# Consultation on overnight respite for children with disabilities

Proposed closure of Merrydale and Sunbeams overnight respite residential homes

## Findings report


Hampshire County Council

# Contents

# 1. Introduction

## Context

The County Council is reviewing how it provides overnight respite to children with disabilities and their families. The Children's Services Department is developing a new offer, expanding the range of services available to give greater choice to current and future users of in-house residential respite.

The County Council is proposing to close Merrydale and Sunbeams for the following reasons:

- As a result of the feedback gained from children and young people and their families and carers on the type of overnight respite they would prefer to use. Feedback has shown a desire for wider choice of overnight respite which could include:
    - more opportunities for exciting and stimulating activities;
    - developing independent living skills;
    - solutions for underlying issues;
    - flexibility around length of stay;
    - combining a break for the whole family; and
    - a need for more age-appropriate overnight respite.
- Neither home is purpose-built, which presents a challenge for the County Council in caring for children with disabilities.
- Should the homes close, the County Council would be able to reduce costs by approximately £450,000 per year, on the upkeep of the buildings and facilities. Current funding could be used to purchase alternative care support and respite services, provided by other organisations, to meet assessed needs and preferences.

## Consultation aims

The consultation sought to understand:

- The extent to which residents, parents, carers and other stakeholders, support the County Council's proposals to close the overnight respite homes at Merrydale and Sunbeams.

- What features of overnight respite are important to both children and parents or carers, in order to understand what residents, parents, carers and other stakeholders feel should be included in provision.

The County Council is committed to listening to the views of local residents and stakeholders before deciding which actions to take with regards to the proposed closure of Merrydale and Sunbeams. The consultation findings set out in this report are intended to support the County Council's decision.

This report sets out a summary of the findings from the consultation. Detailed information is available in data tables in *Appendix seven*.

## 2. Research approach

### Open consultation

The County Council carried out an open consultation to seek residents' and stakeholders' views on the proposals to close overnight respite homes at Merrydale in Winchester and Sunbeams in Aldershot. These two overnight residential respite children's homes are owned and run by Hampshire County Council and provide overnight respite for children with disabilities.

An eight-week consultation ran from 7 August 2017 to 2 October 2017.

A consultation Information Pack and Response Form were made available to view, print and download from the County Council's website. Responses could be submitted through an online questionnaire available at: https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/sunbeamsandmerrydale.

To aid participation, paper copies and alternative formats were available upon request. Easy Read versions of the documents were available online, or posted as paper forms on request. Easy Read paper copies were also provided directly to child social workers to distribute.

'Unstructured' responses that could be sent through via email or written letters, and those received by the consultation's close date were accepted.

In addition, the consultation was promoted through the County Council's social media channels, and released to local press.

To aid children and young people with disabilities, and their parents, who are directly impacted by the proposals, one-to-one meetings were arranged with child social workers and paper copies of the Information Pack and Response Form were sent to them by post. Meetings with child social workers were designed to enable those directly affected by the proposals to make an informed response to the consultation. The child social workers were able to discuss the proposals with children and parents, and with them, consider appropriate and available alternative services which would meet their respite needs, should the decision be made to close one or both residential respite homes.

A series of six drop-in consultation events were organised, enabling contact between parents and interested people to talk directly with County Council officers from the Children's Services department. The events were advertised on the County Council's consultation webpage, at Sunbeams and Merrydale, in local press and through the County Council's social media channels.

Providers of overnight respite and other stakeholders were directly contacted by the County Council about the consultation to make them aware of the proposals. A stakeholder information session was arranged during the consultation period.

This report considers the findings from the online and paper consultation questionnaires, as well as an overview of key themes arising from unstructured responses and drop-in sessions.

## Responses to the consultation

As the consultation was an open exercise, its findings cannot be considered to be a 'sample' or representation of the Hampshire population. However, many parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities did respond, which gives the County Council an understanding of what families who are directly affected feel about the proposals. More detail about respondent types can be found in *Appendix four*, with a detailed breakdown of responses by key demographics.

There were 366 responses to the consultation questionnaire which breaks down as follows:

- 339 responses were received via the online response form, of which 336 were individual responses and three were from an organisation or group. Of the individual responses, 33 were submitted using the easy-read online version of the consultation questionnaire. Of the organisations or groups, a professional view from the Hampshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Child Health Department, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, was received.

- 27 responses were received via the paper response form; one from an organisation or group, 26 from individual responses.

- In addition, there were 12 'unstructured' responses (email, letter) received by the consultation deadline: nine were from members of the public; two responses from political representatives; and one from a stakeholder organisation. A list of organisations or groups (where names were provided) can be found in *Appendix one*.

**85** responses were received from respondents that indicated they were current users and/or family or carers of a child who currently uses Merrydale or Sunbeams.

- **55** were from those who indicated they were current users and/or family or carers of a child who currently uses Merrydale.

- **30** were from those who indicated they were current users and/or family or carers of a child who currently uses Sunbeams.

Of these responses, two were received from young people who currently use the homes.

## Publication of data

Data provided as part of this consultation will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Personal information will be used for analytical purposes only. Hampshire County Council will not share the information collected as part of this consultation with third parties. All individuals' responses will be kept confidential and will not be shared. Responses from groups or organisations may be published in full. Hampshire County Council will securely retain and store copies of the responses for one year after the end of the consultation process, and then delete the data.

More details on how the Hampshire County Council holds personal information can be found at: **www.hants.gov.uk/privacy**.

## 3. Findings from the consultation

### Key Findings

The majority of respondents thought that the most important aspect of overnight respite for children with disabilities was that they feel happy, secure and safe. For parents/carers, the most important benefits of overnight respite are a break from caring and time to spend with other family members.

There was strong concern amongst respondents about the proposals to close Merrydale and Sunbeams. Although there is recognition that the homes are dated and need maintenance, almost 9 out of 10 (87%) would prefer them to remain open.

Disagreement with the proposed closures was widespread across respondent groups, with parents/carers of current service users joined by respite staff, support workers and informed members of the public in disapproving of the proposal to close the homes.

The impact of closure would resonate widely, with children, carers, siblings and wider family members all negatively affected. A common theme among respondents was that closures were a short term fix that would lead to bigger problems in the longer term.

If the decision is made to close the homes, respondents want to be assured that a comparable level of support would be available. Questions regarding transport arrangements, comparability of alternatives and emergency care provision need to be answered to help them make an informed choice about future arrangements.

There is uncertainty as to how proposed alternatives would meet the needs of existing respite users. Availability, suitability and ensuring the child retains some independence are key concerns.

There are calls to re-think the proposals, re-provision the homes or build a new residential respite home to ensure continuity of existing provision. These are options which have already been considered and rejected, suggesting that the rationale for the proposals could be clarified further.

## The proposals to close Merrydale and Sunbeams

Respondents were asked to what extent they supported the County Council's proposal to close Merrydale and Sunbeams overnight residential respite homes. Information regarding the consultation was included in the Information Pack (http://documents.hants.gov.uk/consultation/overnight-respite-consultation-online.pdf) outlining the reasons for the proposed closures.

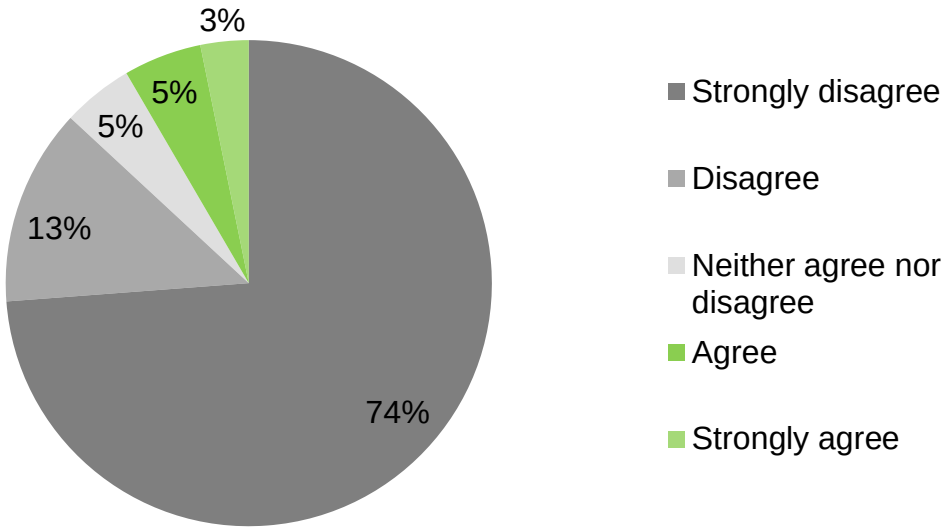
The level of disagreement to close both residential respite homes was identical, showing that both homes are equally as important to respondents.

## The proposal to close Merrydale residential respite home

Respondents were asked, 'To what extent do you agree with the proposal to close Merrydale?' The pie chart below shows the level of overall agreement.

Respondents have a strong concern about the proposal to close Merrydale, with 87% of respondents either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Almost 9 out of 10 respondents would like Merrydale to remain open.

To what extent do you agree with the proposal to close Merrydale? (Base: 344)



**What do different groups think about the proposal to close Merrydale?**

There was a negative response regarding the closure of Merrydale from all response groups. However, some groups were more concerned than others. A breakdown of responses by group is shown on the next page. Key headlines are:

- Respondents that indicated they were a family member of a child with disabilities were more likely to disagree with the proposals than any other group (94%).
- Respondents that indicated they had a health or disability issue were more likely to disagree (88%) with the proposals than those without health or disability issues (86%).
- Parents or carers with older children (ages 16-25) who currently use respite homes, are less likely to agree with the proposals (88%) in comparison to parents or carers with younger children (ages 0-15) who use respite homes (83%).

To what extent do you agree with the closure of Merrydale?

| Level of disagreement | | | | Level of agreement |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 87% | **Overall** | | | 8% |
| 94% | **Respondent type** | Family member of child with SEN and Disabilities | | 6% |
| 93% | | Member of the general public | | 5% |
| 81% | | Employee at Merrydale, Sunbeams or Firvale | | 10% |
| 79% | | Parent or carer of child with SEN & Disabilities | | 8% |
| 75% | | Support worker of child with SEN & Disabilities | | 0% |
| 73% | | Other | | 23% |
| * | | Child or young person | | * |
| * | | Adult, previous user overnight respite | | * |
| 88% | **Respondent has a disability** | Has disability | | 2% |
| 86% | | No disability | | 9% |
| 75% | | Prefer not to say | | 8% |
| 89% | **Age of child at respite** | Young Adult 19-25 | | 0% |
| 88% | | Age 0-7 | | 13% |
| 82% | | Age16-18 | | 8% |
| 77% | | Age 8-15 | | 4% |
| * | | Not applicable | | * |
| 93% | **Age of any other children** | None under 18 | | 7% |
| 87% | | Aged 16-17 | | 0% |
| 83% | | Aged 12-15 | | 13% |
| 80% | | Aged 9-11 | | 4% |
| 77% | | Aged 5-8 | | 7% |
| 76% | | Aged 0-4 | | 10% |
| * | | Not applicable | | * |

Overall base: 344

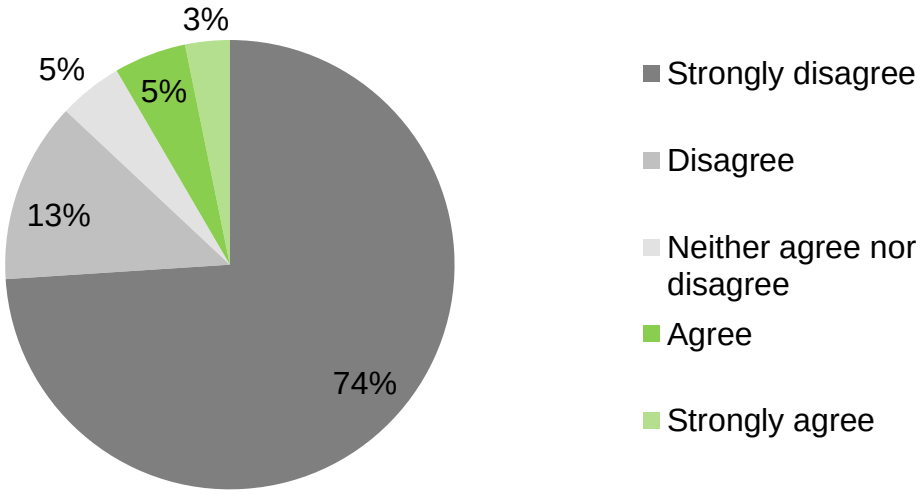
**Notes:** * Where there are fewer than ten responses in a category, this category has not been included in this chart due to poor levels of data accuracy of small sample sizes.

## The proposal to close Sunbeams residential respite home

Respondents were asked, ‘to what extent do you agree with the proposal to close Sunbeams?’. The pie chart below shows the level of overall agreement.

Respondents have a strong concern about the proposals to close Sunbeams, with 87% of respondents either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Almost 9 out of 10 respondents would like the residential respite homes to remain open.

To what extent do you agree with the proposal to close Sunbeams? (Base: 345)




### What do different groups think about the proposal to close Sunbeams?

There was a negative response regarding the closure of Sunbeams from all response groups, however some groups were more concerned than others. A break down of responses by group is shown on the next page. Headline findings are summarised as follows:

- Respondents that indicated they were a family member of a child with disabilities were more likely to disagree with the proposals than any other group (97%).

- Respondents that indicated they had a health or disability issue were more likely to disagree (88%) with the proposals than those without health or disability issues (86%).

- Parents or carers with older children (ages 16-25) who currently use respite homes, are less likely to agree with the proposals (92%) in comparison to parents or carers with younger children (ages 0-15) who use respite homes (84%).

