

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 05 October 2021

<b>TITLE</b>	Short breaks recommissioning		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	Citywide		
<b>Author:</b> Gail Rogers	<b>Job title:</b> Head of Service – Children’s Commissioning		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> The Mayor’s Office	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Hugh Evans, Executive Director People		
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff			
<b>Decision maker:</b> Officer			
<b>Decision forum:</b> Officer Meeting			
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>			
To gain approval to recommission the whole short breaks offer. To gain approval to use the extensions in the targeted Short Breaks contracts to allow enough time to do this			
<b>Evidence Base:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Short Breaks are preventative, family support services that provide a disabled child or young person with a break. They can be at any time ranging from an hour to a day, evening, overnight, weekend or holiday, depending on the needs of the family. Short Breaks allow parents and carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities and give children and young people the opportunity for a positive experience.</li> <li>2. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide a range of Short Break services that are sufficient to help carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively.</li> <li>3. Short Breaks in Bristol are jointly funded between the LA and the CCG, with the CCG contributing 18% of the budget and the LA 82% into a pooled Section 75 funding arrangement. Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 allows for the arrangements between health bodies and local authorities, including pooled budgets, for the health-related functions of the local authority where this is likely to lead to an improvement in the way the functions are exercised.</li> <li>4. Our current targeted Short Breaks contracts were recommissioned in April 2019 for a 3 year contract period with 2 one year options to extend; at this time there was no review of specialist Short Break services.</li> <li>5. The 2019 Targeted Short Breaks Commissioning Plan and the proposal to delegate authority to award the contracts to the Executive Director - Adults Children and Education in consultation with the Executive member for Women, Children and Families (Young people) was approved by cabinet in October 2018.</li> <li>6. Since the current contracts were let there have been a number of changes that the Commissioning Team have managed so as to mitigate the potentially significant impact on services to children and young people. These changes include;             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The withdrawal in 2019 of the special schools from a partnership agreement to deliver playschemes on their sites using their staff during the summer and Easter holidays</li> <li>○ The closure of 2 key organisations supporting disabled children (PlayBus in 2019 and Hop Skip and</li> </ul> </li> </ol>			

- Jump in 2020)
  - o Covid-19 pandemic

7. In responding to the above, the Commissioning Team have had to be flexible, creative and consult with families to re-design and pilot different provision. Feedback from parent carers and children and young people has been largely very positive. The learning we have taken from developing new services in response to the challenges we've faced gives us a good basis upon which to fully co-produce a new offer that best meets children, young people and families' needs as opposed to one which just replicates what has gone before. We feel that this presents us with a real opportunity to analyse need, take account of some of the significant changes that have occurred since 2019 and the pandemic, co-construct with families, ensure we have the right providers, develop the market where we have gaps and learn from best practice elsewhere. Future arrangements will focus on inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Short Break services. The value of the Short Breaks budget remains unchanged. Our aspiration is for disabled children and their families to be included in their local communities and to feel a sense of belonging. We want to ensure that people have real choice and control to access the provision they need and that best suits them and their family. To achieve this vision, we need to ensure there is an inclusive city-wide offer with our commissioned services and internal provision forming one element of a much wider offer.
8. Currently the budget is heavily invested in specialist services, we need to review this to ensure that we have the right balance of services and investment to best meet children and families' needs and particularly to;
  - a. meet demand from children who are eligible for specialist services that want to use other services whilst also ensuring we can provide opportunities for those families who are only eligible for universal and targeted support and have no other access to support
  - b. build additional capacity as demand for support increases from eligible families who don't currently access Short Break services.
9. We are therefore seeking approval to recommission the whole Short Breaks offer (universal, targeted and specialist Short Break services) to ensure that it works as an integrated system of support. To ensure we fully co-produce the new offer, the whole process should take 18 months to 2 years. So, we are also seeking approval to use the extensions in the current targeted contracts. The contracts end in March 2022, we hope to have new services in place by April 2023 and so we will need to extend the contracts by one year. We may need to extend this by a further 6 months until October 2023 depending on the progress made.
10. The CCG have endorsed this approach and we have agreement to begin the work.

### Short Breaks budget

These figures are based on the 2021-22 allocations.

