

Appendix 1 – Executive Response to recommendations from health and social care overview and scrutiny committee review of short break and respite services for children with disabilities

Recommendation No. 1	That a communication is sent to all elected members reiterating that all councillors have a duty of care			
Executive Response	Accepted in part. Whilst the principle of ensuring members are aware of their responsibilities and duties a single communication is not necessarily the most effective way of embedding that understanding. Assuming that this recommendation relates to the statutory duties which elected members have in relation to children overall and children with disabilities specifically, the training which all members have participated in has included reference to those duties. Those training materials, together with summaries of the responsibilities of each service and key contacts for further advice or information remain available for all members to reference on the dedicated 'councillors handbook' website. Periodic briefings are sent to members via the weekly ward members update and all reports informing decisions set out the legal duties of the council. The matter will be considered by the member development and training working group to ensure future training and development activities meet the need.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Refer the recommendation to the member development and training group to inform future training and development activity.	Governance manager	Ongoing	Members are confident in their understanding of their duties in relation to children.	
Recommendation No. 2	That specialist foster carers are made aware of the potentially refundable cost involved in adapting their properties were they to cease foster caring			
Executive Response	Accepted. This will be included in the work that the fostering team undertake with individual families and will be informed by legal services.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Information for potential specialist foster carers includes expectations for refundable costs in relation to adaptations	Team manager, SGO & Kinship hub	March 2016	Prospective foster carers are aware of the expectations and sign up to them when they become specialist foster carers	
Recommendation No. 3	That appropriate outcomes and measures regarding short breaks and respite services are incorporated into Herefordshire Council's Corporate Plan under the priority: Keep children safe and give them a great start in life			
Executive Response	Accepted in part. This is an area of focus in the Herefordshire Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18 which the Council has signed up to. Health and social care overview and scrutiny committee could receive an update on outcomes in this area as part of the report on the Plan.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Provide updates on the provision of short breaks as part of the report on the progress of Herefordshire's Children and Young People's Plan	Assistant director education and commissioning	In line with reporting timetable to HSOSC	HSOSC informed of performance of short break provision	

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Recommendation No. 4	That the council looks to increase the use of buddying, also giving consideration to whether an in-house buddying care model might be more suitable than the present arrangements			
Executive Response	Accepted. The buddying service is due to be recommissioned by March 2017 and these considerations will form part of the recommissioning exercise			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Recommission a range of short breaks by March 2017	Commissioning lead, children & families	March 2017	A range of short breaks are in place from March 2017 and are highly valued by families	
Recommendation No. 5	That consideration be given to re-designating No.1 Ledbury Road as a short breaks facility, rather than as a Children's Hospital. This may afford No.1 Ledbury Road more flexibility in that they could employ social care rather than medical staff			
Executive Response	Accepted in part that it is for the provider (Wye Valley Trust) to determine this. The proposal being made to Cabinet on 21 st January includes the requirement to re-designate No 1 Ledbury Road as a condition of contract. This is subject to consultation and agreement by Wye Valley NHS Trust.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Cabinet approval of the way forward	Director for children's wellbeing	21 January 2015	Cabinet approve the way forward and enable contract negotiations to take place.	
Recommendation No. 6	That the council, the CCG and WVT ensure that No.1 Ledbury Road remains open and jointly funded whilst the re-designation process is undertaken as a matter of urgency			
Executive Response	Accepted in part as Wye Valley Trust is not a funder of the service, but a provider. The Clinical Commissioning Group, the Council and Wye Valley Trust are committed to keeping 1 Ledbury Road open as far as is practically possible for 2016/17. By seeking to have a contract for a further 12 months for a model of provision Wye Valley Trust have indicated that this will better enable them to staff the unit to reduce the likelihood of closure. The future is in part dependent upon continued funding from the CCG.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Cabinet approval of the way forward	Director for children's wellbeing	21 January 2015	Cabinet approve the way forward and enable contract negotiations to take place.	
Recommendation No. 7	That regular assurance is provided to the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Healthwatch in respect of the provision of short breaks and respite services across the county.			
Executive Response	Accepted. The health and social care overview committee (HOSC) is responsible for its own work programme and can therefore determine how and when it wishes to receive assurance. The HOSC may wish to task the task and finish group in recommendation 18 to fulfil this responsibility and involve Healthwatch in its work.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