To what extent do you agree with the closure of Sunbeams?

| Level of disagreement | | | | Level of agreement |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 87% | **Overall** | | | 8% |
| 97% | **Respondent type** | Family member of child with SEN and Disabilities | | 3% |
| 97% | | Member of the general public | | 6% |
| 92% | | Support worker of child with SEN & Disabilities | | 8% |
| 90% | | Employee at Merrydale, Sunbeams or Firvale | | 10% |
| 79% | | Parent or carer of child with SEN & Disabilities | | 10% |
| 71% | | Other | | 23% |
| * | | Child or young person | | * |
| * | | Adult, previous user overnight respite | | * |
| 91% | **Respondent has a disability** | Prefer not to say | | 9% |
| 88% | | Has disability | | 2% |
| 86% | | No disability | | 10% |
| 94% | **Age of child at respite** | Young Adult 19-25 | | 0% |
| 90% | | Age16-18 | | 4% |
| 88% | | Age 0-7 | | 13% |
| 81% | | Age 8-15 | | 9% |
| * | | Not applicable | | * |
| 93% | **Age of any other children** | Aged 16-17 | | 0% |
| 93% | | Aged 5-8 | | 0% |
| 80% | | Aged 0-4 | | 10% |
| 79% | | None under 18 | | 4% |
| 79% | | Aged 9-11 | | 13% |
| 72% | | Aged 12-15 | | 16% |
| * | | Not applicable | | * |

Overall base 345

**Notes:** * Where there are fewer than ten responses in a category, this category has not been included in this chart due to poor levels of data accuracy and small sample sizes

## Important aspects of overnight respite to service users

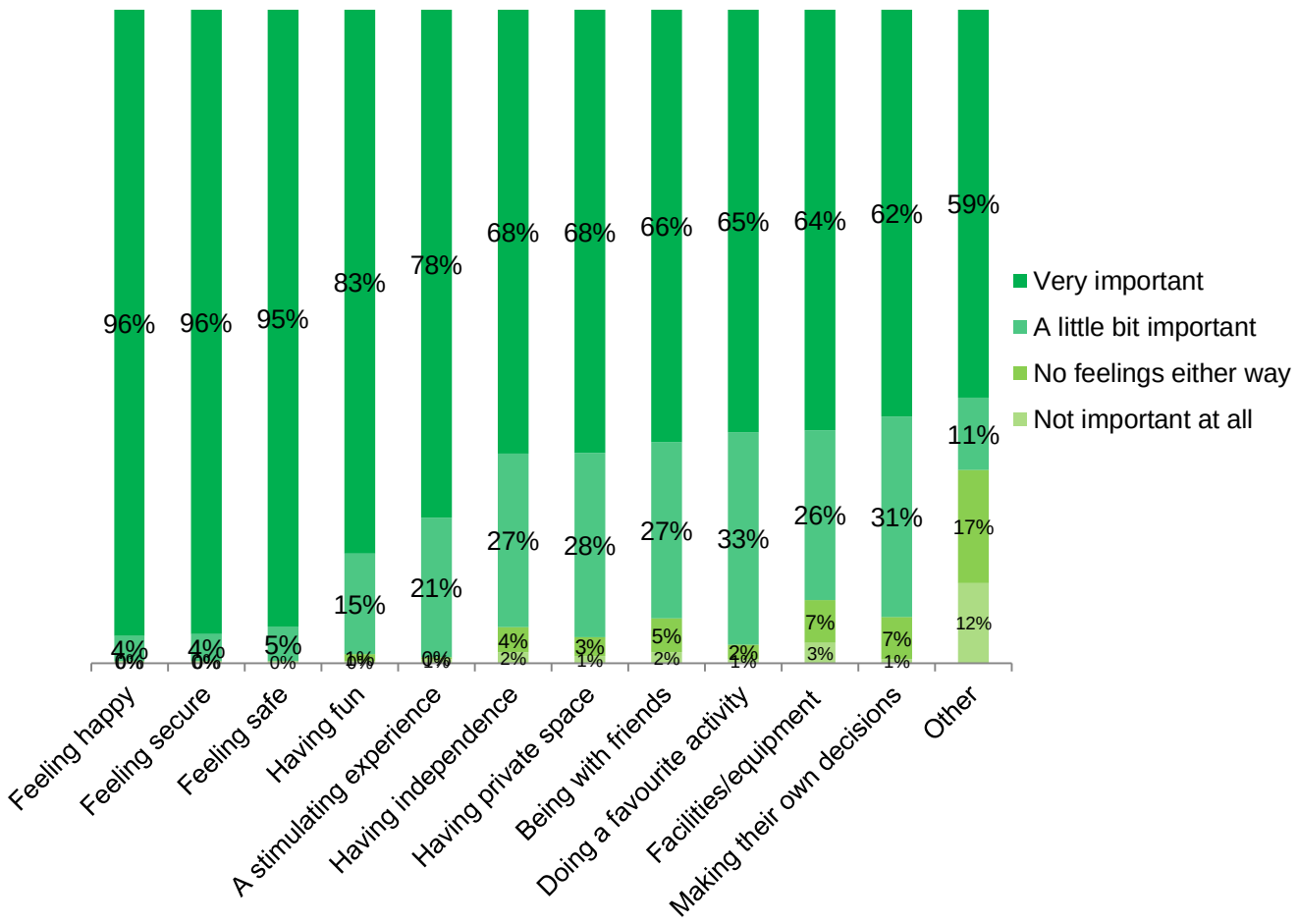
All respondents were asked what the most important benefits of overnight respite were for both children with disabilities receiving overnight respite and parents/carers accessing overnight respite for their child/children.

### The most important aspects of respite for children with disabilities

Almost all respondents felt that it was very important that children using overnight respite felt, ‘happy’ (96%), ‘secure’ (96%) and ‘safe’ (95%).

Although still viewed as important by the majority, a smaller proportion of respondents felt that ‘making their own decisions’ (62%) and ‘having access to facilities and equipment not available at home’ (64%) were very important aspects of respite for children.

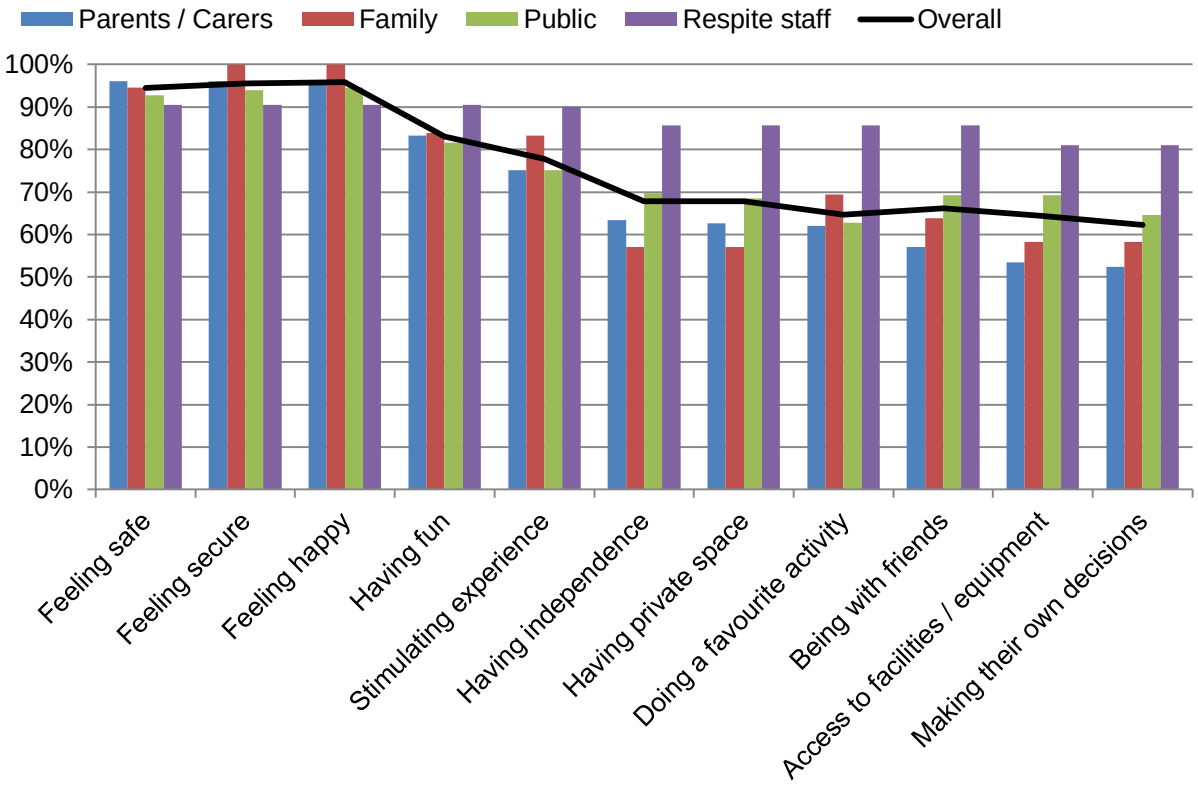
Importance of key aspects of respite care (all respondents). (Base: 336)




The level of importance given to each aspect of respite care varied slightly across the core respondent groups, as can be seen in the chart below.

For example, compared to the average, respondents who worked in respite care were more likely to see all aspects of respite provision as similarly important, whereas parents and carers placed much greater emphasis on the safety and care of their child, than their need for equipment or developing independence.

**Level of Importance of key aspects of respite care, by respondent group**




(Base: 311)

The table below shows the same information, but this time in order of priority for each group.

This highlights that the aspects of most importance are similar for all respondent types – the four groups all broadly agree on their top three and top five priorities.

However, there is greater variance in the 'less important' aspects of overnight respite care. Independence, for example, is felt to be more of a priority by parents/carers and the public, than by other family members of children with disabilities.

Base sizes are low, but this appears to suggest that differing proximity to overnight respite brings different perspectives on the benefits that the service provides.

**Key aspects of overnight respite in priority order, by respondent group**

| Order of importance | Parents/ Carers | Family | Public | Staff |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Feeling safe | Feeling happy | Feeling happy | Feeling happy |
| 2 | Feeling secure | Feeling secure | Feeling secure | Feeling safe |
| 3 | Feeling happy | Feeling safe | Feeling safe | Feeling secure |
| 4 | Having fun | Having fun | Having fun | Having fun |
| 5 | Stimulating experience | Stimulating experience | Stimulating experience | Stimulating experience |
| 6 | Having independence | Doing a favourite activity | Having independence | Being with friends |
| 7 | Having private space | Being with friends | Being with friends | Doing a favourite activity |
| 8 | Doing a favourite activity | Access to facilities / equipment | Access to facilities / equipment | Having independence |
| 9 | Being with friends | Making their own decisions | Having private space | Having private space |
| 10 | Access to facilities / equipment | Having independence | Making their own decisions | Access to facilities / equipment |
| 11 | Making their own decisions | Having private space | Doing a favourite activity | Making their own decisions |

(Base: 311)

**Most important aspects of respite for children, by age of child and disabilities**

A further factor that impacted on the perceived importance of different aspects of respite was the age of the child with disabilities.

Respondents that identified that they were a parent or carer were asked how old the child is/children are who have a disability. This information can be used to see whether children of different age groups want different things from their respite care.

Across all age groups for children with disabilities, there was a general consensus about the level of importance for the following aspects of respite care:

- Having fun.
- Doing a favourite activity.
- Feeling happy.
- Having private space.
- Feeling safe.
- Having independence.
- Feeling secure.
- Having a stimulating experience.

However, three aspects of respite care indicate a difference between age groups:

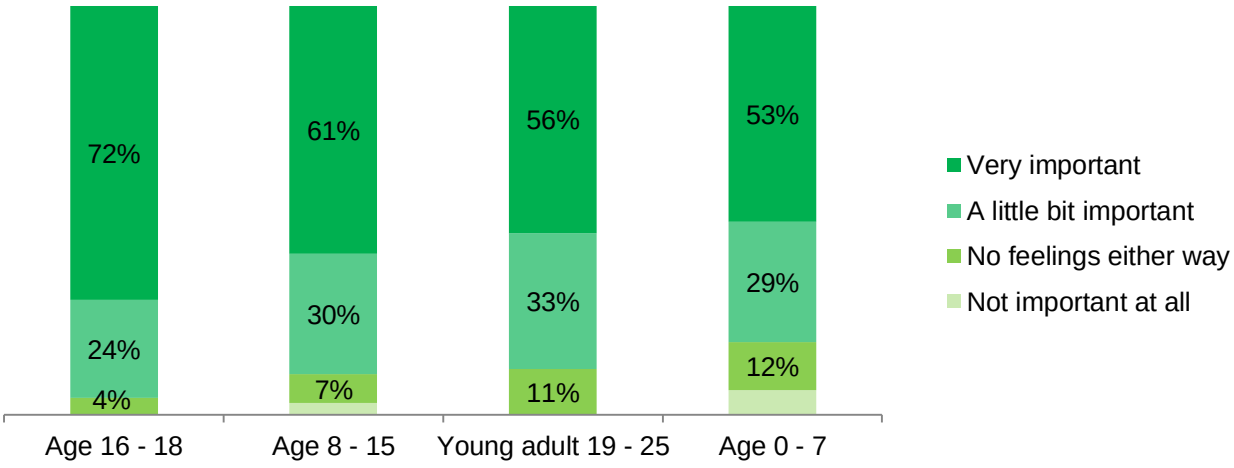
- Being with friends
- Having access to facilities/equipment that is not available at home
- Making their own decisions

### Being with friends

The chart below shows the 'being with friends' aspect of respite care, broken down by age of child/children with disabilities.

The chart suggests that for children who are between the ages of 8-18, being with friends is relatively more important than for younger children (0-7) and young adults (19-25). This perhaps suggests that children in this age bracket are settled, having used the homes for a number of years, and therefore developed relationships as a result.

