

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE

5 APRIL 2016

**REVISED SHORT BREAK STATEMENT AND OUTCOMES OF THE PUBLIC
CONSULTATION ON REVISED MODEL FOR ALLOCATION OF THE DISCRETIONARY
SHORT BREAK GRANT FOR IMPLEMENTATION WITH EFFECT FROM 1 MAY 2016**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the Local Authority's statutory responsibilities in relation to the provision of Short Breaks and to seek approval for the implementation of a revised model for the allocation of the discretionary short break grant with effect from 1 May 2016 following public consultation.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report proposes the implementation (following recent public consultation) of a revised model for the allocation of the short break grant which will emphasise support and provision which is personalised, leads to a reduction in bureaucracy and which reduces the requirement for families of disabled children and young people to access higher cost statutory services.

3.0 ISSUES

- 3.1 The meeting of the Corporate Director and Executive Members for CYPS on 9 December 2014 agreed to public consultation on a strategy to support disabled children, young people and their families which, if implemented, would provide an increased focus on light touch intervention for families to meet needs and reduce the number of families who may require access to higher cost statutory services.
- 3.2 A twelve week public consultation on the strategy commenced on 17 December 2014 and ended on 11 March 2015. The strategy, which was approved by the Executive on 26 May 2015, represents a coherent approach to support and provision which makes improvements where possible, minimises potential disruption to the lives of disabled children and young people and their families, and ensures that the Council meets its statutory duties whilst disinvesting to a significant degree.
- 3.3 In April 2015 the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the responses to the public consultation on the draft Strategy. Members agreed that the proposal to reduce the budget for discretionary Short Break Grants from £150k per annum to £100k per annum should be deferred to 2016/2017 pending consultation on a revised Short Breaks statement which would incorporate revised proposals for the allocation of the discretionary short break grant. This report and supporting Appendix now outlines revised proposals for allocation of the discretionary short break grant which have been developed following a further public consultation in February – March 2016. Subject to approval, this proposals will be implemented with effect from 1 May 2016.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Discretionary short break grants for disabled children who do not meet the eligibility criteria for the Disabled Children's Service were introduced by North Yorkshire County Council in 2012. These grants were managed by Inclusion Officers, who assisted families with making applications for a grant. That system has been in place (with some operational adjustments) for three years and has been very popular with families. 377 families accessed the grant in 2014/15.
- 4.2 The public consultation on the Council's strategy to support disabled children, young people and their families conducted in 2015 generated considerable support for the continuation of the discretionary short break grant. Many families who did not meet the eligibility criteria for statutory services reported that they continued to value and benefit from this support. It also provided enhanced opportunities for families to have greater ownership and flexibility as to how their needs would be met. These views were echoed by respondents to the recent public consultation about how the discretionary grant should be allocated in future.
- 4.3 The Council recognises that this is an important aspect of its preventative offer and in many cases negates the need for families of disabled children to access higher cost statutory services which would include a formal assessment. In light of this it has been agreed that the Prevention Service will manage the Discretionary Short Break Grant moving forward as part of the broader preventative offer.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 At their meeting on 17 April 2015 the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee indicated that they would like to see evidence that parents and carers of disabled children and young people had been actively engaged in considering the options for the future delivery of the revised short break grant and officers are grateful to NYPACT, the parent carer forum for children and young people with SEND, for their involvement in this development work, in helping to shape the proposed revised model and in encouraging their members to participate in consultation.
- 5.2 The most significant challenge in revising the statement was in devising a system to better manage short break grants against a reduced budget by introducing qualifying criteria which better targeted those disabled children and families who did not meet the eligibility criteria in the Disabled Children's Service but who would most benefit from targeted support. The previous system had been very inclusive and required limited evidence of need. Increased scrutiny and evidence will be required in order to better manage within the reduced budget.
- 5.3 Research was carried out to identify good practice from other local authorities who were delivering similar discretionary short break grants. This research found that a number of LA's who had pioneered this approach had subsequently stopped doing so because of budget pressures and because it is discretionary. That said, a well regarded model is currently still in place in Enfield and it is upon this model that we are proposing to base the revised discretionary short break grant in North Yorkshire.
- 5.4 The revised model considers disabled children at three levels of need. At the lower level the family are offered advice and information. At the medium level the discretionary short break grant is offered and at the higher level it is likely that the child and their family may require a full assessment. A self-referral and application form requires some self-assessment, endorsement by a professional and evidence of

need. The Short Break Statement along with more detailed information in relation to the proposed model together with an overview of the suggested application process is provided at **Appendix 1**. These have been updated in light of consultation feedback (see below).