Targeted Short Break service	Provider	Annual budget
Lot 1: Out of school and holiday targeted Short Breaks	WECIL led consortium	£274,995
Lot 2: Overnight residential holiday Short Breaks	Action for Children	£71,500
Lot 3: School holiday Short Breaks	WECIL and Sense	£95,000
Bristol Autism Project	FACE Filton	£68,000
Transport	Various	£10,000
<b>Total budget for 12 months</b>		<b>£519,495</b>
<b>Total budget for 18 months</b>		<b>£779,242.50</b>
Specialist and in-house Short Breaks	Provider	Annual budget
The Bush	Bristol City Council	£696,502
New Belbrook	Bristol City Council	£656,619

Family Based Short Breaks	Bristol City Council	£232,440
Children's Direct Payments	Bristol City Council	£1,013,420
Family Support and Inclusion Workers	Bristol City Council	£212,460
Short Breaks Co-ordinator	Bristol City Council	£15,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,826,441</b>
<b>Overall total Short Breaks budget for 12 months</b>		<b>£3,345,936</b>
<b>Overall total Short Breaks budget for 18 months</b>		<b>£5,018,904</b>

**Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the recommissioning of the whole Short Breaks contracts (including universal, targeted and specialist Short Break services) for three years (with 2 additional 1 year options) at a cost of £3,345,936 per annum.
2. Approve the extension of the targeted Short Breaks contracts up to October 2023 at a cost of up to £779,243
3. Authorise the Executive Director People in consultation with the Mayor to take all steps required to extend the current contracts and procure and award the recommissioned Short Breaks contracts.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:** This proposal directly relates to the follow Corporate Strategy Themes:

1. Empowering and Caring – “Giving children the best start in life” through access to high quality support services for children and parents/carers, and preventing family breakdown
2. Fair and Inclusive – “Reduce educational inequality”, to improve confidence and wellbeing of children and young people and decrease anxiety and stress to access education provision
3. Wellbeing – “Embed health in all our policies to improve physical & mental health and wellbeing”, particularly the commitment to working with parents to deliver strategic approaches to reducing poor mental health

**City Benefits:**

1. This proposal provides support to parents/carers and children and young people with SEND, preventing family breakdown leading to poor outcomes for children and high costs to the local authority, as well as fostering a greater sense of inclusion and belonging in the city for parents/carers and children, as evidenced by parental feedback.

**Consultation Details:**

1. As set out above, full co-production and consultation is planned for the Short Breaks recommissioning.

**Background Documents:**

1. [The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011](#)
2. [Children and Families Act 2014](#)
3. [Bristol Autism Strategy 2012-15 Children and Adults](#)
4. [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#)
5. Short Breaks Vision Paper

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	<b>£3.346m per annum for all short breaks £5.019m 18 months £10.038m for 3 year</b>	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	General Fund £2.744m and £0.602m CCG funding per annum
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<b>Capital Cost</b>	£0	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	n/a
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

**Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**

**1. Finance Advice:** This report seeks to recommission the short breaks service at a cost of c£3.346m for 12 months. It further seeks to extend the targeted short breaks contract for 18 months at a cost of £779,243. The pooled budget with the CCG totals £3.346m and is made up of a BCC contribution of c£2.744m and CCG contribution of c£0.602m. The recommissioning will need to be delivered within the current resource envelope. Any proposed changes particularly in relation to inhouse services, would need to be carefully considered and the financial impacts modelled.

**Finance Business Partner:** Denise Hunt 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**2. Legal Advice:** The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team Leader – Commercial & Governance Team – 27 September 2021

**3. Implications on IT:** There is no anticipated impact on IT Services

**IT Team Leader:** Simon Oliver, Director – Digital Transformation - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**4. HR Advice:** The report is seeking approval for recommissioning of the short breaks service which includes internal services. This may impact on Bristol City Council employees but it is unclear how until the re-commissioning is complete. When we are at this point we will need to re-consider in more detail what the implications will be for our employees and ensure that all appropriate HR policies are applied to any changes of status to our employees.

**HR Partner:** Lorna Laing (MCIPD), HR Business Partner – People – 25/06/2021

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	People EDM	4 August 2021
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	6 September 2021
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	6 September 2021

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix F – <a href="#">Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</a></b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>