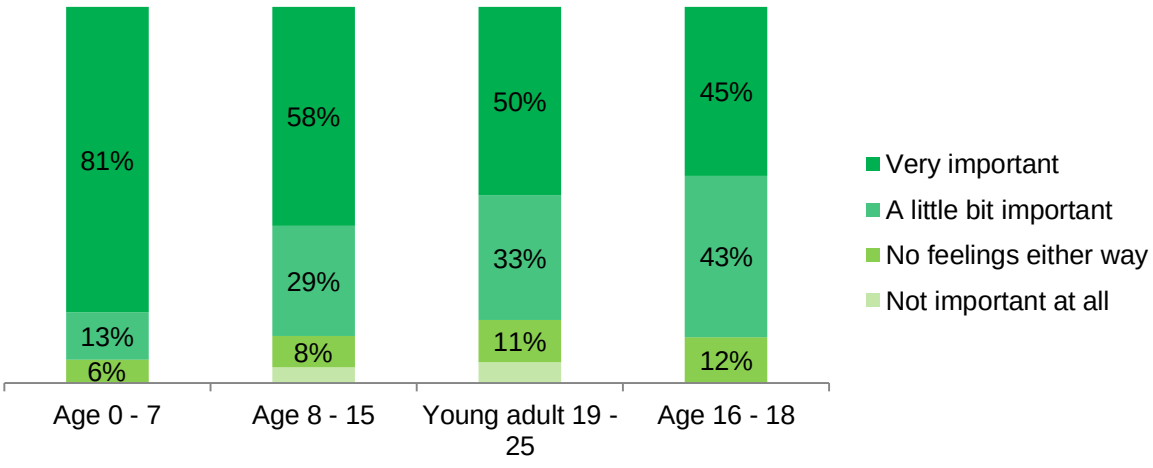
Being with friends. (Base: 153)




### Having access to facilities/equipment that is not available at home

The chart below shows responses to the 'having access to facilities/equipment that is not available at home' aspect of respite care, broken down by age of child/children with disabilities.

Having access to facilities/ equipment that is not available at home (Base: 153)

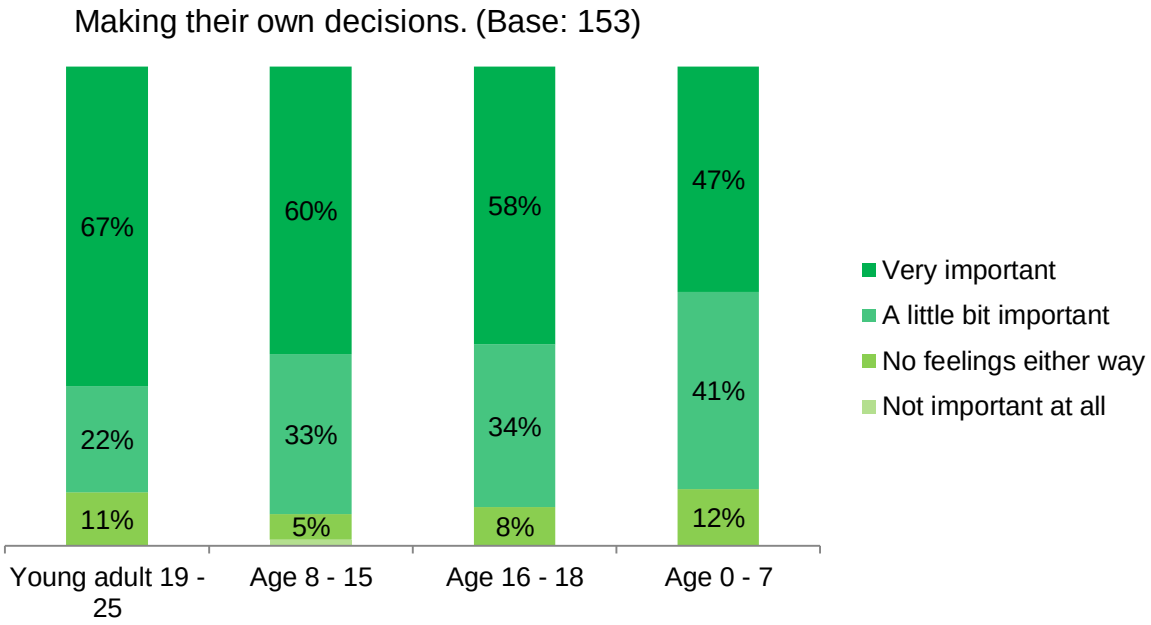


The chart indicates that for children who are between the ages of 0-7, having access to facilities or equipment is relatively more important at this early stage of life, when compared with any other age group.

### Making their own decisions

The chart below shows 'making their own decisions' aspect of respite care, broken down by the age of the child/children with disabilities.

The chart suggests that for younger children (0-7 age bracket), being able to make their own decisions is not as important when compared to children that are in the older age brackets (age 8+), and especially so for those that are young adults (19-25 age bracket).

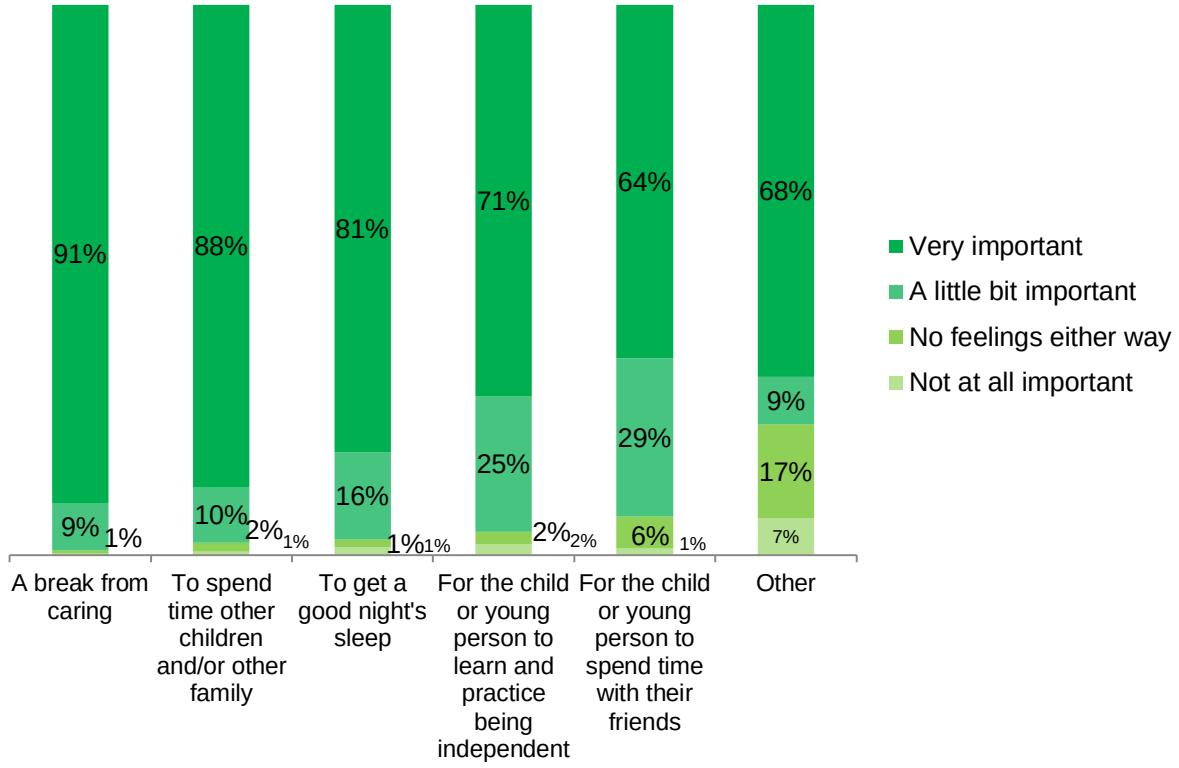



The general trend suggests that this feature of respite becomes more important as the child reaches adulthood.

## Important aspects of respite care for parents/carers

All respondents were asked to choose what they thought the most important aspects of overnight respite are for parents or carers with children with disabilities. ‘A break from caring’ (91%) and ‘time spent with other family members’ (88%) were considered to be the most important aspects of overnight respite by the majority of respondents.

Important aspects of respite for parents/carers. (Base: 311)



## Most important aspects of respite, broken down by age of child at home

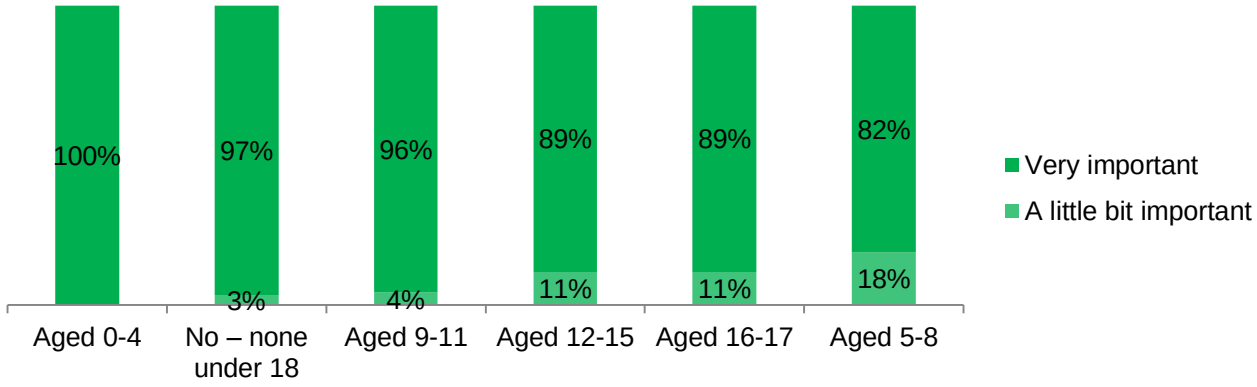
To explore what parents and carers want from respite, understanding their circumstances at home in terms of having other dependants can help identify if there are different aspects of care that are more important to some groups than others.

Overall, a break from caring and spending time with other family members were indicated as the most important things about accessing respite.

### A break from caring

The chart below shows how a break from caring is an important aspect of respite to all groups with children at home. Those with very young children at home (ages 0-4) identify this as the most important aspect (100%) above any other group, reflecting the level of dependency of young children on their parents/carers.

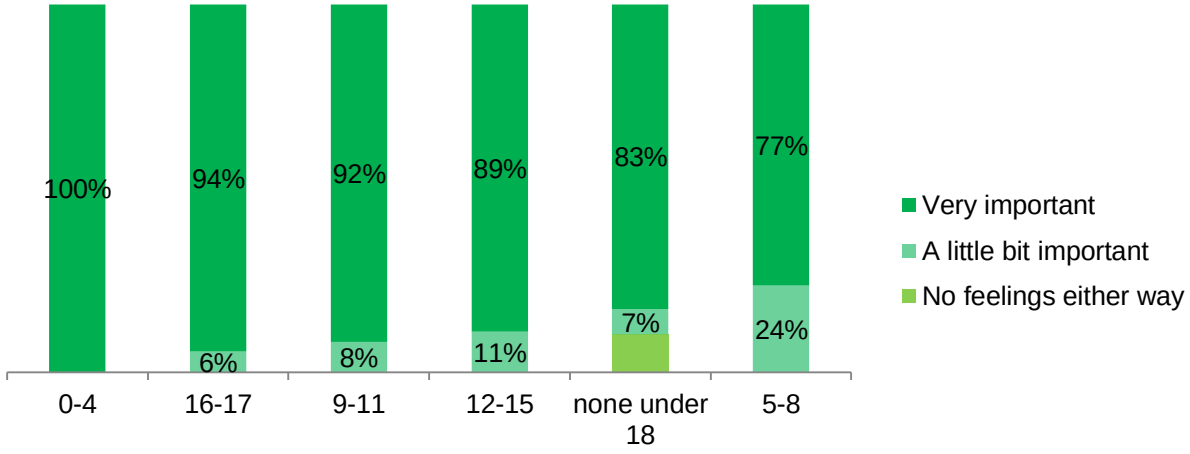
A break from caring by age group. (Base: 127)



**Spending time with other children and family**

The chart below suggests that parents or carers with children at home think that spending time with family is an important aspect of respite care. In addition, the chart suggests that those with children in the 0-4 age bracket identify this as the most important aspect above any other group. Again this may be because younger children are more dependent at this stage in life.

To spend time other children and/or other family. (Base: 127)



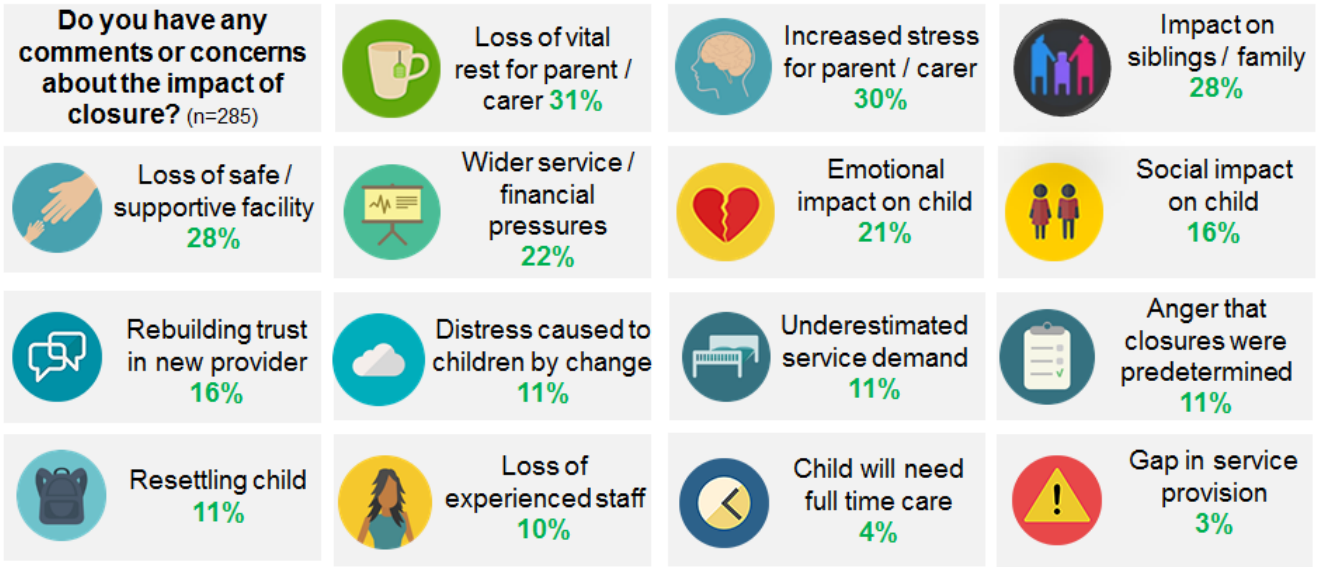
## The Impact of proposed closures on respondents

An important consideration for the County Council in determining its approach to changes to services is the impact of proposals on service users, their families and other stakeholders.

