

Meeting:	Health and social care overview and scrutiny committee
Meeting date:	6 July 2016
Title of report:	Short breaks and respite care for children with disabilities update
Report by:	Director for children's wellbeing

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To provide an update to scrutiny on the progress made in respect of the findings from the task and finish group report on 'Short breaks and respite services for children with disabilities'

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) **the committee considers progress to date and identifies any additional information requirements or actions it wishes to recommend.**

Alternative options

1. The committee can note the update or request further information or action. If the committee agrees with the update it will be noted. Should any changes to the recommendations be identified they should be made having regard to the evidence available.

Reasons for recommendations

2. The committee commissioned a task and finish group to review short breaks and respite services for children with disabilities and reported to the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee in December 2015. It was agreed that an update would be provided to the committee after a six month period. The update against the

recommendations of the task and finish group is attached as appendix a, and is submitted for consideration and approval by the committee.

Key considerations

3. The recommendations of the task and finish group were agreed and reported to the committee on 14 December 2015; the committee agreed a number of recommendations; these are contained in appendix a.
4. This report and appendix a, is provided to update the committee in respect of the progress to date to address the recommendations made.
5. Some of the recommendations identified were to be addressed by the committee.

Community impact

6. Herefordshire's Children and Young People's Plan 2015 – 2018 has been agreed by the council and Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as well as other partners. It contains the collective goal to enable all children and young people in Herefordshire to have the best start in life, grow up healthy, happy and safe within supportive family environments. Specifically for children with disabilities, one of the aims is to enhance local support for families, including family based respite services by retaining budgets and reinvesting resources. The work contained in the recommendations enables the council and the CCG to support children with disabilities and their families through local provision, whilst also continuing to develop a range of short breaks provision.

Equality duty

7. As the provision of short breaks and overnight respite services continues to be developed, the council will pay due regard to its public sector equality duty under Section 149, General Duty whereby:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct ... prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it."

Financial implications

8. None

Legal implications

9. None

Risk management

10. The risks will need to be considered once the update against the recommendations are finalised.
11. The 1 Ledbury Road setting has historically been registered with the Care Quality Commission, but is required to be registered with Ofsted as a residential children's home, which the regulator has confirmed to the provider, Wye Valley NHS Trust (WVT). WVT had proposed that its Ofsted application would be submitted in March, but this has been delayed for internal reasons, described within appendix a. Ofsted is aware of the history of the service and the need to progress registration quickly. There has been ongoing contact between Ofsted and the provider. WVT submitted its full application in June and are awaiting confirmation. Further delays to registration pose a risk of potential contract breach, and to the council's ability to place vulnerable children in appropriately registered settings that could impact on its own Ofsted rating at a future inspection. WVTs progress toward submitting its Ofsted application is being monitored through monthly contract management meetings. The council's concern in this matter has been communicated formally to WVT.

Consultees

12. The recommendations from the scrutiny committee task and finish group were informed by the views of a number of parents and stakeholders.

Appendices

Appendix A – Update on the progress against the recommendations of the task and finish group report in respect of the 'Short breaks and respite services for children with disabilities'.

Background Papers

None