- 5.5 Having identified a potential model, a group of officers from the Disabled Children's Service and the Prevention Service met with a Parent Reference Group in December 2015 in order to discuss it in more detail and in order to gain feedback upon it. The feedback received from the Parent Reference Group has been helpful and has been used to inform the development of the key focus areas within the public consultation
- 5.6 The proposed model was well received by the Parent Reference Group and endorsed as an approach to manage, more effectively, the number of applicants and grants awarded. The Reference Group felt that the grant should remain at £500 per family and self-referral with endorsement from a professional and evidence of need was also supported.
- 5.7 The Parent Reference group also considered that in order to support the most vulnerable families with a disabled child the public consultation should ask whether the grant should be targeted at those families in receipt of state benefits or tax credits so that the grant would have a greater impact. Having sought legal advice there is nothing, in law, which would prevent the authority from targeting the grant in this way but through the public consultation exercise we have considered carefully the feedback from families on this particular aspect of the proposal. Updated proposals in respect of this aspect are presented below in section 8.3.
- 5.8 It is proposed that a short break panel made up of officers from the Prevention Service and the Disabled Children's Service will screen and approve all applications for the short break grant without the requirement for costly and detailed assessment. It is anticipated 2 panels per year will be required.
- 5.9 The draft revised short breaks statement attached at Appendix 1 has been prepared in light of discussions with colleagues across CYPS and reflects the core offer offered via the Prevention Service. As it is now a core component of the Local Offer the short breaks statement no longer needs to be a stand-alone document. It is deliberately open in respect of services following assessment to reflect the greater choice and control envisaged in legislation and the Strategy. The revised short breaks statement will be incorporated into the Local Offer once finalised and approved.
- 6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
- 6.1 In line with the outcome of public consultation on the strategy for supporting disabled children, young people and their families and in line with the 2020 savings target, the discretionary short breaks grant will be retained but will reduce from £150,000 per annum to £100,000 per annum with effect from 1 May 2016. This reduction contributes to the overall savings target for disabled children and young people of £887,000, of which £500,000 relates to reductions in the overall cost of provision.
- 7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008¹ requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. This duty came into force on 1 April 2011. Under Paragraph 5 of The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2010 local authorities must also prepare a 'Short Breaks Statement' setting out details of the range of services provided, any eligibility against which services will be assessed and how these will meet the needs of carers in its area. Furthermore local authorities must publish this statement on their website, keep it under review and revise it where appropriate. In preparation and revision the local authority must have regard to the views of carers in their area.
- 7.2 Following the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 the short breaks statement should now also be a component of the Local Offer.
- 7.3 A local authority must explain the process by which it decides whether or not a child is "eligible" for support services, paragraph 5 (1)(b).
- 7.4 The local authority must consider its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and ensure that it does not discriminate against anyone because they have a disability, or against a family member of a disabled child

8.0 OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 8.1 A 30-day public consultation on the revised proposals took place from 4th February – 5th March 2016. Two public consultation events were held in Harrogate and Scarborough, one during the day and one in the evening. These were poorly attended (only 3 parents of disabled children attended these meetings), however all parents/carers present had previously accessed the grant. An online survey was also made available on the Council's website and promoted via NYPACT and the Prevention Service. A total of 38 responses were received, and full responses are available in the report appendices. An update was provided to the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th March 2016, and Members were supportive of the changes proposed in response to consultation (see below). Members expressed an interest in reviewing the ongoing impact of the grant and have requested further updates after 6 and 12 months of the new approach. The consultation focused on a number of key areas, which are presented below.
- 8.2 Although there has been a relatively small number of formal responses to this consultation, there was considerable response as part of the original consultation on the strategy. There was widespread engagement on the proposal to reduce the short break grant. Some parents may not have responded to the second consultation because the commitment to retain the grant was made in 2015 and the recent consultation was on the process for allocating the grant, not whether it should be retained. In this respect it is felt that robust decisions can be made based on the consultation responses received, however there is a commitment to keep the grant under review after 1 year.
- 8.3 Amount of grant per child (currently £500)
The Parent Reference group felt that the Short Break Grant should be kept at £500 per family, rather than a reduced amount to reach more families. 47% of survey respondents agree that the short break grant should be kept at £500 per family (16%