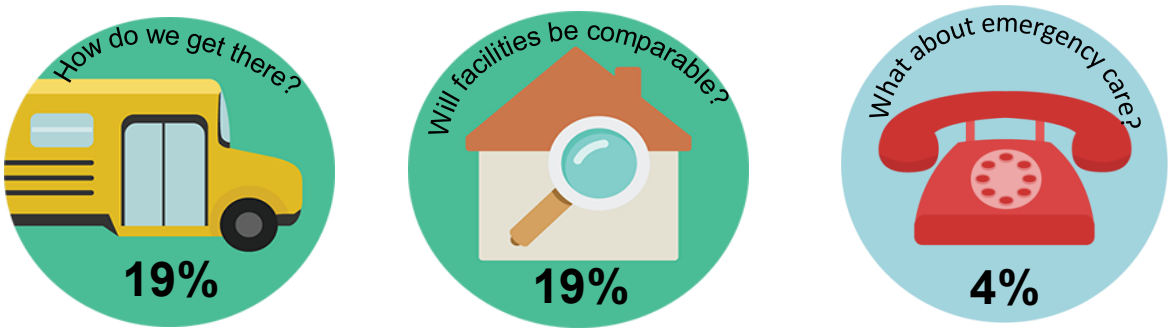
As part of the consultation, respondents were asked:

- For their comments on the proposals, and the alternative options which have been considered or rejected.
- To describe what impact, if any, the proposed closures would have on them, their family, people they know or work with, or their group or organisation.

Of the 285 comments provided, the most common themes reported are shown below:




Respondents also had a number of concerns which they felt remained unanswered, including:

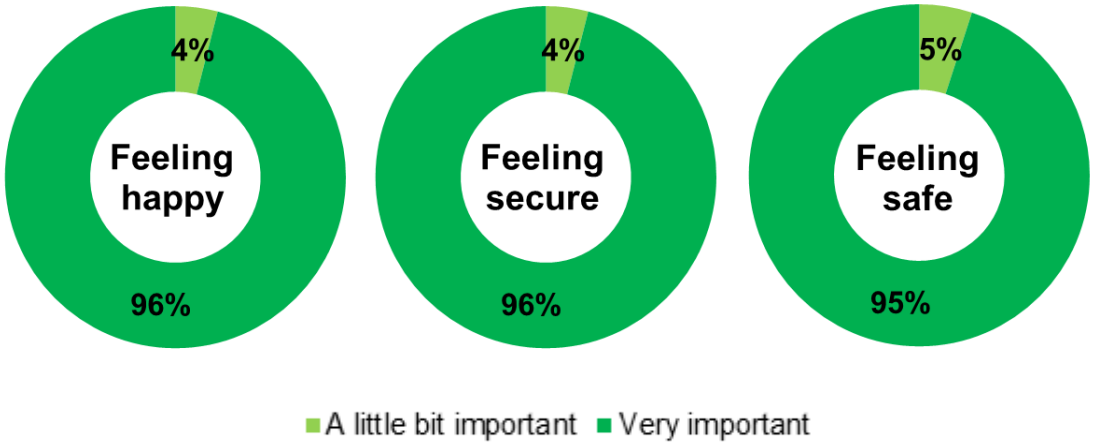



The following sections provide more detail on the impacts and concerns raised by respondents during the consultation. Please note that comments have been adapted where appropriate to protect anonymity.

**Understanding the impact on children and young people with disabilities**

When asked ‘what was most important about overnight respite for children and young people’, there was universal agreement that respite homes needed to provide an environment in which the child felt happy, safe and secure.

What is most important about overnight respite for the child/young person? (Base: 361)




For many families, the journey to achieving this outcome has been an extended one. Respondents spoke of the difficult decision to place their children into overnight respite, the long process of trialling and rejecting alternatives, the time taken to build sufficient trust in staff and the difficult adjustment that comes from introducing change into the life of a child with disabilities. Therefore the proposals to close Merrydale and Sunbeams – and the prospect of starting the journey again – have been met with disappointment.

“The decision to send a child into respite care is absolutely agonising, as there is a great sense of anxiety over whether your child truly will be safe and looked after with the same level of care compassion and love that they receive at home, there is also a great sense of guilt that comes with sending your child into overnight care. Sunbeams is a lifeline for us. We know that our child will be looked after with love, care and compassion by experienced and qualified staff who will keep them safe and give them a nice experience... We get to just be, recharge, reset, knowing that our child is safe and will be home in the morning. The proposal to close this service creates a whole new level of anxiety.” (Family member)

“Merrydale staff have been the only respite team to work hard to meet my child’s complex needs so stays are enjoyable and offer a safe environment which focuses on preventing/minimising risk of becoming very unwell. My child also attends another respite provision and even after a year of going (with us there too) we are not confident to leave our child there on their own. It takes years to understand how to meet our child’s needs effectively - by removing this we will have no adequate respite provision.” (Parent/carer)

With the safety and happiness of the children a key priority, respondents were particularly concerned about the emotional impact of change that could be caused by removing the children from familiar settings and the breakdown of relationships with both staff and other children at the homes.

"I have friends who use Merrydale and they are very concerned on the proposed closure. Their children love going and it's a familiar place, staff know the kids so well, to start over again somewhere new, probably twice if not more the distance away is terrible. The children will be unsettled by the change. Parents that have children with additional needs have enough to deal with on a daily basis this will just add more stress and upset to their lives." (Parent/carer)

"Our children love coming to Sunbeams, they love the consistency of the same staff, the endless activities we provide, the important relationships they have built. They love that they can be involved in choices in all aspects of their care. They love the food that is catered to their specific needs and choices. For that to be taken away will be devastating to a child with special needs." (Staff)

In the cases of children whose disability meant they were generally more resistant to change and thrive on routine, respondents felt that the impact could potentially go beyond the emotional to negatively manifest as changes in the child's condition.

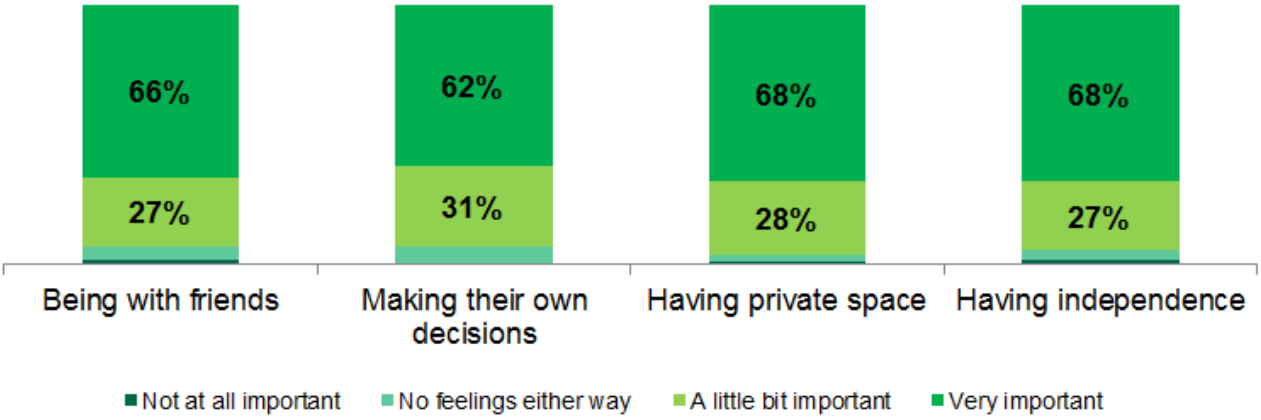
"The staff know my child's ways and how best to manage them. My child feels comfortable with the familiarity of the surroundings – they are happy and safe there. To move my child now would not be practical due to their inability to easily accept change and the relatively short time left in children's services." (Parent/carer)

"It would have a terrible effect on my autistic grandchild who looks forward to respite and cannot stand any changes of routine." (Family member)

Beyond these immediate emotional and physical effects, respondents also felt that the proposed closures would have a longer term consequences for the children's social development.

The majority of those who responded to the consultation felt that a major benefit of overnight respite was the opportunity for the child to be with friends and to be independent.

What is most important about overnight respite for the child/young person? (Base: 361)




Respondents noted that children with disabilities have the same right as other children to make friends, make their own decisions and have some privacy when required – but they needed the support offered by homes like Merrydale and Sunbeams to enable this. Although respondents recognised that the alternative respite opportunities outlined in the Information Pack might enable independence for some children, these would not be appropriate for all, and should therefore be offered in addition to, rather than at the expense of, overnight respite care.

"My child has recently begun to form friendships with other young people, which has taken time. This is only one of few opportunities to socialise with other people their age away from home and is an important part of growing up and developing independence, just like other young people. Developing independence is not just about dressing, making toast and getting the bus. Children will also miss out on 'sleepovers' and opportunities to socialise away from home like other 'normal' children do." (Parent/carer)

"We don't know what the future holds for our child and there is the possibility that they may need to be in supported living and the fact that they have had this opportunity to be with others away from home means that it may be easier for them in the future to adapt to being away from home in another setting. If Merrydale was to close... our child would have lost the opportunity to be alongside peers in a local situation and all those relationships they have built up would be lost." (Parent/carer)

Ultimately, be it due to additional stress, behavioural changes, or a failure to develop sufficient social skills to maintain a degree of independence into adulthood, respondents feared that the proposed closure of the two homes would mean that many of these children would need to be placed into full time care. This, they felt, would cause further anxiety and negate the cost savings that the home closures would effect, if agreed..

"It is the use of Merrydale which has kept our child at home. The reason Merrydale works is because it is such a bespoke setting... None of the other listed options would be suitable because of the high level of need. Without Merrydale, our child would be unable to be cared for at home, which is not what we want and not in their best interest." (Parent/carer)

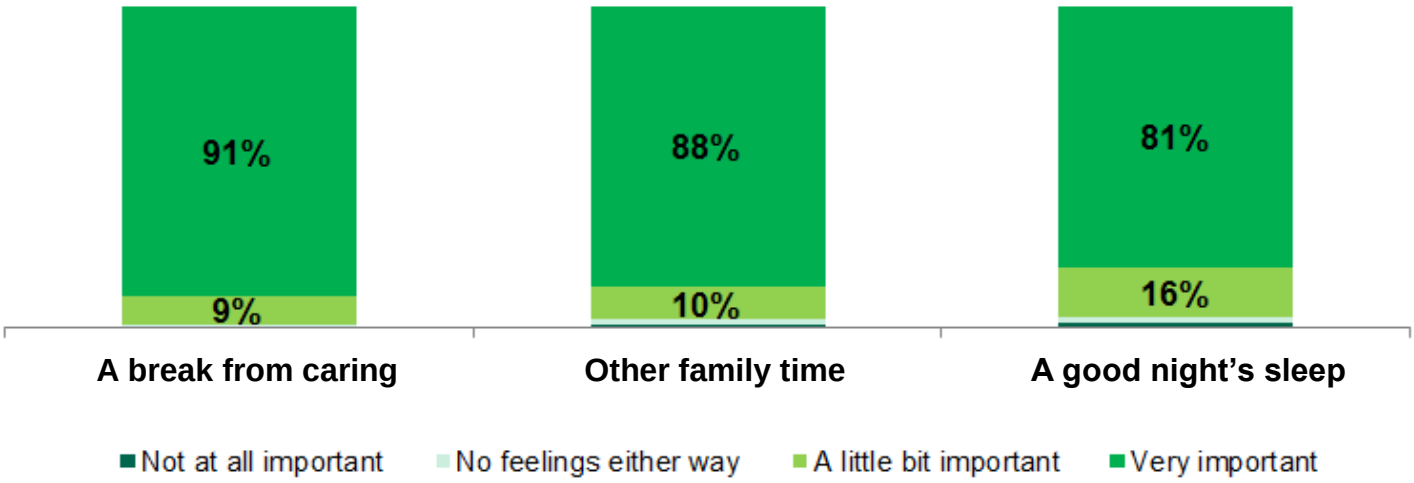
"Routine is very important to our child and for this reason a fixed service meets their needs more than a changing variety of services. The reduction or complete removal of respite units is incredibly short-sighted. Families and carers will suffer burn out, won't be able to cope and more children will end up requiring residential care. Not a cost saving for anyone." (Parent/carer)

The potential impacts of the proposed closure of Merrydale and Sunbeams on children with disabilities were put foward by a group of medical professionals from the Child Health Department, Royal Hampshire County Hospital (Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) in their collective response to the consultation. The group noted the context of advances in healthcare and changes in societal attitudes leading to increased survival among children with disabilities and children with long term conditions. The group highlighted three potential impacts of the proposed closures: increased attendance for mental health related issues in siblings; an increased length of stays in hospitals, as often if a child is recovering from an illness, the discharge from hospital to a respite setting can be facilitated earlier than discharge to home; and the potential increase in demand from parents asking to support Education Health and Care Plan requests for out of county placements.

**Understanding the impact on parents/carers and the wider family**

For parents/carers, the most important aspect of overnight respite was the chance to have a break from caring – giving them time to spend with other members of the family and to catch up on some vital sleep.

What is most important about overnight respite for parents/carers? (Base: 360)




Respondents spoke passionately about the need for a break away from caring, and the crucial role that trusted, reliable and regular respite provision played in enabling them to 'switch off' from the role of carer.