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For HOSC to determine				
Recommendation No. 8	That the reinstatements of referrals to No.1 Ledbury Road is implemented with immediate effect			
Executive Response	Not accepted. The current provision at 1 Ledbury Road is unable to meet all the provision it is contracted for. It is not therefore considered appropriate to extend referrals at the current time.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
No action proposed				
Recommendation No. 9	That monthly meetings continue to be held by the council, the CCG and the WVT in order to keep the children and parents presently accessing the service, and the task and finish group appraised of future plans of the service			
Executive Response	Accepted. Meetings between the three agencies have been taking place on a weekly basis and will continue to be held regularly this year. The meetings are currently held with families representing the Save No 1 Ledbury Road group. Future consultation arrangements will include all families with an interest in the matter.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Meetings continue to be held between Council, CCG and Wye Valley	Assistant director education and commissioning	Through 2016	Service provision is developed through a joint approach.	
Consultation takes place on the future provision at 1 Ledbury Rd	Assistant director education and commissioning	Feb 2016	Provision at 1 Ledbury Rd from 1 April 2016 is informed by consultation with children and parents/carers.	
Recommendation No. 10	That a lead member is identified to help improve communications between partner organisations			
Executive Response	This is for HOSC to determine.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
For HOSC to clarify				
Recommendation No. 11	That an action plan be agreed for the delivery of the executive's requirement from the meeting of the council on the 25 September to retain options for access to professionally staffed respite care in Herefordshire and beyond			
Executive Response	Agreed. The report going to Cabinet on 21 st January sets out the timescale for continuing the option for a further 12 months. Subsequent developments will be the subject of a plan as set out below.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Cabinet approval of the way forward	Director for children's wellbeing	21 January 2015	Cabinet approve the way forward and enable contract negotiations to take place.	

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Recommendation No. 12	That information is communicated effectively to parents and service users in respect of the potential different models of service provision			
Executive Response	Agreed. Working with parents and organisations such as Herefordshire Carers should enable communications to be more effectively developed. Children’s Wellbeing staff have also been working with parents and carers in the Ross area to communicate in a different way. This is alongside working with parents and carers through Herefordshire Carers Support.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Consultation takes place with parents and carers and children on the potential new service model at 1 Ledbury Rd	Assistant director education and commissioning	Feb 2016	Parents, carers and children are able to provide their views	
Consultation takes place with parents and carers and children on the recommissioning of short breaks provision.	Commissioning lead, children & families	2016-2017	Parents, carers and children are able to provide their views	
Recommendation No. 13	That the needs and concerns of parents and service users are included as part of the commissioning of any new services			
Executive Response	Agreed. This is encompassed in the response to recommendation 12			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
This is encompassed in the response to recommendation 12				
Recommendation No. 14	That consideration is given to whether there are other suitable residential facility settings within Herefordshire that could provide respite care			
Executive Response	Agreed. This has been carried out and are being used. Officers are continuing to work with other providers to see if further services can be offered in Herefordshire.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Continue to work with a range of potential short breaks providers to widen the offer in Herefordshire	Commissioning lead, children & families	March 2017	Families are able to have their needs met by a range of short breaks providers	
Recommendation No. 15	That for each action, a clear timeline is agreed and produced by the council, the CCG and the WVT. The associated impacts upon current service users should also be considered. This information should also be shared with Healthwatch			
Executive Response	Agreed and covered by the response to recommendation 11.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Covered by the response to				

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recommendation 11				
Recommendation No. 16	That a more entrepreneurial approach is taken at No.1 Ledbury Road to offer a wide range of chargeable services, thus improving its financial viability.			
Executive Response	Accepted in part in that this is something for the provider of 1 Ledbury Road to consider. As part of the overall approach to short breaks provision, the executive supports a model where providers recognise that funding does not just have to come from the council or the clinical commissioning group. As set out in the cabinet report there are some providers and charities who the council will be discussing future models with, taking a more entrepreneurial approach. By awarding a contract for 2016/17 this would give the provider scope to move forward.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Covered in other responses.				
Recommendation No. 17	That foster carers interested in providing short break respite care for disabled children receive their training at No.1 Ledbury Road, in order to fully appreciate the demands and responsibilities they would be taking on			
Executive Response	Accepted in part. Where practical this will be done, but foster carers will also receive a wider range of training than mentioned in the recommendation to support their development, some of which will take place elsewhere.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Training of prospective foster carers to appreciate the needs of children taken place at 1 Ledbury Rd	Team manager, SGO & Kinship hub	Ongoing once carers have been identified	Prospective carers are aware of the needs of children that might be in their care.	
Recommendation No. 18	That the task and finish group remains in place for scrutiny as and when required			
Executive Response	For scrutiny to decide and determine the action required			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
For HOSC to determine				