¹ amends the duties that the Local Authority must provide for disabled children contained within paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 of Children Act 1989

neither agree nor disagree; 37% disagree). Views and discussion at the public consultation meetings suggested that we should ask parents to specify how much funding they are applying for. This is because some parents (at the public consultation meeting) indicated they did not need the full amount last year and had struggled to use it all. This was reflected in survey responses: "I do feel that families should be given not just a fair share but also each request should be considered under its own merits as each family's needs are different". In response to the consultation, it is therefore proposed that grants of 'up to £500' be offered, and that the application form be amended to ask parents to specify the amount they are applying for. In addition, to enhance the scrutiny of requests by the Grant Panel, a question will also be included around what the funding is being requested for. This approach offers the potential for funding to be used more cost-effectively as well as more families benefitting from the grant.

8.4 Targeting of grants to those in receipt of state benefits or tax credits

The Parent Reference Group felt that the public consultation should ask whether the grant should be targeted at those families in receipt of state benefits or tax credits, in order to support the most vulnerable families with a disabled child. 42% of survey respondents agree that targeting and prioritising those families with a disabled child who are in receipt of state benefits or tax credits when allocating short breaks grants is a fair proposal (47% disagree, 11% neither agree nor disagree). All 3 recipients of the grant who attended consultation events indicated that if it was means-tested, they would be unlikely to receive the grant in the future, and therefore they did not support means testing. In light of the responses received, it is felt that public consultation has not generated sufficient endorsement of means-testing for this approach to be implemented when allocating the revised grant. Indeed, some respondents were very unsupportive of this approach: "working families without benefits are sometimes as financially/morally/emotionally in need as those getting benefits". Questions in relation to state benefits and tax credits have therefore been removed from the application form. Officers are confident that the more robust application process proposed (i.e. asking for endorsement by a professional, asking for information on what the grant is needed for, and asking for information on particular issues the child or family face) will enable effective targeting of the grant, however this will be kept under annual review.

8.5 Application process for grants

64% of consultation respondents agree that it is reasonable to ask families to fill in a self assessment and application form, to provide evidence in support of their application and to seek the endorsement of a professional (16% neither agree nor disagree; 21% disagree). In light of this, the proposed application and approval process will be implemented, however a number of small changes have been made to the application form, as outlined above. It should however be noted that some families indicated that it may be difficult to find a professional who knows the family well enough to provide the endorsement for the application. The guidance accompanying the application process will make clear to families that existing evidence of the child's needs will be acceptable (for example a recent medical report from a GP, health professional or other specialist the child may be receiving support or help from). Through consultation a question was raised about discretionary services being offered where statutory assessment would be more appropriate to check that a disabled child or young person is eligible to receive a service from the council. The short breaks grant process proposed does not infringe the right of parents to request an assessment for services for a child in need.

8.6 Guidance around how short breaks grants can be accessed and used

The final area of focus within consultation was the provision of guidance about the short breaks grant. There was support from those attending public events for the provision of information to parents on what the grant could be used for. 84% of survey respondents would find guidance about what they can spend the grant on helpful (13% neither agree nor disagree; 3% disagree) but respondents overwhelmingly felt that the Council should not place undue restrictions on how the grant can be spent. Information and guidance will be made available to the public via North Yorkshire's Local Offer.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A detailed Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed and published alongside the consultation on the Strategy for supporting the needs of disabled children, young people and families. The relevant sections of the EIA have been updated following consultation on the revised model for the allocation of the short break grant. The updated EIA is included in the Appendix.

10.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The recommendations in respect of the revised proposals for allocation of the reduced Short Breaks Grant, underpinned by the updated Short Breaks Statement, have been informed by engagement with a Reference Group of parents and carers and updated in response to feedback from public consultation. Members of the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee have reviewed consultation responses, and are supportive of the approach as outlined above. The recommendations outlined within this report further build on the extensive public consultation undertaken in 2015 to inform the Strategy for Supporting Disabled Children, Young People and their Families.