"Knowing that there is the phenomenal care, compassion and, crucially, experience of the staff has been a lifeline for their parents, other child and wider family. Without the regular and reliable support offered by the amazing staff at Merrydale, their parents and other child would not have been able to have any semblance of normality." (Family member)

"To get some 'Me' time. To realise you are not insane and what you say is true about your child. Another human being is witnessing and dealing with the same behaviour and can give you support. They understand, they get what you're going through and you know there, at respite, your child is safe and well cared for and for once you don't have to do it yourself." (Parent/carer)

In many comments, often from those looking in on the situation, there were strong underlying concerns that should the homes close without suitable alternatives in place, it would cause irreparable damage to the family unit.

"Parents and siblings are allowed some time away from their usual 24 hour caring enabling activities, holidays and a time to recharge, beneficial for all involved. This respite care is so important and mustn't be eradicated or else

serious problems associated with family stress and an unworkable balance will begin to arise." (Member of the public)

"Caring for children with complex needs is exhausting and while giving parents a break is expensive, it is less expensive than family break-up and having to take the child into residential care. Even the most loving and caring parents have a point when they cannot cope 24 hours a day every day." (Family member)

Time was seen as a key component in avoiding this outcome. Many respondents spoke of the need for 'normality' and the benefits of just having time out on their own to relax, which they felt would be under threat if they lost their overnight respite.

"To provide an opportunity for the family to participate in some activities that would be considered a standard part of a normal family life had the attention and care required for a child with special needs not been involved." (Family member)

"It is recognised that parents of all children need some 'me' time and 'couples' time. This is possibly even more acutely necessary for parents of children using the facilities as their children often do need to be looked after or watched every minute of the day. As well as the need for a break from the emotional and mental effort to care for your child at home, as your child and parents get older they need a rest from the physical demands that caring for their child at home can bring. I suspect you might also need a rest from the responsibility of looking after your children. This is the same for any parent or carer. Just having some time away to take yourself outside of your every day is essential for your own wellbeing and enables much better caring in the long term." (Family member)

A good night's sleep was another crucial need highlighted by parents and carers. The opportunity that overnight residential respite gave for recuperation was something that respondents saw as vital to enabling them to care for a child at home. Without it, there was concern that mental and physical health would suffer, and parents/carers would be unable to cope.

"We are also able to get some quality sleep to recharge our batteries – it may sound simple but it is vital to our health and wellbeing and ultimately to that of our whole family." (Parent/carer)

"Our exhaustion levels would increase as sleep is affected and this would have a knock on effect for everyone. The constant caring can become a real struggle and knowing that there is some time out that allows us a break is so helpful. It means that when our child comes back we are more refreshed and able to carry on caring for them with more energy." (Parent/carer)

The comments received highlighted the importance of the entirety of the break in mitigating stress and enabling parents/carers time to recharge their batteries. It was felt by many respondents that the alternatives outlined in the Information Pack would not provide the same opportunity as overnight residential respite to switch off and relax, and in some cases may in fact eat into important respite time.

"Your alternatives are simplistic and not realistic. It is not a break if the family has to either leave the home to allow someone else to sleepover with their child or to provide somewhere for a carer to sleep. That just adds to the stress... It may sound good to suggest having weekend breaks, or short breaks with different community groups but it doesn't work for the most severely disabled or autistic children." (Parent/carer)

"One nights respite can mean a break from caring for two whole days if the child is transported to and from respite from school, for the family. If the parent is made to do the transport then this means they only get literally the night only. As they would have to either wait for the child to come home from school and then take them to respite or collect them from school and take them to respite. Either way this is putting immense pressure on the parent and causing them to "waste" the valuable time being on the road." (Parent/carer)

In addition to concerns relating directly to parents and carers, respondents were also keen to emphasise the needs of the wider family group - in particular, the right of other siblings to have a share of their parents attention and to learn and develop alongside their peers. They noted the importance of respite in enabling siblings of service users to have dedicated time with their parents – improving their wellbeing.

"The impact on my family on this closure of Merrydale is that me and my sibling will not be able to spend more time with our parents and do activities that we could have done with just as us four." (Family member)

"Getting 2 nights together is an important time to concentrate on our other children. We use this time to do different activities with them that our child may not tolerate. We usually plan specific activities while our child is away and re-charge ourselves before they return." (Parent/carer)

Respondents also highlighted that, should the homes close, siblings of children with disabilities would potentially miss out on opportunities for social development. Owing to the unique requirements of looking after children with disabilities, siblings were often unable to spend time with friends, or take part in age-appropriate activities.

“Our other child suffered also from never having two parents attend any school events. They did not achieve the academic results they should have and rarely had friends for tea/overnight stays due to their sibling’s needs.” (Parent/carer)

“Our other child lived for the respite weekends, wheelchairs can't go to castles, forests, beaches or fossilising. They were desperate for weekends when we could be like 'normal' people and do 'normal' things - a real treat is just to go out for a meal without being stared at, to be able to have friends round to play, to make noise and to have the run of the house without strict restrictions and rules.” (Parent/carer)

## Transitioning to new care providers – concerns and questions

As respondents were broadly opposed to the closure of both Merrydale and Sunbeams, and worried about the impact on service users, it is not unsurprising that there was also reticence about transitioning to alternative care providers.

Whilst respondents recognised that the actual buildings may not be ideal, they emphasised that the homes’ value was about more than just bricks and mortar. In particular, there was deep concern about losing trusted relationships that had been built up with the staff. Often these had developed over many years, and respondents were wary of the process of rebuilding that trust with other staff.

“Loss of jobs; loss of a safe, caring environment for children; loss of sanity for parents; more work thinking 'who do I trust now with my child?' Merrydale has a good reputation. Parents are happy; parents trust them. The parent now has to look for carers, interview, manage money, deal with someone not turning up, train a carer, hope they like your child/child likes them. It’s endless...” (Parent/carer)

“The staff members have provided consistency over time, which is imperative for young people in respite. Staff turnover is low. They get to know the young people and families over time and provide emotional support and advice. By contrast the staff turnover in private run homes is high. The average length of staff stay is 2/3/4 years. The staff will therefore lack the knowledge that comes with experience. Young people accessing respite a few weekends a year will not have the chance to build relationships with carers.” (Respondent associated with a special school)

Their concern encompassed the children too. Parents’/carers’ fear of leaving their children with staff they did not know was further increased by the potential impact this could have on the children’s developmental progress.

"The children who attend both centres would have to again change their routine which is impossible for some autistic people. All the progress made by the children could be put at risk by the changes." (Member of the public)

"It would be hard to get them used to a new place and new staff. My child's OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder) would regress and my other child would suffer with anxiety. Their behaviour would decline." (Parent/carer)

In some cases respondents noted that older users may be asked to transition twice in a short period of time, potentially causing additional distress.

"Hampshire's respite homes only last until the children are 18 so our child would have to have a change now when Sunbeams closes, then another at 18 in to adult respite, and then a move onto residential college at 19. This will be 3 moves for them in 2 years which for a child with autism and severe learning disabilities is in my opinion not putting their needs and wellbeing first. This will impact severely on their anxiety and mental health, causing more challenging behaviour and more seizures which are triggered by anxiety." (Parent/carer)

Respondents' reticence towards alternative care packages was intensified by what they felt was a lack of clarity about the proposed alternative options outlined during the consultation. Few respondents referred to the pilot project that had been used to trial these options with potentially affected families, suggesting that more could be done to raise awareness of how and who these could benefit. Consequently, respondents still had a long list of unanswered questions and their subsequent concern about being left without appropriate respite further increased their anxiety.

"The thought of any 'break in transmission' with respite is truly distressing to us as a family. We can just about cope with the stresses of living with our child (whom we love beyond measure) but knowing we have respite coming up is what keeps us sane." (Parent/carer)

"I feel that before anywhere is closed in whichever area, a lot of work needs to be carried out with the families including making sure there is definitely a replacement or a temporary overnight respite provision provided, while a new purpose built centre is built. This must include a well thought out and planned transition for everyone. The Consultation booklet looks good, but the reality is that once the centre/home is closed those families that have not had a replacement respite package set up will not get a replacement. Then their family will fall into a deeper need and that will then cost more in the long run." (Parent/carer)

In particular, respondents would like to know more about the practicalities of the alternative options – such as their capacity to support additional users, the range of needs supported, the facilities offered, and balancing demand over fewer overnight respite care providers.

"The respite offered by other organisations does not cover all disabilities so many children will be disadvantaged by not having appropriate respite facilities close to home." (Respondent associated with a special school)

"Forgive my cynicism but as budgets are cut and respite places close where exactly are these overnight beds going to be found? I have asked the question of my child's social worker but can't seem to get a firm answer. We apparently need to source a new respite facility and only if they have spaces could our child possibly be placed there but nothing is definite. If respite centres are closing around Hampshire therefore these other places (wherever they are) will surely be filling up and it will be harder and harder to find a place." (Parent/carer)

Respondents reflected on their relative proximity to the current overnight respite homes. Both users of Merrydale and Sunbeams mentioned the negative impacts of needing to travel further to access alternative provision if the homes close. Concerns were also expressed around whether transport would be available to cover the anticipated longer journeys to other overnight respite homes.

"My primary concern if the two units were to close and for those that need it respite care be transferred to Firvale would be the issue of transporting the children to schools across county following their stay. Firvale have very limited numbers of staff who are minibus drivers and if alternative transport was provided - they would need to supply escorts which would place high demand on staffing levels at very particular times of the day which may not fit with rotas." (Respite/support worker)

"If this service is taken away it would mean a 40 minute journey to the nearest alternative respite and minimum 1hr and a quarter to others based mainly in Southampton, Portsmouth and Fareham. This is unrealistic to expect a SEND [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities] child to travel out of area these distances and if transport isn't provided then parents will be dropping off with a potential 2 and a half hour round trip. (Parent/carer)

Local care is important to parents/carers, particularly so in the case of emergencies, and there was specific concern about the support available in emergency situations, if the two homes close.

"I know for a fact that Merrydale are regularly given 'emergency' placement children to provide temporary support to, because there is where no where else

for them to go, and no one with the facilities or resources to look after them! Where would they go if Merrydale is closed?" (Respondent associated with a special school)

"Over the years we have had many emergency placements and we were told there was simply no other option of where to send them and we were the last resort. What happens when the next cases like those we have had in the past come up? Where will they get sent then if we were the only option?" (Respite/support staff)

## The wider service impact

Respondents were concerned that, should Merrydale and Sunbeams close, the alternative options available will not provide the same level of respite provision, resulting in more extensive problems.

Many respondents commented that parents or carers would require more extensive support such as full time care for the child or young person, if they are unable to access similar standards of respite care. Respondents felt that this will have a longer term financial impact across other local authority services.

"If these two respite centres are closed and affected families are not offered matching overnight respite care elsewhere, then the Council should expect that a good chunk of the proposed £450k savings would instead have to be allocated to the funding of more residential school placements and sadly, to families in crisis." (Parent/carer)

"Cost as ratepayer higher as full time provision will be needed if local respite care not available. Cost as a taxpayer higher as carers will have to stop work as they will not be able to cope. Look at the big picture HCC." (Member of public)

Respondents commented that the closures would also mean the loss of experienced, trained and highly skilled respite staff which would be a great loss to the care sector and residents of Hampshire.

"The staff who have been working for these organisations and built a great rapport with the families will in effect be a lost cause. All the hard work, training and career driven employees will be left just as devastated as the service users themselves." (Member of the public)

"Several staff have stated that they cannot find comparable work and are considering changing career. It would be a shame to lose their expertise in HCC." (Respite/support staff)

Some respondents are suspicious that both homes have been recently under-utilised. There was a strong feeling amongst some respondents that the closures have been pre-determined, and therefore their views would not be properly considered.

"It is clear that the County Council has earmarked the site for redevelopment for some time, since the care home opposite was closed several years back, and it appears to have been reluctant since that time to place new children in Merrydale. If it is absolutely essential to sell the site, we strongly believe the funds should be reused to provide a replacement provision in the Winchester area." (Parent/carer)

"Numbers using Merrydale have gone down because families have increasingly not been given it as an option as the council have been trying to wind it down and prove that it is not needed." (Parent/carer)

There is also concern among some respondents that accessing respite services has been made too difficult for many families due to restrictive criteria, with many respondents strongly suggesting the demand for the service is underestimated.

"The service is only available to the most difficult situations and the criteria for agreement to use the respite care is far from transparent. Parents have access to personal budgets, but are told they cannot use them for this purpose. It appears as if the service has been denied to potential families for a while now which makes it seem as if there is no demand. Parents I meet would like more regular respite and may be able to pay for it, thus improving the financial viability of the sites." (Member of the public)

"We tried to get overnight respite with our social worker for such a long time and it was too much of a fight and we gave up. If Merrydale is not justifiable financially because it has only been 50% full, then maybe the council should rather put its efforts in to social services allowing needy families to have respite." (Parent/carer)

## Outstanding questions relating to proposed alternatives

Levels of uncertainty amongst respondents about how proposed alternatives would meet local need suggest that further information is needed to enable informed decisions about future choices to be made.

"Having read the supporting information I am disappointed to not see information that enabled me to compare current overnight provisions that are provided. There was no detailed description for Merrydale or detail about the facilities it provides, specialist services or information about its staff. Equally, there was no cost information for the 'other current overnight respite providers'. How can people make an informed conclusion based on this?... I understand the desire to improve the type of care provided in relation to developing children's skills and experiences but would be interested to know how else the children might gain this... I do not feel confident that what you are currently proposing will cover the seventeen beds that will be lost and therefore do not support the closure of the facilities." (Family member)

Specific concerns relating to the proposed alternative overnight respite provision are:

### Places at other overnight respite homes

(11% of respondent comments related to this)

- Respondents feel there is a limited range of options for their specific needs. In particular, respondents thought that the alternative homes do not cater for the same range of disabilities – including providing for shared needs and end of life care – where their children would not meet the criteria.
- Respondents were unclear on the available capacity at other respite homes and questioned how places would be found for their children when demand was already high.
- There were concerns that other local provision did not offer the same standards of care and had lower Ofsted ratings than Merrydale and Sunbeams.
- Respondents were unclear on the facilities provided by other homes, and whether these were comparable to those available at Merrydale and Sunbeams.
- Distance and transport were key concerns. Respondents were concerned about losing valuable respite time due to the additional journey length and were unclear as to whether existing supported travel provision would remain in place over the longer distances.
- There were concerns that private homes had higher staff turnover and that the Council would be less able to influence the quality of this provision.
- Respondents questioned whether other homes were sustainable and were worried about the County Council's over-reliance on private provision over which they had limited control with regards to fees, standards, staffing or sustainability. What would happen to the children if the other homes close?

