

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 07 February 2023

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Short Breaks for Disabled Children Contract Extension</b>		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All		
<b>Author:</b> Gail Rogers	<b>Job title:</b> Head of Service Children’s Commissioning		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Cllr Asher Craig	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Abi Gbago Executive Director Children and Families		
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff			
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet			
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> For Cabinet to approve a 12-month extension to the Targeted Short Breaks for Disabled Children Contracts at a cost of £519,495 or an amount not less than 10% below (£467,545).			
<b>Evidence Base:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short Breaks are 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>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. We deliver this through a mixed model of in-house and externally commissioned services.</li> <li>Short Breaks in Bristol are jointly funded between the LA and the BNSSG ICB, with the ICB 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. The ICB are in agreement with the proposed extension.</li> <li>Our current targeted Short Breaks contracts were recommissioned in April 2019 for a three-year contract period with two one-year options to extend. On 05/10/2021, Cabinet approved for Short Breaks for Disabled Children to be recommissioned and confirmed that current contracts could be extended for 1.5 years out of a total of two years of extensions available. The first full year of extensions is 2022/23.</li> <li>We are seeking approval to utilise the full extension period available in year two; extending current contracts from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (instead of 6 months that was originally granted from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023). The maximum cost of the 12-month extension for the external targeted contracts is £519,495 of which £425,985 would come from Bristol City Council.</li> <li>A budget savings proposal has been put forward alongside this report to take 10% from the overall Short Breaks Budget Section 75 budget. This paper relates specifically to the externally commissioned targeted</li> </ol>			

short breaks contracts which form one element of the overall offer. If agreed following consultation, for the proposed 2023/24 extension, this budget reduction will be mitigated by utilising historic underspend in the Section 75 budget built up during covid when services had to close. There would still be a level of in year savings to be taken from these contracts, however this would not exceed £51,949. The services will then be recommissioned from 2024 onwards with a reduced budget.

- The current services are performing well and extending the existing arrangements will give sufficient time for the Commissioning Team to complete a full public consultation period and procurement exercise as well as co-produce the new Bristol Short Breaks offer with parent carers. This is particularly important in relation to meeting our duties under the SEND Code of Practice and responding to the areas for further development highlighted in the recent SEND Joint Local Area Ofsted re-inspection.

**Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

- Authorises the Executive Director People in consultation with Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Equalities to extend the targeted short breaks contracts for 12 months in line with the maximum budget envelope of £519,495 or an amount not less than 10% below (£467,545) as outlined in this report.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:**

- CYP - Children and young people are supported by the city, their community, and the council to have the best possible start in life. This will be achieved through access to high quality support services for children and parents/carers, and preventing family breakdown

**City Benefits:**

- 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:**

- Early engagement has been undertaken with parent/carers and full co-production and consultation is planned for the Short Breaks recommissioning.

**Background Documents:**

[Decision pathway Report - Short Breaks cabinet paper 27.9.21 Final 17.56.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	<b>Maximum £519,495 (£425,985 funded by Bristol City Council and £93,510 by BNSSG ICB)</b>	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	Short Breaks Section 75 Budget - BCC General Fund and ICB Funding
<b>Capital Cost</b>	£0	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	N/A
<b>One off cost</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input 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 approval for a 12 month extension for the Short Breaks for Disabled Children Contract at a maximum cost of £519,495. As outlined in the report Short Breaks in Bristol are jointly funded between the LA and the BNSSG ICB, with the ICB contributing £93,510 and the Council £425,985. The contract extension will

be delivered within the current resource envelope and service budget.		
<b>Finance Business Partner</b> Andrew Osei, Finance Business Partner, 20 January 2023		
<b>2. Legal Advice:</b> The extension of the contract, provided the extension is enacted within the requirements of the contract, does not raise any specific legal implications. Legal services will advice and assist in relation to the contractual arrangements for the extension.		
<b>Legal Team Leader:</b> Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 01 December 2022		
<b>3. Implications on IT:</b> I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.		
<b>IT Team Leader:</b> Alex Simpson – Senior Solution Architect – 02 December 2022		
<b>4. HR Advice:</b> The report is seeking Cabinet approval for a 12-month extension to the Short Breaks for Disabled Children Contract to allow time for a full consultation and procurement process to be completed by March 2024. This report does not have any significant HR implications arising for Bristol City Council employees.		
<b>HR Partner:</b> Lorna Laing HR Business Partner 07 December 2022		
<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Hugh Evans	07/12/22
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Cllr Asher Craig	12/12/22
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	13/01/23

<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 – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</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>