

Appendix B

Short breaks for disabled children Commissioning Intentions 2017-2020

Commissioning intention	Notes
Market Development	Families, professionals and partners all report that availability, and information about, short break across the tiers continues to require improvement. Ongoing consultation is asking what practical measures could have a beneficial impact. The intention is to make new investment in supporting organisations and providers to either improve their understanding of disability issues, offering training or equipment, or coordinating and promoting information about services.
Targeted daytime activities	Families continue to report that more choice and availability of targeted daytime activities specifically for disabled children is needed. Analysis of relevant SEN (special educational needs) data suggests that significantly more children may need such support than are currently able to be provided for. The current contract supports around 70 children per year, whereas the application of SEN bandings indicates that up to 175 children may benefit from access to a targeted activity. Assuming that efficiencies can be achieved in the cost of specialist services, the intention would be to make additional investment in targeted daytime activities. Subject to consultation, the intention would also be to review existing service eligibility criteria to ensure that resources are being targeted effectively. This may mean that around 20 current users would not be eligible to access a place funded by the council, however the provider may still be able to offer a place from within its other resources.
Specialist daytime activities	Approximately 40 children per year will need specialist daytime short breaks. Around 7,000 hours per year are expected to be needed, mostly for males. The intention is to develop the tested buddying model to offer more socialisation or friendship-group based activities, where appropriate, rather than the current, more rigid, 1:1 Support model. At the recommendation of HOSC, there is also an intention to consider the capabilities and costs for specialist daytime activities to be delivered in-house by the council as an alternative or complimentary option.
Specialist family-based overnight breaks	It is not intended to include family-based short breaks in the recommissioning exercise as the new service is being established in 2016. Carer recruitment is progressing and by the end of 2016, it is expected that this new service will be providing short break placements to 6 children. This will increase up to 15 children supported with up to 600 nights per year in subsequent years. If needed, additional short breaks can also be sought from independent fostering agencies through existing contract

	<p>arrangements is establishing a new family-based overnight short breaks service.</p>
<p>Specialist residential overnight breaks</p>	<p>Specialist breaks may be offered following a social care assessment. Forecasts have been informed by current known need of individual children and statistical neighbour comparisons. Analysis has shown that Herefordshire's provision of overnight breaks has been atypical, with a much higher proportion of children receiving 75 or more nights per year.</p> <p>Improving assessment practice and availability of a range of overnight services is expected to continue the delivery of efficiencies from historic levels. By 2020, it is expected that around ten children will require such breaks per year, equating to 500-550 nights annually.</p> <p>The intention will be to move to a more flexible purchasing system, such as a framework agreement, rather than the historic block contract arrangements and to secure placements at nightly costs closer to the market rate of £300-400 per night. It is expected that this approach will deliver efficiencies that can be reinvested in improving the short breaks offer across all tiers.</p>