**Specialist Respite Care *(formerly Family Link)***

(7% of respondent comments related to this)

- Much of the concern about specialist respite was based on pre-conceived knowledge of the service – and in particular on past failures to meet required need.
- Respondents noted that there was limited availability of specialist respite carers in the area – particularly for children with more complex needs. There was a perception that service capacity was being limited by an onerous assessment process, which deterred prospective carers.
- They were also concerned about the reliability of specialist respite care. For some, this stemmed from being let down by carers (often at short notice) in the past, for others the concern was about difficulties ensuring the fixed and regular respite that worked best for them.
- Respondents felt that they needed specialist respite provided by professional carers in a professional purpose built environment.
- There were two questions about suitability: whether the type of care was right for the individual based on their physical and developmental needs; and whether the carers could provide the suitable equipment and environment required.
- There was concern that social progress would be more limited through this option, with fewer opportunities for activities and contact with peers.
- Some respondents were anxious about getting a 'match' with a carer who would suit both child and parent/carer.

**Care Support**

(5% of respondent comments related to this)

- Respondents spoke of the difficulties in recruiting and retaining carers for Care Support – particularly for children with the most complex needs.
- They also commented on the additional burden of hospitality that this option would place on the host family, who would be sharing their personal space and feel obliged to socialise.
- Some families noted that they simply wouldn't have the space to accommodate a carer in their home, particularly for overnight support where a spare bedroom was required.
- There was strong feedback that Care Support would not offer a break for the family, as it would be very difficult to 'switch off' their role of carer if their child was nearby and needed support. Similarly, that it would be confusing and distressing for a child should their parent not respond.
- Similarly to Specialist Respite Care, respondents felt that Care Support would be socially isolating for the child and not enable them to make friends or develop their independence.
- Some respondents were already using Care Support but appreciated it as part of a wider care package that included overnight residential respite, and did not feel it should be used as a replacement service.

**Family Breaks**

(2% of respondent comments related to this)

- Similarly to Care Support, respondents felt that Family Breaks would not offer a break for the family, as they would still need to care for their child – just in another setting. In fact some commented it would be more difficult as they would need to adapt to different equipment and surroundings so small tasks would become more difficult to accomplish.
- Respondents noted that Family Breaks would be difficult for families whose children struggled to adjust to change.
- A key benefit of overnight respite was the regularity of the break it provided. Respondents felt that Family Breaks would offer longer breaks, but less frequently, when what they needed was little breaks more often.
- It was felt that opportunities for independent development and social progression would be limited with Family Breaks in comparison to overnight respite care.

## Respondents' own ideas for alternative service provision

Given their concerns about alternative provision, some respondents made other suggestions about how respite services could be adapted to meet the needs of both service users and the County Council.

14% of respondents felt that if the homes were to close and the land sold, that the proceeds and developer contributions could be used to provide a new purpose built facility.

"This proposal would be better taken were the saved funds put towards a replacement centre or 1 improved centre, located between the 2 originals." (Member of the public)

"I would like to see a full evaluation of the option of using some of the money from the sale of the land to build a new home on less expensive land further out." (Member of the public)

A further 8% of respondents thought that the County Council should re-imagine the use of their overnight respite homes to make the facilities more sustainable by investigating options for mixed use or extending the range of services provided. Respondents saw the potential for the homes to be used as a 'hub' from which other forms of respite could be administered. This could help towards the cost of refurbishment of an existing home, or the ongoing running of a new purpose-built facility.

"A different model seems not to have been considered at all... why not retain the building and staff team and transform the service into something more like a resource base that has some limited overnight stays; but the main focus moves to outreach working." (Member of the public)

"Merrydale, either refurbished and extended or rebuilt/equipped, could offer a range of services such as holiday care, evening care. If more young people were allowed access, age appropriate weekends could and should be organised. Facilities could be hired out during the school day to adult day care, either supported 1:1 or small groups. It could become a hub offering a range of support. I appreciate Merrydale is expensive to run, if better used/flexible it could provide more value." (Respondent associated with a special school)

In their collective response to the consultation, the Child Health Department, Royal Hampshire County Hospital (Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), proposed either using the homes for another purpose, for example exploring the development of Merrydale without health input (as with Firvale), or creating a new facility in mid part/south of Hampshire on the basis that there could be significant impact on families' travel needs.

6% of respondents felt that any decision to close should be postponed to enable a smooth transition for existing users. This was considered to be particularly pertinent for older users, who would soon be transferring to adult care. Respondents also wanted reassurance that nothing would close until alternative care plans were in place.

"They shouldn't be closed unless an alternative better support is running and immediately transferable. Puts pressure on the family and the child." (Respite/Support staff)

"For some with just one or two years of the service to go, they will have to change service then change again; perhaps these are the most affected young people and families and many will not cope with change." (Member of the public)

There is a perception that there are a number of families in the areas who would benefit from overnight respite, but who don't quite meet the existing criteria. 6% of respondents suggested that the County Council could re-assess access criteria to increase service user numbers which would make the homes more viable and enable them to continue operating.

"I am concerned for new families who may not ever get the option of respite because of all the budgets cuts who a few years ago would have been offered a package of care. This in the long run will prove more expensive as they are more likely to reach breaking point without support." (Parent/carer)

"How bad does it need to be before these services are offered? Does it take for a mother and father to experience a breakdown before it's realised something must be done to help them!!??!! These centres are vital to those that use them and would be vital to many more if they could get accepted to be able to use them." (Member of the public)

Other suggestions included looking for savings in other areas, such as 'better' social work assessment, or even savings from other County Council service areas. Updates to expensive historical care packages were also put forward as a potential option.

A number of the suggestions made by respondents reflected ideas which had already been outlined as rejected in the consultation Information Pack. This indicates that clarity is required on the rationale for the proposals to close the two respite homes.

# 4. Conclusions

## Key Findings

The majority of respondents thought that the most important aspect of overnight respite for children with disabilities was that they feel happy, secure and safe. For parents/carers, the most important benefits of overnight respite are a break from caring and time to spend with other family members.

There was strong concern amongst respondents about the proposals to close Merrydale and Sunbeams. Although there is recognition that the homes are dated and need maintenance, almost 9 out of 10 (87%) would prefer them to remain open.

Disagreement with the proposed closures was widespread across respondent groups, with parents/carers of current service users joined by respite staff, support workers and informed members of the public in disapproving of the proposal to close the homes.

The impact of closure would resonate widely, with children, carers, siblings and wider family members all negatively affected. A common theme among respondents was that closures were a short term fix that would lead to bigger problems in the longer term.

If the decision is made to close the homes, respondents want to be assured that a comparable level of support would be available. Questions regarding transport arrangements, comparability of alternatives and emergency care provision need to be answered to help them make an informed choice about future arrangements.

There is uncertainty as to how proposed alternatives would meet the needs of existing respite users. Availability, suitability and ensuring the child retains some independence are key concerns.

There are calls to re-think the proposals, re-provision the homes or build a new residential respite home to ensure continuity of existing provision. These are options which have already been rejected, suggesting that the rationale for the proposals could be clarified further.

## Key messages from respondents to Hampshire County Council

- There is strong concern about the proposals to close Merrydale and Sunbeams. Whilst the buildings may be unfit for purpose, the service remains very necessary.
- It is very important that children feel safe and secure in overnight respite care. There are emotional ties between children/families and Merrydale and Sunbeams, and levels of trust which respondent's worry could take years to rebuild with other providers.
- Ideally, respite care should provide the opportunity for children to develop their social skills and independence, particularly older children/young adults.

- It is vitally important to parents/carers that they get complete and regular respite breaks, in order to maintain their own wellbeing and enable them to provide the best level of care to their child/children.
- Reassurance is needed that, if the two homes close, that closures would not be implemented until existing service users have full and suitable transition plans/care packages in place.
- Any potential transition from Merrydale and Sunbeams to other providers is highly likely to cause stress and anxiety to both children and families. There are risks around families not coping and children being placed in full-time care, or family breakdowns leading to further support being required.
- Merrydale and Sunbeams staff are highly valued. Respondents are concerned about both the impact on individual staff members, and the loss of skills in the care sector.
- There are concerns that the closures would provide a short-term financial fix, but could have unintended long-term consequences.
- There needs to be further public understanding about how the proposal to close the homes was reached; there is concern that closures have been pre-determined.
- There is a range of existing issues that would prevent the uptake of some alternative options proposed during the consultation, particularly:
    - The potential for multiple transitions of older children/young adults over a short period of time.
    - Specialist Respite Care.
    - Care Support.
    - Family Breaks.

## Specific questions respondents want to understand from the consultation

- What does the Information Pack mean when it mentions ‘institutionalisation’?
- Can the County Council provide reassurance that no one currently receiving overnight respite care will be left without it if the two homes close?
- Will reassessments of respite care be required?
- How will alternative care plans be put in place?
- Can the County Council offer opportunities to trial alternative provision?
- What support does the County Council offer to young carers/siblings of children with disabilities? Are there potential service providers to support them?

- How was the proposal to close the two homes reached?
- What will happen to existing staff? Can the County Council share a summary of the results of the staff consultation and the options available to those staff?
- Could there be a potential displacement of the financial problem to Adult Services ('a short term fix creating a longer term problem')?
- How will gaps in the alternative provision be managed?
- Is the range of choices available expandable?
- Can the residential respite market cope with the demand?
- How reliable and sustainable is the residential respite market?
- How will level of care/suitability of the care in alternative services be comparable to care at Merrydale and Sunbeams?
- How will facilities be comparable? How will 'soft' outcomes (helping children feel safe and secure) be achieved by the proposed alternative provision?
- Can the County Council clarify the opportunities for children's independent development which might be offered by the alternative provision?
- Could the County Council consider tailored transition pathways for children with similar disabilities?
- Will monitoring following transition be in place to ensure that the new programme of respite care is working?
- What transport options will be available?
- Will existing entitlements to transport still apply?
- Can concerns regarding travel to access residential respite be addressed?
- How will staff or providers of alternative provision be encouraged to make bonds with the children?
- Can the County Council build a new facility?
- Can existing services/facilities offered in Merrydale and Sunbeams buildings be changed, or could the buildings be used for another, similar purpose?
- Is there a way children aged 16/17 can be managed through the transition to Adult Services differently, or the homes kept open long enough to facilitate this transition?
- Should access/eligibility criteria be applied to the use of overnight respite?

# 5. Appendices

## Appendix 1 - Responses received from outside the consultation questionnaire

### Unstructured responses

The County Council received 12 responses through channels other than the consultation questionnaire. Of these 12 responses, five were from parents, carers or family members of a child with disabilities. Four were from members of the general public; two political representatives responded; and there was one response from an organisation or group. These responses raised similar concerns to those highlighted via the consultation questionnaire. The most frequent themes raised in these responses were:

- The County Council should not close Merrydale and Sunbeams as alternative provision would not be acceptable (six comments).
- The impact of the closure will be felt by the wider family and the wellbeing of the wider family may be compromised if respite is taken away (six comments).
- There is an underestimated demand for the respite services (five comments).
- Concerns about the consultation process and a lack of transparency (four comments).
- Concerns around the distance to other respite locations (three comments).
- Savings should be made elsewhere and not to the detriment of these services (two comments).
- Concerns that the alternative options are not suitable: personal budgets are hard to spend and end up being taken away, and Specialist Respite Care is not appropriate (three comments).

**Drop-in events for parents and carers**

In addition to the consultation questionnaire, six drop in events were held across Hampshire, in order to help parents and carers take part in the consultation. In total, the drop-in events engaged with 21 parents and carers of a child with disabilities, as well as five members of the general public (including one councillor). Much of what was expressed in the sessions again reflects the results from the consultation questionnaire.

Parents and carers shared similar concerns. Some of the main issues that were mentioned are:

- Concerns that there is underestimated demand for overnight respite and that the homes have been consciously under-utilised (seven comments).

- Increased distance to travel to alternative provision will mean less respite time and may cause distress (six comments).

- Concerns about emergency care for children (four comments).
- If provision is taken away, the child may be placed in full-time care as parents will struggle to cope (two comments).

- Lack of clarity concerning the alternatives (two comments).

- Concerns about whether they will receive the same level of service provided by an alternative provider (two comments).

- Consultation process, communication of processes and accessibility (two comments).

Members of the public were:

- Concerned about the consultation process and the online questionnaire in terms of its accessibility and how widely it was published (three comments).

- Worried about the distance to other alternatives and how transport will be arranged (two comments).

- Concerned about emergency care (two comments).

- Nervous that demand for overnight respite services had been underestimated (two comments).

**Appendix 2 - Consultation Response Form (Standard Format)**

# Consultation on overnight respite for children with disabilities

## Proposed closure of Merrydale and Sunbeams overnight residential respite homes

Response Form

Hampshire County Council

www.hants.gov.uk

# Consultation on overnight respite for children with disabilities

# Proposed closure of Merrydale and Sunbeams overnight residential respite homes

## Response Form

Hampshire County Council is seeking residents' and stakeholders' views on proposals to close overnight respite services at Merrydale in Winchester, and Sunbeams in Aldershot. These are two residential respite children's homes owned and run by Hampshire County Council. Please read the accompanying Information Pack before completing this questionnaire, available from: **www.hants.gov.uk/consultations**

This consultation closes at 11.59pm on **2 October 2017**.

It should take you between 10 to 15 minutes to answer the questions, depending on how much you wish to write.

Your feedback will help to inform a decision, later in the year, on whether or not to close Merrydale and Sunbeams.

