

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal EMCS02a T19 EIA Children with Disabilities – User
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Department Childrens Services
Date of Assessment 23 May 2017

Description of Service / Policy

HCC has a statutory duty to provide support to children with disabilities. This is currently achieved by the provision of long term residential care, overnight residential respite care and care support either in the home or the community. The authority also provides a short break activities programme which is open to all children.

Geographical impact* All Hampshire Basingstoke & Deane East
Hampshire Eastleigh Fareham Gosport Hart Havant New
Forest Rushmoor Test Valley Winchester

Description of proposed change

HCC is reviewing how it provides overnight respite to disabled children and families to expand the range of services available to give greater choice. A proposal to close two residential respite units is being consulted on.

The market will have capacity to meet increased numbers of families with a direct payment or personal budget. Support is outcome focused and time limited. Changes to ways of working will impact staff and service users.

A review of universal short breaks to make this more targeted, outcomes based and focused on helping families be more resilient and independent.

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Planned

No specific consultation has been carried out on this proposal, however, the County Council carried out a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2017 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing council tax, using reserves and making changes to the way in which services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet in October 2017.

When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Statutory considerations

Impact

Age Neutral

Disability Positive

Impact This would provide a more responsive, targeted service to all children open to children with disability teams (currently 741).

These changes would offer interventions earlier and ensure these are outcome focused to support children remaining in their communities. This should support parents and carers to look after children in their own families and build their resilience.

The review of the short break offer will target services at Early Help stage, therefore potentially reducing access to services to those children with disabilities that do not meet a statutory threshold for support.

Sexual Orientation Neutral

Race Neutral

Religion and Belief Neutral

Gender Reassignment Neutral

Gender Neutral

Marriage and civil partnership Neutral

Pregnancy and Maternity Neutral

Other policy considerations

Poverty Impact Low

Services and support are not currently equally available across the county. For families living in rural areas or without accessible transport it can be more expensive to travel to access suitable activities. This will be partially mitigated by targeting commissioning activities to explore service providers in areas where current gaps are identified.

Rurality Impact Low

Potentially further distances to access residential care in some cases.

Mitigation When procuring new services consideration will be given to where service users are and to try and minimise travel and improve access.

Additional Information