

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Director of Children's Services
Date:	25/02/2020
Title:	Approval to Consult on Short Breaks Activity Programme
Report From:	Suzanne Smith

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1. The decision:

1.1. That the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People, gives approval for a public consultation to be undertaken to seek views on the following proposals:

- To reduce the overall grant awarded to provide Short Break Activities
- To only accept funding applications that meet the core Short Break Activity priorities
- To require Short Break Activity providers to secure a minimum level of funding from other sources
- To reduce the grant awarded to Hampshire Parent Carer Network
- To commission Short Break Activities through an external grant-giving body
- To introduce a two-tier Gateway Card scheme
- To place a limit of 30 sessions per child, per year on Short Break Activities
- To redesign the Community Buddy Scheme.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1. Section 27 of the Children's and Families Act 2014 provides a duty to consult when reviewing Short Breaks.

2.2. The *Transformation to 2021 – Revenue Savings Proposals Decision Report* was approved to be recommended to Full Council at the Executive Member for Children's Services and Young People's decision day on 18/09/19. This included a proposed saving of £596,000 from the Short Breaks Programme, which would be subject to a separate public consultation. The approach was subsequently approved at Full Council on 8/11/19, subject to further consultation and executive decision-making.

2.3. There is an anticipated under-achievement against the Transformation to 2019 savings target, leading to an increased Transformation to 2021 savings

target. It is suggested that some of the proposals in the consultation could help Children's Services to make anticipated annual savings of up to £696,000, which would be part of the proposed solution in respect of the increased savings target.

2.4. Children's Services needs permission to consult on proposals relating to changes to the Short Breaks Activity Programme. The consultation will seek views on how proposed savings could be realised and how the effectiveness of the Short Break Activities Programme could be improved.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. As any proposal to re-shape the Short Breaks offer within a reduced budget requires a consultation to inform decisions as to how the programme could be delivered in the future, other options have not been considered at this stage.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel:

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent:

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:



Steve Crocker
Director Children's Services

Date:

25th February 2020