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

## Privacy notice

If you provide personal information, this will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Personal information will be used for analytical purposes only. Hampshire County Council will not share the information collected as part of this consultation with third parties. All individuals' responses will be kept confidential and will not be shared. Responses from groups or organisations may be published in full. Hampshire County Council will securely retain and store copies of the responses for one year after the end of the consultation process, and then delete the data.

More details on how the Hampshire County Council holds personal information can be found at: **www.hants.gov.uk/privacy**. Should you require any further information about how your details will be used or stored, please contact the Data Protection Team at **data.protection@hants.gov.uk**

**Q.1 Are you responding on your own behalf or on behalf of an organisation or group?** *Please ✓ one box only.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ | I am providing a response on behalf of an organisation or group | **Go to Q2** |
| ☐ | I am providing my own response | **Go to Q6** |

**Q.2 Which of these best describes the primary function of your group or organisation?** *Please ✓ one box only.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ | Charity / non-government organisation | |
| ☐ | School / college / place of education | |
| ☐ | Local public sector organisation, e.g. district or borough council, emergency services, health services | |
| ☐ | Parish or Town Council | |
| ☐ | Local community or voluntary group | |
| ☐ | Local business | |
| ☐ | Social enterprise | |
| ☐ | Other<br>If 'other', please specify: | |

**Q.3 Does your group / organisation provide any of the following services?** *Please ✓ all that apply.*

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ | Overnight respite for children or young people |
| ☐ | Activities for children or young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities |
| ☐ | No / not applicable |

## Q.4 What is your job position / role and the name and address of the organisation or group on whose behalf you are submitting this response?

*The name and details of your organisation or group may appear in the consultation findings report.*

**Job position / role**:

**Name of organisation or group**:

**Address of organisation or group**:

## Q.5 Please tell us how the views of your organisation's members were collated:

**Please now go to Q.10**

---

## Q.6 Who are you? *Please ✓ one box only.*

- ☐ I am a parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- ☐ I am a family member of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (e.g. brother, sister, grandparent)
- ☐ I am an adult who has previously used overnight respite myself
- ☐ I work at Merrydale or Sunbeams
- ☐ I am a paid or voluntary support worker for a family or a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- ☐ I am a member of the general public
- ☐ Other

If 'other', please explain:

**Q.7 How old is the child / are the children with disabilities that you care for?** *Please ✓ one box only.*

- ☐ Age 0 - 7
- ☐ Age 8 - 15
- ☐ Age 16 - 18
- ☐ Young adult 19 - 25
- ☐ Not applicable

**Q.8 Does your child, or the child / children that you care for, or a family member, currently use overnight respite?**
*Please ✓ one box only.*

- ☐ Yes – **Go to Q.9**
- ☐ No – **Go to Q.10**

**Q.9 Which overnight respite home does your child, or the child / children that you care for, or a family member, currently use?**
*Please ✓ one box only.*

- ☐ Merrydale
- ☐ Sunbeams
- ☐ Firvale
- ☐ Other

If 'other', what is the name of the overnight respite home they use?

## Q.10 In your view, what are the most important things for children with disabilities when receiving overnight respite?

*Please ✔ all that apply.*

| | Not at all important | No feelings either way | A little bit important | Very important |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Having fun | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Being with friends | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Doing a favourite activity | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Making their own decisions | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Feeling happy | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Having private space | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Feeling safe | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Having independence | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Feeling secure | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Having a stimulating experience | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Having access to facilities / equipment that is not available at home | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Other | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| If 'other', please provide details: | | | | |

## Q.11 In your view, what are the most important reasons for parents / carers to access overnight respite for their child/children?

*Please ✓ all that apply.*

| | Not at all important | No feelings either way | A little bit important | Very important |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A break from caring | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| To spend time with other children and/or other family members | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| To get a good night's sleep | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| For the child or young person to learn and practice being independent | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| For the child or young person to spend time with their friends | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Other | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| If 'other', please provide details: | | | | |

## Proposals to close Merrydale and Sunbeams

Please refer to the Information Pack, pages 5 – 6.

The County Council is proposing to close Merrydale and Sunbeams for the following reasons:

- To respond to feedback from children and young people and their families and carers on the type of overnight respite they would prefer to use.
- Neither home is a purpose-built care facility for children with disabilities. In their current form, the layout is not considered to be user-friendly in terms of accessibility. This presents challenges for the County Council in caring for children with disabilities, particularly in responding to the changing expectations and preferences of children and their families. To undertake further adaptations would require redesign and rebuild, and would come at considerable cost.
- Should the two homes close, the County Council would be able to reduce costs by approximately £450,000 per year, on the upkeep of buildings and facilities. Furthermore, some of the current funding used to provide care services at the two homes could be spent on purchasing alternative care support and respite services, provided by other organisations, to meet assessed care needs and preferences.

### Q.12 To what extent do you agree with the proposal to close Merrydale? *Please tick one box only.*

| Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

### Q.13 To what extent do you agree with the proposal to close Sunbeams? *Please tick one box only.*

| Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**Q.14 Do you have any comments on the proposal to close Merrydale and Sunbeams? This could include your views on alternative approaches to overnight respite which you would like the County Council to consider, or comments on the options which have been rejected (please see the Information Pack, page 6)**

*Please tell us what you think in the box below. If you would like to say more, please attach other pages to your response.*

**Q.15 Please describe what, if any, impact the proposal to close Merrydale and Sunbeams could have on you or your family, people you know or work with, or your group or organisation.**

*Please tell us what you think in the box below. If you would like to say more, please attach other pages to your response.*

## About you

*If you are responding to this consultation on behalf of an organisation, you **do not** need to complete this section.*

*The information requested below is optional. Responses you provide here will be used for analytical purposes only and will be used for no other purpose.*

### Q.16 Please tell us the first part of your home postcode. This will help us to understand views in different areas.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

### Q.17 Are you? *Please ✓ one box only.*

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to say

### Q.18 Do you have a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? *Please ✓ one box only.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

### Q.19 If you are a parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, how many other children under the age of 18 live in your household? *Please ✓ one box only.*

- ☐ Yes – aged 0-4
- ☐ Yes – aged 5-8
- ☐ Yes – aged 9-11
- ☐ Yes – aged 12-15
- ☐ Yes – aged 16-17
- ☐ No – none under 18
- ☐ Not applicable / I am not a parent or carer

## Q.20 Which of these ethnic groups do you belong to?

*Please ✔ one box only.*

- ☐ English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Any other white background

- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Nepalese
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Any other Asian background

- ☐ African
- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ Any other black background

- ☐ White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ White and Black African
- ☐ White and Asian
- ☐ Any other mixed background

- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Any other ethnic group

- ☐ Prefer not to say

## Thank you

Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Feedback will help to inform any decision by the County Council on the proposed closure of overnight respite services at Merrydale and Sunbeams later in the year.

Please return paper Response Forms in the Freepost envelope provided. If you do not have a Freepost envelope, please post your response to: **Freepost HAMPSHIRE**

If you have any queries about this consultation or the information provided, please email **overnight.respite@hants.gov.uk** or call **0300 555 1384**.*

**Calls from a landline will be charged at the local rate, although mobile phone charges may vary*

## Appendix 3 - List of organisations or groups which responded to the consultation

The consultation questionnaire asked whether the respondent was responding on behalf of an organisation or group. There were a total of four structured and four unstructured responses on behalf of an organisation, group or community representative body.

Organisations or groups who responded to the consultation:

- Norman Gate School.
- Icknield School.
- Henry Tyndale School.
- Hampshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Child Health Department, Royal Hampshire County Hospital.
- Aldershot Town Council.
- Itchen Valley Division and The Worthys Ward.
- Eastleigh Borough Council
- Sunbeams Respite Care Unit.

## Appendix 4 - Consultation technical detail

### Respondent classification

Respondents were asked to identify whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group. This question, as with all questions in the consultation questionnaire, was optional.

Where respondents identified themselves as individuals they were asked to provide more information about their demography, personal situation, and household composition.

Where respondents identified themselves as responding on behalf of an organisation or group they were asked to name the organisation or group, provide the address of the organisation or group, and to provide the name and position of the individual providing the response.

| | | Respondent type | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Individual response | Organisation or group | **Total** |
| Response type | Online Questionnaire | 336 | 3 | 339 |
| | Paper Questionnaire | 26 | 1 | 27 |
| | *Consultation questionnaire total* | 362 | 4 | 366 |
| | Unstructured (non-questionnaire) correspondence | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| | **Total** | 373 | 5 | 378 |

## Appendix 5 - Consultation participant profile

The breakdown of respondents by category is shown below.

| | Response Option | Count | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gender | | | |
| | Female | 268 | 79% |
| | Male | 57 | 16% |
| | Prefer not to say | 16 | 5% |
| Do you have a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? | | | |
| | No | 274 | 80% |
| | Yes | 43 | 13% |
| | Prefer not to say | 24 | 7% |
| Which of these ethnic groups do you belong to? | | | |
| | White | 316 | 93% |
| | Mixed / Multiple | 4 | 1% |
| | Asian / Asian British | 1 | 0% |
| | Other ethnic group | 1 | 0% |
| | Prefer not to say | 19 | 6% |
| Are you responding on your own behalf or on behalf of an organisation or group? | | | |
| | Own reponse | 362 | 99% |
| | On behalf of a group / organisation | 4 | 1% |
| Context for response | | | |
| | I am a member of the general public | 150 | 42% |
| | I am a parent or carer of a child with SEN and Disabilities | 103 | 29% |
| | I am a family member of a child with SEN and Disabilities | 38 | 11% |
| | I work at Merrydale, Sunbeams or Firvale | 22 | 6% |
| | I am a support worker for family /child with SEN and Disabilities | 12 | 3% |
| | I am an adult who has previously used overnight respite myself | 3 | 1% |
| | I am a child or young person | 2 | 1% |
| | Other | 31 | 9% |
| Is the child with SEN and Disabilities an overnight respite user? | | | |
| | Yes | 98 | 64% |
| | No | 55 | 36% |
| Which Home do they use? (multi-tick) | | | |
| | Merrydale | 55 | 56% |
| | Sunbeams | 30 | 30% |
| | Firvale | 6 | 13% |
| | Other | 13 | 6% |
| How old is(are) the child(ren) with SEN and Disabilities? (multi-tick) | | | |
| | Age 0 - 7 | 17 | 11% |
| | Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 49% |
| | Age 16 - 18 | 50 | 33% |
| | Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | 12% |
| | Not applicable | 7 | 5% |
| Are there any other children under the age of 18 living in the household? (multi-tick) | | | |
| | No – none under 18 | 29 | 28% |
| | Yes – aged 0-4 | 10 | 10% |
| | Yes – aged 5-8 | 17 | 17% |
| | Yes – aged 9-11 | 24 | 24% |
| | Yes – aged 12-15 | 27 | 27% |
| | Yes - aged 16-17 | 18 | 18% |
| | Not applicable / I am not a parent or carer | 2 | 2% |
| Where do respondents live - by postcode area | | | |
| | SO (Southampton) Postcode area | 121 | 33% |
| | GU (Guildford) Postcode area | 104 | 29% |
| | PO (Portsmouth) Postcode area | 20 | 5% |
| | RG (Reading) Postcode area | 14 | 4% |
| | SP (Salisbury) Postcode area | 5 | 1% |
| | Other | 28 | 8% |
| | Not provided | 72 | 20% |

## Appendix 6 - Coded responses to open questions

285 people commented on the proposals to close the two homes or described the potential impact that the closures would have on them, their family, people they know or work with, or their group or organisation. These were read in full, then coded by theme. Each theme is listed below, alongside counts of the number of times they were mentioned:

| Themes relating to Impacts | Number of mentions |
|---|---|
| Loss of vital rest for parent/carer | 87 |
| Increased pressure on parent/carer | 85 |
| Impact on wider family unit | 80 |
| Loss of safe/supportive facility | 79 |
| Financial/wider service impact | 63 |
| Emotional impact | 60 |
| Social impact on child | 45 |
| Rebuilding trust in staff/facility | 45 |
| Concerns about child's reaction to change | 32 |
| Underestimated demand | 32 |
| Concerns around consultation process | 31 |
| Re-settling child | 31 |
| Concern about existing staff | 29 |
| Children will end up in full time care | 15 |
| A gap in provision would be detrimental to family/child | 8 |
| No Impact | 1 |
| **Themes relating to Alternatives** | **Number of mentions** |
| Distance to alternatives/transport costs | 55 |
| Ensuring comparable facilities/alternatives | 51 |
| Use of other overnight respite homes | 31 |
| Build new purpose-built home | 37 |
| Use of Specialist Respite Care | 19 |
| Reassess criteria for overnight respite to make viable | 18 |
| Postpone closure | 16 |
| Use of Care Support | 15 |
| Re-think existing homes | 23 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Concerns about emergency placements | 11 |
| Other ideas suggested | 9 |
| Use of Family Breaks | 6 |
| Improved choice would be beneficial | 4 |
| Use of Independence Breaks | 3 |
| More children could benefit from improved facilities | 3 |
| Other provision could be more cost effective | 1 |

