

Meeting:	Health and social care overview and scrutiny committee
Meeting date:	14 December 2015
Title of report:	Task and finish group: Review of provision of short break and respite services for children with disabilities
Report by:	Task and finish group (Chairman: Councillor J Stone)

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider the findings of the scrutiny task and finish group and to recommend the report to the executive for consideration.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) the committee considers the report of the task and finish group: review of provision of short break and respite services for children with disabilities, in particular its recommendations, and determine whether it wishes to agree the findings for submission to the executive; and**
- (b) subject to the review being approved, the executive's response to the review including an action plan be reported to the first available meeting of the committee after the executive has approved its response.**

Alternative options

- 1. The committee can agree, not agree or can vary the recommendations. If the**

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committee agree with the findings and recommendations from the review, the attached report will be submitted to the executive for consideration. It will be for the executive to decide whether some, all or none of the recommendations are approved. Any changes to the recommendations should be made having regard to the evidence available.

Reasons for recommendations

2. The committee commissioned a task and finish group to review the provision of short break and respite services for children with disabilities. The report of the task and finish group, enclosed as Appendix 1, is submitted for consideration and approval by the committee.

Key considerations

3. The task and finish group was set up as a direct result of concerns raised by the parents of service users to Members about short break provision and the possibility of the closure of the facility at No.1 Ledbury Road at a meeting of the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee on 22 July 2015. It was agreed at that meeting that a task and finish group be commissioned.
4. The task and finish group was established to review the current short breaks provision and determine whether this was meeting the needs of children and families as intended as well as reviewing the communications and plans for services in the light of the changes taking place at No.1 Ledbury Road.
5. At the meeting of Council held on 25 September 2015, it had been resolved that in view of the vision contained within the children and young people's plan that children and young people grow up healthy, happy and safe within supportive families and carers, the executive be asked to:
 - a) commit to the retention of the option for families and young people to access professionally staffed respite care in Herefordshire and beyond;
 - b) honour its obligations to actively involve parents/carers and children at all stages of any change programme; and
 - c) consider the recommendations from the task and finish group.
6. The appended report identifies 17 recommendations arising from the findings of the task and finish group

Community impact

7. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the Executive and, depending on their decision, community impact will need to be assessed.

Equality duty

8. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, equality and human rights issues will need to be assessed.

Financial implications

9. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will

need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, the financial implications of any of the recommendations will need to be assessed.

Legal implications

10. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, the legal implications of any of the recommendations will need to be assessed.

Risk management

11. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, the risk management implications of implementing any of the recommendations will need to be assessed.

Consultees

12. The consultees are detailed at section 4.4 of the appended report. Whilst the No.1 Ledbury Road facility is located within central ward, short break and respite provision is not ward specific.

Appendices

Appendix A – Task and finish group report: Review of provision of short break and respite services for children with disabilities

Background Papers

None