. As the Yours Project provides the most activities and clubs it is not surprising that they have the highest numbers of children and young people accessing their services.

Figure 3.13



3.4 Children's Disability Services

The Disabled Children's Information Officer Post is funded through Aiming High for Disabled Children. 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

3.5 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 centred 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. Direct Payment figures for Child Disability for 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 are shown in Figure 3.14.

Figure 3.14

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	£230,558.72

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".

The list below will give some indication of the potential scope of a Direct Payment:

- 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.

3.6 RMBC Complaints

No complaints relating to the provision of short breaks were received by the Local Authority in the financial year 2013/14.

3.7 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.

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.

3.8 How we have acted upon Previous Consultation & Recommendations

3.8.1 Recommendations from 2012 Statement

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
1	Improve distribution of information particularly with families with children and young people in mainstream provision	Information Officer now in post and attending Parent Support Groups; Information Exchange bulletin produced and circulated each term with distribution including mainstream schools; refreshed social media presence	Yes, but work ongoing
2	Continue to work in partnership with current commissioned short break providers to develop a process which will aid sustainability of services in the future	Sustainability will be achieved by moving from a commissioned model to services with unit costing which are marketed through the Local Offer for parents and carers to access directly using personal budgets. This work is progressing.	Ongoing
3	Commission a wide range of activities	Services commissioned from April 2014 to March 2016. There are gaps in weekend and summer activities but as wide a range as possible, given financial restrictions, has been commissioned	Partially
4	Introduce a Mystery Shopping scheme, where by young people assess the quality and young people friendliness of provision	Not implemented due to lack of resource; to be revisited with colleagues in IYSS	Ongoing
5	Continue to support the AHDC Short Breaks Provider Forum and explore additional opportunities for partnership working	External representation on the Forum has reduced and a new parent rep is being sought. RMBC and providers continue to attend the Forum	Ongoing
6	Continue and enhance the quality assurance process to offer constructive feedback and create opportunities for short breaks service development	Processes and procedures have been reviewed and appropriate actions taken including revising forms and building in more interaction with children and young people	Yes

3.8.2 Recommendations from Children & Young People

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
7	Include information in the statement on provision for young people aged 18+	This is being included in the Rotherham SEND Local Offer	Yes
8	Work with service providers to implement service specific activity requests where possible and appropriate	Providers have implemented all practical suggestions and requests made, eg water activities and residential trips	Yes

3.8.3 Recommendations from Parents/Carers

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
9	The statement will include information on provision for young people aged 18+	This is being included in the Rotherham SEND Local Offer	Yes
10	Increase promotion of short breaks and improve circulation of information	Information Officer now in post and attending Parent Support Groups; Information Exchange bulletin produced and circulated each term with distribution including mainstream schools	Yes, but work ongoing
11	Raise comments made by parents and carers about the provision of disability friendly equipment in parks with the Parks & Open Spaces Department	Comments have been raised with the relevant department but require following up	Ongoing

3.8.4 Recommendations from Short Breaks Providers

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
12	Increase the promotion of short breaks at a strategic level within the Council	Short breaks and the AHDC agenda continue to be promoted with senior managers	Yes, but work ongoing
13	Ensure the views of children and young people are captured during the annual quality assurance visit	Staff undertaking visits are interacting more with the young people and are joining in activities rather than just observing	Yes, but work ongoing

3.8.5 Recommendations from Universal Services

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
14	Support universal services to include children and young people with disabilities	Work is ongoing, but with no budget available this relies on good will. The Early Years team work with pre-school providers through Inclusion Support	Yes, but work ongoing
15	Develop good practice case studies for circulation	Case studies are required from providers	Ongoing

3.8.6 Recommendations from Borough Statistics and Service Provider Data

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
16	Develop a suite of policies and procedures for use by all short break providers	Most policies and procedures used are RMBC/Safeguarding procedures	Yes
17	Develop training for providers	Staff share information and good practice but there is no budget available for training, new contracts require providers to fund their own training needs	No

3.8.7 Recommendations from Self Assessment

	Comment	Action Taken	Achieved
18	The provision of short breaks will be performance managed against outcomes for service users and their families/carers, delivering evidence of achievement for annual monitoring	New contracts align work to priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Integrated Youth Support Service outcomes. Further work is required to improve the alignment of monitoring	Ongoing
19	Set out clearly how to access personal budgets and promote access	Information in the statement has been improved for 2014. This work is being taken forward as part of the wider SEND changes.	Ongoing
20	Deliver wide consultation with children and young people for 2014 Needs Analysis	Improved consultation has been tied to quality assurance visits	Ongoing

4. UNMET NEED – CONSULTATION

4.1 Children & Young People

Consultation with children and young people attending short breaks is undertaken by providers throughout the year. Much of this consultation is around what they have enjoyed doing at the sessions and what would they like to do in the future; as such where suggestions and recommendations are practicable these are implanted by our providers on an ongoing basis. Some of the comments are wider ranging and relate to how the short breaks are run and managed with comments particularly being received around the frequency of short breaks.

Below are some of the comments received during the year from children and young people attending activities:

“I love coming to the youth group”

“It’s really good for socializing and having friends to talk to”

“I don’t mind the summer break because I went on holiday”

“I like playing games, everything is good”

“I like everything you do”

“Increase the age limit because I’ve only got 1 year left”

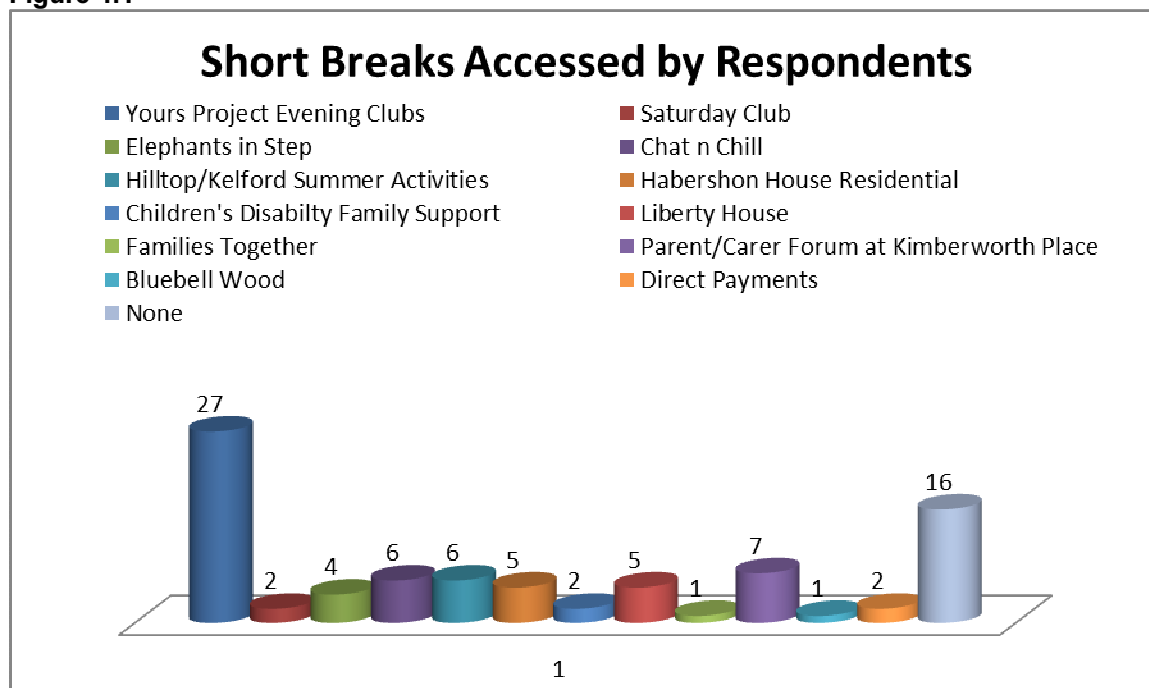
“I don’t like having to miss 6 weeks; I want to come every week”

Feedback is also sought during the year at one off activities, such as the residential visit to Habershon House in Filey. Positive comments about this break included visits to the beach, arts and crafts activities, playing games and sports and the social aspects. When asked what could be improved comments were mainly around the variety and quality of the food and the physical aspects of the building.

4.2 Parent/Carers

All parents and carers with children and young people on the voluntary Children’s Disability Register were sent a survey to complete to give their views on the short breaks services provided. 60 completed responses were received. Figure 4.1 shows which of the short breaks had been accessed by parents and carers during 2013/14.

Figure 4.1



When asked why they had not accessed any short breaks, 7 respondents advised that they were not aware of short breaks and 8 stated they were not aware of any short breaks other than the ones they were already accessing. There were 6 other respondents which included new diagnoses, awaiting diagnosis and children not being interested in attending.

30 responses were received to the question 'what works well' and included mention of specific activities 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 works well, the group are friendly, helpful and my son is happy when he is there.”

“...it’s been a huge relief having a few hours break.”

“My son joined in, he does not normally join in with other kids.”

15 responses were received to the question 'what does not work well' and were predominately around the frequency and availability of sessions (9). Comments were also received in respect of the sensory room at Kimberworth Place and these have been passed to the relevant officers. Some specific comments included:

"More choices, include the whole family or take children for longer."

"The transport was never on time and this caused high anxiety."

"It does not run in school holidays and this is often when we need this the most."

Responses to potentially contributing to short breaks resulted in the majority of respondents (26 out of 43) 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.

The final question put to parents and carers was to make any other comments they wished to. Comments were received on how complicated the process to access direct payments was. 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. This website 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 will make it easier for parents and carers to access the information they need, however organisations and activities are still being added to the website. The website can be accessed at <http://rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/>

4.3 Service Providers

Feedback from service providers is gathered on an ongoing basis through the year in a variety of ways. We meet on a monthly basis with providers as a group and there is an opportunity for any issues or concerns to be raised and we meet with providers individually on a quarterly basis to talk about how their service is performing.

The main concern providers have raised is how to continue to deliver high quality services to as many children, young people and their families as possible within ever tightening budgets. We have also discussed with providers how to ensure that a wide range of activities and fair access to all age groups is achieved.

4.4 Universal Services

Universal services are services which are available for everyone, such as leisure centres and parks, or activities such as bowling, dance classes or sports clubs. As part of the work to develop this needs analysis we spoke to a variety of providers of universal services to gather their views and experiences of disabled children and young people accessing their services.

A range of different providers, from Sea Cadets to dance clubs and drama groups told us that disabled children and young people did access their services and were able to give examples of some of the changes they had implemented to support them. Examples ranged from

instructions being written down for someone with a hearing impairment to staff undertaking specialist training to support a young person with cerebral palsy.

4.5 Self Assessment

As part of this review work we have undertaken a critique of our 2013-14 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 assessment we have developed recommendations to be implemented in the 2014-15 Statement to ensure it provides the information parents and carers need.

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 ONGOING FROM 2013 STATEMENT	
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
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
3	Continue to support the AHDC Short Breaks Provider Forum and explore additional opportunities for partnership working
4	Follow up on the provision of disability friendly equipment in parks with the Parks & Open Spaces Department
5	Develop good practice case studies for circulation
6	Performance manage short breaks against outcomes for service users and their families/carers, delivering evidence of achievement for annual monitoring
7	Set out clearly how to access personal budgets and promote access

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONSULTATION	
8	Consider possibilities to extend frequency of short breaks
9	Promote the Rotherham Send Local Offer website

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PARENTS AND CARERS CONSULTATION	
10	Promote the Rotherham Send Local Offer website

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SERVICE PROVIDER CONSULTATION	
11	Continue to promote short breaks and AHDC with senior management
12	Consider how to extend range and variety of short breaks available

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOROUGH STATISTICS AND SERVICE PROVIDER DATA	
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
14	Consider how to work with Universal Providers to improve access to disabled children and young people

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS	
15	Ensure Statement is outcome focused
16	Link Statement to SEND reforms
17	Include a link in the Statement to the local offer
18	Ensure eligibility criteria is clear
19	Enhance information on personal budgets and direct payments
20	Include information in the Statement on the quality assurance process