## Appendix 7 - Data tables

### To what extent do you agree with the proposals to close Merrydale Respite Home?

| **The published format that was employed.** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 366 | 13 | 251 | 52 | 24 | 14 | 12 |
| Web: Snap WebHost | 128 | 8 | 72 | 24 | 10 | 10 | 4 |
| Paper: Keyed | 27 | 3 | 14 | 3 | 4 | - | 3 |
| Web: Tablet | 48 | 1 | 36 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Web: Smartphone | 163 | 1 | 129 | 20 | 6 | 3 | 4 |

| **Personal response or responding on behalf of organisation or group?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 366 | 13 | 251 | 52 | 24 | 14 | 12 |
| I am providing my own response | 362 | 12 | 248 | 52 | 24 | 14 | 12 |
| On behalf of an organisation or group | 4 | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - |

| **Who are you?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 362 | 12 | 248 | 52 | 24 | 14 | 12 |
| A child or young person | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| A parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities | 103 | 4 | 67 | 11 | 13 | 4 | 4 |
| A family member of a child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (e.g. brother, sister, grandparent) | 38 | 2 | 33 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| An adult who has previously used overnight respite myself | 3 | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - |
| I work at Merrydale, Sunbeams or Firvale | 22 | 1 | 12 | 5 | 2 | - | 2 |
| A paid or voluntary support worker for a family or a child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities | 12 | - | 7 | 2 | 3 | - | - |
| I am a member of the general public | 150 | 3 | 107 | 29 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Other | 31 | 1 | 19 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| No reply | 1 | 1 | | | | | |

| **How old is the child / are the children with disabilities?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 153 | 6 | 107 | 14 | 16 | 5 | 5 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | 1 | 12 | 2 | - | 2 | - |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 4 | 47 | 8 | 13 | 1 | 2 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | 1 | 39 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | - | 13 | 3 | 2 | - | - |
| Not applicable | 7 | - | 6 | - | - | 1 | - |

| **Does your family member/child/ you use respite, which one?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 99 | 4 | 70 | 7 | 13 | 2 | 3 |
| Merrydale | 55 | - | 49 | 3 | - | - | 3 |
| Sunbeams | 30 | 4 | 14 | 2 | 10 | - | - |
| Firvale | 6 | - | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Other | 13 | - | 8 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - |

| **Are you?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 359 | 11 | 247 | 51 | 24 | 14 | 12 |
| Male | 57 | 2 | 43 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Female | 268 | 7 | 181 | 38 | 20 | 11 | 11 |
| Prefer not to say | 16 | - | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | - |
| No reply | 18 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 1 | - | - |

| **Do you have a health problem or disability?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 359 | 13 | 247 | 51 | 24 | 14 | 12 |
| Yes | 43 | 2 | 31 | 5 | 4 | 1 | - |
| No | 274 | 7 | 188 | 42 | 14 | 11 | 12 |
| Prefer not to say | 24 | - | 15 | 3 | 4 | 2 | - |
| No reply | 18 | 2 | 13 | 1 | 2 | - | - |

| **What is your ethnic group?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 359 | 11 | 234 | 50 | 23 | 14 | 12 |
| White | 316 | 7 | 218 | 46 | 22 | 12 | 11 |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups | 4 | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Asian / Asian British | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other ethnic group | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Prefer not to say | 19 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| No reply | 18 | 3 | 13 | 1 | 1 | - | - |

| **For 'white', please describe which:** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 311 | 7 | 214 | 46 | 21 | 12 | 11 |
| English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British | 303 | 7 | 208 | 44 | 21 | 12 | 11 |
| Irish | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gypsy or Irish Traveller | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Any other White background | 8 | | 6 | 2 | - | - | - |
| No reply | 5 | - | 4 | - | 1 | - | - |

| **For 'mixed' please describe which:** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 4 | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | - |
| White and Black Caribbean | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| White and Black African | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| White and Asian | 3 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| **For Asian or 'Asian British', please describe which:** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Indian | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Pakistani | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bangladeshi | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chinese | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Any other Asian background | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| **For 'any other ethnic group', please describe which:** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Arab | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Any other ethnic group | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| **Are there any other children under the age of 18 living in the household?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 103 | 8 | 85 | 13 | 13 | 4 | 4 |
| Yes – aged 0-4 | 10 | - | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Yes – aged 5-8 | 17 | 3 | 12 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Yes – aged 9-11 | 24 | 1 | 20 | - | 2 | 1 | - |
| Yes – aged 12-15 | 27 | 3 | 18 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Yes - aged 16-17 | 18 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 4 | - | - |
| No – none under 18 | 29 | - | 17 | 5 | 5 | - | 2 |
| Not applicable / I am not a parent or carer | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| No reply | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |

**To what extent do you agree with the proposals to close Sunbeams?**

| **The published format which was employed.** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 366 | 21 | 255 | 45 | 16 | 18 | 11 |
| Web: Snap WebHost | 128 | 14 | 69 | 21 | 7 | 14 | 3 |
| Paper: Keyed | 27 | 6 | 13 | 1 | 3 | - | 4 |
| Web: Tablet | 48 | - | 37 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Web: Smartphone | 163 | 1 | 136 | 19 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

| **Personal response/ organisation or group?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 366 | 21 | 255 | 45 | 16 | 18 | 11 |
| providing my own response | 362 | 20 | 253 | 45 | 16 | 17 | 11 |
| Providing a response on behalf of an organisation or group | 4 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - |

| **Who are you?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 362 | 20 | 253 | 45 | 16 | 17 | 11 |
| A child or young person | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| A parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities | 103 | 9 | 66 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 4 |
| A family member of a child with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities (e.g. brother, sister, grandparent) | 38 | 2 | 30 | 5 | - | 1 | - |
| An adult who has previously used overnight respite myself | 3 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - |
| I work at Merrydale, Sunbeams or Firvale | 22 | 1 | 18 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| A paid or voluntary support worker for a family or a child with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities | 12 | - | 10 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| A member of the general public | 150 | 6 | 106 | 27 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Other | 31 | - | 20 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| No reply | 1 | 1 | | | | | |

| **Which respite home does your child/ family member use?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 104 | 8 | 73 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| Merrydale | 55 | 8 | 35 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Sunbeams | 30 | - | 26 | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| Firvale | 6 | - | 4 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Other | 13 | - | 8 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| **Are you?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 359 | 18 | 239 | 43 | 16 | 17 | 11 |
| Male | 57 | 1 | 43 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Female | 268 | 13 | 187 | 31 | 13 | 15 | 9 |
| Prefer not to say | 16 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| No reply | 18 | 3 | 13 | 2 | - | - | - |

| **Do you have a health problem or disability?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 341 | 14 | 240 | 43 | 16 | 17 | 11 |
| Yes | 43 | 2 | 27 | 9 | 4 | 1 | - |
| No | 274 | 11 | 194 | 32 | 12 | 14 | 11 |
| Prefer not to say | 24 | 1 | 19 | 2 | - | 2 | - |
| No reply | 18 | 4 | 12 | 2 | - | - | - |

| **Ethnic group.** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 359 | 18 | 240 | 43 | 16 | 17 | 10 |
| White | 316 | 14 | 222 | 40 | 16 | 15 | 9 |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups | 4 | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Asian / Asian British | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other ethnic group | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Prefer not to say | 19 | 1 | 14 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 |
| No reply | 18 | 3 | 12 | 2 | - | - | 1 |

| **If chose 'white' please describe which:** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 311 | 14 | 217 | 40 | 16 | 15 | 9 |
| English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British | 303 | 14 | 211 | 38 | 16 | 15 | 9 |
| Irish | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gypsy or Irish Traveller | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Any other White background | 8 | - | 6 | 2 | - | - | - |
| No reply | 5 | - | 5 | - | - | - | - |

| **If chose 'mixed multple' please describe:** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 4 | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | - |
| White and Black Caribbean | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| White and Black African | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| White and Asian | 3 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| **If chose 'Asian, Asian British' please describe:** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Indian | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Pakistani | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bangladeshi | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chinese | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Any other Asian background | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| **If chose 'other' please describe which:** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Arab | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Any other ethnic group | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| **Are there any other children under the age of 18 living in the household?** | Total | No reply | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 103 | 9 | 65 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 4 |
| Yes – aged 0-4 | 10 | - | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Yes – aged 5-8 | 17 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Yes – aged 9-11 | 24 | - | 19 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Yes – aged 12-15 | 27 | 2 | 16 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Yes - aged 16-17 | 18 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| No – none under 18 | 29 | 5 | 17 | 2 | 4 | - | 1 |
| Not applicable / I am not a parent or carer | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| No reply | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |

| **Level of importance for 'having fun' aspect of respite care for children** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 2 | - | 1 | 25 | 125 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | - | - | - | 4 | 13 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 1 | - | - | 9 | 65 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | - | - | 1 | 7 | 42 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | - | - | - | 6 | 12 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 4 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'being with friends' aspect of respite care for children | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 46 | 88 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | - | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 21 | 43 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | - | - | 2 | 12 | 36 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | - | - | 2 | 6 | 10 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'doing a favourite activity' aspect of respite care for children | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 2 | - | 9 | 53 | 103 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | - | - | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | - | - | 3 | 21 | 51 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | - | - | 3 | 16 | 31 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | - | - | 2 | 6 | 10 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 4 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'making their own decisions' aspect of respite care for children | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 54 | 84 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | - | - | 2 | 7 | 8 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | - | 1 | 4 | 25 | 45 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | - | - | 4 | 17 | 29 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | - | - | 2 | 4 | 12 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 3 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'feeling happy' aspect of respite care for children | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 3 | - | - | 5 | 145 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | - | - | - | 1 | 16 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 72 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | - | - | - | 1 | 49 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 16 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 1 | - | - | - | 6 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'Having private space' aspect of respite care for children | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 46 | 94 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | - | - | - | 6 | 11 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 49 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | 1 | - | 5 | 13 | 31 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | - | 1 | - | 6 | 11 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 4 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'feeling safe' aspect of respite care for children | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 1 | - | - | 7 | 145 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | - | - | - | 1 | 16 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | - | - | - | 2 | 73 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | - | - | - | 2 | 48 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | - | - | - | 2 | 16 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 1 | - | - | - | 6 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'having independence' aspect of respite care for children | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 45 | 93 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | 1 | - | - | 5 | 11 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 19 | 48 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | 1 | - | 2 | 16 | 31 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | - | - | 2 | 5 | 11 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'feeling secure' aspect of respite care for children | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 4 | - | - | 5 | 144 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | - | - | - | 1 | 16 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 72 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | - | - | - | - | 50 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 15 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 2 | - | - | - | 5 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'having a stimulating experience' aspect of respite care | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 4 | - | - | 34 | 115 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | - | - | - | 5 | 12 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 2 | - | - | 11 | 62 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | 1 | - | - | 13 | 36 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | - | - | - | 6 | 12 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 4 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'having access to facilities/ equipment that is not available at home' aspect of respite care | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 6 | 4 | 15 | 47 | 81 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 13 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 42 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | 1 | - | 6 | 21 | 22 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | - | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for 'other' aspect of respite care | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of child at respite?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 153 | 89 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 41 |
| Age 0 - 7 | 17 | 9 | 1 | 2 | - | 5 |
| Age 8 - 15 | 75 | 44 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 19 |
| Age 16 - 18 | 50 | 29 | 2 | 5 | - | 14 |
| Young adult 19 - 25 | 18 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Not applicable | 7 | 3 | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| No reply | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Level of importance for ' a break for caring' aspect of respite care for parents/carers broken down by age of other children at home | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of other children at home?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 103 | | - | - | 7 | 96 |
| Aged 0-4 | 10 | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| Aged 5-8 | 17 | - | - | - | 3 | 14 |
| Aged 9-11 | 24 | - | - | - | 1 | 23 |
| Aged 12-15 | 27 | - | - | - | 3 | 24 |
| Aged 16-17 | 18 | - | - | - | 2 | 16 |
| No – none under 18 | 29 | - | - | - | 1 | 28 |
| Not applicable / I am not a parent or carer | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| No reply | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |

| Level of importance for 'To spend time with other children and/or family' aspect of respite care for parents/carers broken down by age of other children at home | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of other children at home?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 103 | | - | 3 | 9 | 91 |
| Aged 0-4 | 10 | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| Aged 5-8 | 17 | - | - | - | 4 | 13 |
| Aged 9-11 | 24 | - | - | - | 2 | 22 |
| Aged 12-15 | 27 | - | - | - | 3 | 24 |
| Aged 16-17 | 18 | - | - | - | 1 | 17 |
| No – none under 18 | 29 | - | - | 3 | 2 | 24 |
| Not applicable / I am not a parent or carer | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| No reply | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |

| Level of importance for 'to get a good night's sleep' aspect of respite care for parents/ carers broken down by age of other children at home | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of other children at home?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 103 | 2 | 1 | - | 16 | 84 |
| Aged 0-4 | 10 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 8 |
| Aged 5-8 | 17 | 1 | - | - | 4 | 12 |
| Aged 9-11 | 24 | - | - | - | 1 | 23 |
| Aged 12-15 | 27 | 2 | - | - | 3 | 22 |
| Aged 16-17 | 18 | 1 | - | - | 5 | 12 |
| No – none under 18 | 29 | - | - | - | 4 | 25 |
| Not applicable / I am not a parent or carer | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| No reply | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |

| Level of importance for 'the child or young person to learn and practice being independent' aspect of respite care for parents/carers broken down by age of other children at home | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of other children at home?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 103 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 27 | 64 |
| Aged 0-4 | 10 | - | - | - | 5 | 5 |
| Aged 5-8 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 10 |
| Aged 9-11 | 24 | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | 17 |
| Aged 12-15 | 27 | 2 | - | 1 | 7 | 17 |
| Aged 16-17 | 18 | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 12 |
| No – none under 18 | 29 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 19 |
| Not applicable / I am not a parent or carer | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| No reply | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - |

| Level of importance for 'the child or young person to spend time with their friends' aspect of respite care for parents/ carers broken down by age of other children at home | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of other children at home?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 103 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 35 | 54 |
| Aged 0-4 | 10 | - | - | - | 5 | 5 |
| Aged 5-8 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| Aged 9-11 | 24 | - | 1 | 1 | 8 | 14 |
| Aged 12-15 | 27 | 3 | - | 2 | 5 | 17 |
| Aged 16-17 | 18 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 13 |
| No – none under 18 | 29 | - | 1 | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| Not applicable / I am not a parent or carer | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| No reply | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - |

| Level of importance for 'other' aspect of respite care for parents/carers broken down by age of other children at home | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age of other children at home?** | Total | No reply | Not important | No feelings | A little bit important | Very important |
| Total | 103 | 72 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 27 |
| Aged 0-4 | 10 | 8 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Aged 5-8 | 17 | 14 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Aged 9-11 | 24 | 17 | - | - | 1 | 6 |
| Aged 12-15 | 27 | 21 | - | - | - | 6 |
| Aged 16-17 | 18 | 14 | - | - | - | 4 |
| No – none under 18 | 29 | 16 | - | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| Not applicable / I am not a parent or carer | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| No reply | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |