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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet - 16 October 2023

**Report Title**

Short Breaks Innovation Programme

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The Short Breaks Grant was made available to Rotherham under the open application round of the Short Breaks Innovation Fund (previously called the Better Integrated Care Fund) for year two of the programme between April 2023 and March 2024 for the Department for Education's (DfE).

This report requests that the Short Breaks Innovation Grant 2023 – 2024 is accepted and allocated against the priorities outlined within the Cabinet report. The report also provides an update on progress made on the grant since its commencement on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

**Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

1. Accept the Short Breaks Innovation grant funding from the Department for Education and approve the approach to management of the grant as outlined in the Cabinet report.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Part A Initial Equality Screening Assessment  
Appendix 2 Part B Equality Analysis Form  
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

**Background Papers**

None

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

## Short Breaks Innovation Programme

### 1. Background

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposals for the Short Breaks Innovation Grant, which Rotherham previously successfully applied for as part of year two of the short breaks innovation fund programme from the Department for Education (DfE). The report also provides an overview of progress on delivery of the grant since its commencement on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.
- 1.2 The current grant funding is a one-year allocation of £569,940 for delivery of the project during 2023/2024. Children accessing the project requiring overnight short breaks receive support from existing overnight short breaks provision. The cost of the delivery of existing overnight short breaks is not funded by the short breaks innovation grant, this is provided as matched funding by RMBC.
- 1.3 This project supplements existing short break provision by developing a short break hub incorporating community-based care and support for children aged 10 years upwards with complex SEND needs e.g., children and young people with Intellectual Disability and/or Social Emotional and Mental Health and/or Autism.
- 1.4 The Short Break Hub is linked to the current short break residential staff team with a psychologist, additional management capacity and specialist practitioners (residential and outreach/community based). A rolling programme of development and training of Personal Assistants is being developed to increase quality and capacity to enable step down and continued ongoing community-based support avoiding high-cost education and residential provision.
- 1.5 This short break offer (max 12 weeks) will combine an opportunity for overnight respite with an intensive behavioural offer linking school, community, and home-based support. A comprehensive holistic assessment will be undertaken, and positive behavioural support plan formulated, offering a joint intensive intervention in education and at home. This will transition into a sustainable short break offer utilising (improved) existing provision.
- 1.6 A minimum of 12 young people will be supported throughout the year. Selection will be via referral following discussion at Dynamic Support Register, Inclusion Panel, Joint Resource Panel, EHCP panel and/or Short Breaks panel.
- 1.7 The grant will be used to fund a team to deliver the short breaks, including a part time Psychologist, Deputy Manager, Senior Practitioners, Practitioners and Personal Assistants. Funding will also be available for training, staffing expenses, travel and community activities.
- 1.8 Additional key deliverables will include:
  - No of Young People Allocated to the Project for Support
  - No of Allocated Young People in local special education
  - No of Allocated Young People accessing local short breaks provision
  - Direct Payment/ PA Support
  - Overnight respite
  - Agency Support

- No of Allocated Young People in Independent Specialist Provision (ISP)
- No of Allocated Young People in residential school
- No of Allocated Young People in out of area residential
- No of Allocated Young People in tier 4 hospital
- No of Allocated Young People attending UECC (Urgent and Emergency Care Centre)
- Project Overnight respite days accessed
- Project Sessions delivered at home
- Project Sessions delivered in community
- Project Sessions delivered in school
- No of staff recruited to the project
- No of staff in post
- No of staff who have completed all bespoke training package
- No of PA sessions provided by staff outside of the project

1.9 The aim of the project is to successfully support the young people to access education in a local special school, at an annual average cost of £25k per annum per child. Short breaks would be provided based on assessed need at an annual average cost of £18k for PA support at home and in the community and respite of £57k per annum per child. The total cost to support a child in the community and to remain in a special school would total £100k per annum per child, compared to a residential placement of £300k per annum, per child.

## 2. Key Issues

2.1 The Short Breaks Programme is a DfE Major Project, and therefore required to meet internal DfE standards. To meet the requirements for the programme board and grant management protocols, monthly project updates must be provided. This will include:

- Highlight Report
- Financial Forecast
- KPIs

2.2 The table below shows the high-level reporting requirement for the existing grant 23/24:

Quarter	Outputs
Q1 - 01/04/2023 - 30/06/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Young People Allocated to the Project for Support</li> <li>• 2 Young People in local special education</li> <li>• 2 Young People accessing local short breaks provision</li> <li>• 1 No of Allocated Young People in residential school</li> <li>• 0 No of Allocated Young People in tier 4 hospital</li> </ul>
Q2 - 01/07/2023 - 30/09/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Young People Allocated to the Project for Support</li> <li>• 1 Young People in local special education</li> <li>• 1 Young People accessing local short breaks provision</li> <li>• 2 No of Allocated Young People in residential school</li> <li>• 0 No of Allocated Young People in tier 4 hospital</li> </ul>

Q3 - 01/10/2023 - 31/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Young People Allocated to the Project for Support</li> <li>• 2 Young People in local special education</li> <li>• 2 Young People accessing local short breaks provision</li> <li>• 1 No of Allocated Young People in residential school</li> <li>• 0 No of Allocated Young People in tier 4 hospital</li> </ul>
Q4 - 01/01/2024 - 31/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Young People Allocated to the Project for Support</li> <li>• 1 Young People in local special education</li> <li>• 1 Young People accessing local short breaks provision</li> <li>• 2 No of Allocated Young People in residential school</li> <li>• 0 No of Allocated Young People in tier 4 hospital</li> </ul>

2.3 Payments are made in arrears and claims can only cover actuals where there is evidence of spend (e.g., invoices, proof of payment, etc.). As per the conditions of the grant agreement, any funds that will not be used will need to be clawed back.

Quarter	Claims Forms Commission Dates	Payment Date
Q1 (April-June 2023)	10 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> July	3 <sup>rd</sup> August
Q2 (July-September 2023)	9 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> October	3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Q3 (October-December 2023)	8 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> January	3 <sup>rd</sup> February
Q4 (January-February 2024)	February 28 <sup>th</sup> – March 6 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup> March
Q4 (March 2024 Accruals)	4 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> March	31 <sup>st</sup> March

2.4 The aim of the project is to successfully support the young people to access education in a local special school, at an annual average cost of £25k per annum per child. Short breaks would be provided based on assessed need at an annual average cost of £18k for PA support at home and in the community and respite of £57k per annum per child. The total cost would total £100k per annum per child, compared to a residential placement of £300k per annum, per child. This presents an opportunity for resources to be redirected to enable continuation of the delivery model.

2.5 The DfE have confirmed there is an opportunity to apply for a second year of the Short Breaks Innovation Fund. The project team are currently scoping the potential for a second-year application taking into consideration project evaluation to date. The project could be extended to offer the service to more children and young people with similar needs, further developing the current short breaks/ shared care offer or widened in terms of age and/ or primary need. Year 2 applications will be assessed and awarded from November 2023 with successful projects commencing on 01/04/2024 for 12 months.

2.6 It is anticipated that the Personal Assistants' resource (who offer the outreach support to schools and families and who receive training and support) to grow and expand during the first year and for this to continue in future years.

2.7 The project launched for a period of mobilisation and implementation with delivery commencing in April 2023. Since commencement of the grant, 6 young people have received support. This is in line with the original project plan and associated outcomes of the grant. The remaining 6 young people are profiled to join the project in Q3 and Q4. As part of the monthly highlight reporting to the DfE a case study of one young person accessing the project has been shared to demonstrate positive outcomes and impact.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 Option one and recommended: That Cabinet approve the outline plans to accept the grant allocation for Rotherham as outlined noting progress made on the project to date.

3.2 Option two: That the funds are not accepted. Despite the risks of non-continuation of the funding this is not recommended as the fund presents an opportunity for innovation that would not otherwise be available.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 Key Stakeholders were engaged in the development of the proposal including NHS South Yorkshire Rotherham Place, NHS South Yorkshire ICB, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust, Rotherham Special Schools, Rotherham Parent Carer Forum.

4.2 Letters of support were provided by Rotherham Parent Carer Forum and NHS South Yorkshire ICB, Rotherham Place.

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 The first claim form for payment was completed by 17<sup>th</sup> July, with the first payment being received in August 2023.

5.2 Timelines for submission for year 2 are 15<sup>th</sup> September with decisions on successful applications from November 2023.

### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

6.1 As outlined in the report the Short Breaks Innovation fund is £569,940 for the 2023/24 financial year and the aim of the scheme is to support young people to remain in their families and avoid family breakdown and the young person being placed in an external residential placement at £300k per annum.

6.2 To avoid entry into care the two main elements are having an education placement and access to respite and short breaks, which provide support to the families.

6.3 As outlined the report there is an opportunity to submit an application for a second year of funding from the Short Breaks Innovation Fund and refinements to the original proposal are currently being drafted for approval.

6.4 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

## **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

7.1 Part 3 of the Children Act 1989 sets out local authorities' powers and duties to provide support services for children in need and their families. Short breaks can be provided by local authorities through the use of their powers under:

- section 17(6) of the 1989 Act, which grants local authorities a power to provide accommodation as part of a range of services in order to discharge their general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need; and
- section 20(4) of the 1989 Act, which grants local authorities a power to provide accommodation 'for any child within their area (even though a person who has parental responsibility for him is able to provide him with accommodation) if they consider that to do so would safeguard or promote the child's welfare'.

7.2 The short break provision as set out in the body of the report is consistent with fulfilling the statutory duty set out above and is in accordance with the requirements of the funding from the DfE.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

8.1 Where additional staff are required to deliver the Short Breaks then RMBC safer recruitment processes will need to be followed.

8.2 Recruitment to temporary roles in the current climate has been challenging. To mitigate this existing staff have been offered additional hours and the DfE approved use of the funding to cover agency staffing for personal assistants. In addition, consideration has been given to how recruitment to the short breaks project is aligned to recruitment for residential workers to maximise opportunities.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

9.1 Implications to vulnerable children and young people are covered within the report.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

10.1 Equality and human rights are considered within the report.

## **11. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 Any implications are included in Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

## **12. Implications for Partners**

12.1 Implications for partners are reflected in the report.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 These are referred to in the report and application (appendix one).

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	02.10.23
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	27.09.23
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	27.09.23

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