11.0 RECOMMENDATION

11.1 That Executive Members note the Local Authority's statutory responsibilities in relation to the provision of short breaks

11.2 That Executive Members note the feedback from the public consultation in respect of the revised approach to the allocation of short breaks grants

11.3 That Executive Members agree to the implementation of a revised approach to allocating the reduced discretionary Short Breaks Grant with effect from 1 May 2016, as outlined above

11.4 That Executive Members agree that the short break grant should be subject to regular review to understand its impact. As part of that review Officers can explore opportunities to replicate the offer supported by the short breaks grant within the wider Prevention Service Core Offer.

PETE DWYER
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

Report prepared by Jane le Sage, Assistant Director, Inclusion

Appendices:
Updated EIA
Consultation responses
Updated application form
Updated short breaks statement

ConsultedExecutive Member

Date:

ConsultedExecutive Member

Date:

ConsultedExecutive Member

Date:

Agreed:Corporate Director

Date:



North Yorkshire County Council

Children and Young People's Service

Short Breaks Statement

Revised for Implementation 1 May 2016

Legal Duties and Responsibilities

Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008¹ requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. This duty came into force on 1 April 2011. Under Paragraph 5 of The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2010 local authorities must also prepare a 'Short Breaks Statement' setting out details of the range of services provided, any eligibility against which services will be assessed and how these will meet the needs of carers in its area. Furthermore local authorities must publish this statement on their website, keep it under review and revise it where appropriate. In preparation and revision the local authority must have regard to the views of carers in their area.

Following the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 the short breaks statement should now also be a component of the Local Offer.

A local authority must explain the process by which it decides whether or not a child is "eligible" for support services, paragraph 5 (1)(b).

The local authority must consider its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and ensure that it does not discriminate against anyone because they have a disability, or against a family member of a disabled child.

What is a Short Break?

A short break is an opportunity for parents and carers of a disabled child to have a break from their caring responsibilities, a chance to rest, spend time with their other children and give brothers and sisters an opportunity to enjoy family time too. Parents may use their break time to enjoy a leisure activity or if they are studying, to support their studies. It might be a social activity or an opportunity for parents to have a break from caring, and also to give the child a break from his primary carers.

This short breaks statement explains what is available at different levels of need and how this can be accessed. We want parents and their children and young people to have as much choice as possible in the type of short break available to them.

Examples of Short Breaks

- **Home Care** - is provided to a child in their family home. It is provided for a specific period of time and this usually involves an element of personal care.
- **Home Sitting** - 'a sitting service' usually provided in the child or young person's home and involves caring for the child and their siblings while their parents go out.
- **One to One Support** - this is when a disabled young person is allocated a specific support worker who may go out with them or support them to attend an activity or event.

¹ amends the duties that the Local Authority must provide for disabled children contained within paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 of Children Act 1989

- **Holiday Activities** - both inclusive and specialist - these include holiday play schemes or taking part in any sport, arts or any other activities during the main and half term school holidays.
- **Out of School Activities** - both inclusive and specialist, during the week and at weekends - these include after school clubs and opportunities to socialise and enjoy activities at the weekend.
- **Overnight Short Breaks** - this is when a child or young person is cared for overnight by someone other than their parents/carers. This may happen in the child's home, in the carer's home, in a residential setting or through an activity type holiday.

Who can access a Short Break?

Every request for a short break is considered on its merits. Short breaks are often provided to the families of children defined in legislation as being 'in need' as a result of their disabilities. A disability can be seen as something which has a substantial, long term (or permanent), detrimental effect on a child's development, health and their ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

Children & young people are eligible for short breaks if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term effect on their ability to carry out day to day activities. This may include a physical or learning disability, a hearing or visual impairment. It includes children with autism and Asperger's Syndrome and children who may have challenging behaviour as a result of a learning disability. It also includes children who have complex needs and who may have palliative life limiting or a life threatening condition.

The Council's Children and Young Peoples Service is committed to the delivery of short breaks. Our resources are used to prioritise services for the most vulnerable, but are also designed, through a commitment to early intervention, to offer services at the lowest possible level of need. Not all children and families require the same level of support; some need more than others because of the nature of their child's disability. Some families may need more support because of their individual family circumstances. This is why we may need to assess your child and family circumstances to ensure we provide the right level of support and services at the right time.

Short Breaks Statement

The following describes the core offer for families with disabled children and young people in North Yorkshire:

<u>Lower levels of support</u>	<u>Higher levels of support</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional short-term support to access some universal services such as youth groups, uniformed groups (i.e. scouts, guides) • Advice or training for providers or short-term additional support to enhance confidence and skills. • Activity based groups for children and young people with disabilities e.g. Youthability, FUSE Theatre Group. • Discretionary Short Break Grants (see Appendix B) to provide families with more choice and control. • Parenting programmes and support. • Parent programmes for families with specific areas of SEND, e.g. autism, in collaboration with the inclusive education service. • An allocated caseworker to work with the child, young person and family on the development and delivery of an agreed family plan. • 0-19 services in Children's Centres. • Youth Clubs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are reserved for disabled children with the highest level of need who meet the DCS Eligibility Criteria (see Appendix A). • To receive Specialist Services you will need to have had the needs of your disabled child and your family assessed by DCS. • Specialist Short Breaks Services are tailored to the needs of the disabled child and their parents/carers. • Examples of Specialist Short Breaks include; day care in the home, day care in supported settings and overnight care in Foster Care or Resource Centres. • Personal budgets are promoted to meet needs through Direct or Indirect Payments or one-off payments.

Appendix A

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**ELIGIBILITY FOR DISABLED CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The Disabled Children's Service provides support for disabled children and young people where the disability has a substantial and long term effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities

AND

There are significant difficulties in meeting needs within their family, broader support networks or through local universal provision

Whilst eligibility decisions are based on individual need and professional judgement, including to what extent the impairment affects their lives and the lives of those who live with and care for them, it is likely that the disabled child or young person will fit into one or more of the following definitions:

- *A significant, permanent and enduring physical disability*
- *A significant global learning disability*
- *A severe and enduring communication disorder*
- *Autism with a significant global development delay and may have challenging behaviour*
- *A significant sensory impairment*

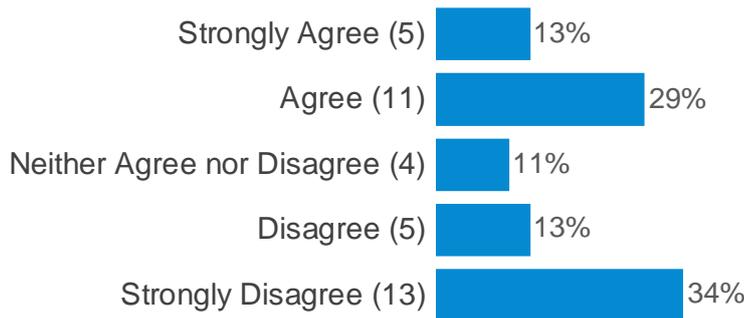
Appendix B – Application Form and Need Levels

Consultation on Discretionary Short Break Grants

This report was generated on 07/03/16. Overall 38 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

If we were to target and prioritise those families with a disabled child when allocating short break grants, e.g. those in receipt of state benefits or tax credits would you consider this to be a fair proposal?



Are there any other points you would wish to make in relation to this aspect of the consultation?

Are there any other points you would wish to make in rela...

Some times the people who don't earn state benefits are the families in Greater need off short break funding

The Short Breaks Funding can be a real life saver for families under great pressures. It may be the only respite these families get from life.

Its for the child, each child should be entitled, people on benefit can apply to other charity organisations to get funding but people who work but may still live on bread line are not able to access these, therefore would struggle to pay out there own pocket for any kind of prvision to get breaks

need to be careful using this as an only means to qualify. Children without a diagnosis often struggle to qualify for state benefits despite their high care needs

Everyone should be treated the same

This brings nycc in line with others ie family fund

Just because a family does not get benefits does not mean they have money

My husband works away and I have too children with special needs, access to RSF days out is a lifesaver and I believe you would be discriminating against my family. RSF Respite is not cheap, and may be limited to those who have the grant. What should I do with two children I struggle to take out on my own for the 6 and a half weeks holiday?

I believe ever one is to have the same care if you have a child with a disability come rich or poor!

Those families living on wages alone are often financially struggling to pay essentials due to rising living costs

It should be based on individual family circumstances

working families without benefits are sometimes as financially/morally/emotionally in need as those getting benefits.

Are there any other points you would wish to make in relation to this aspect of the consultation?

Are there any other points you would wish to make in rela...

Many people not entitled to benefits are working full time and getting less than those who are on benefits. CSA payments are not taken into account with benefits and income which is unfair.

We should see the child not what parents earn

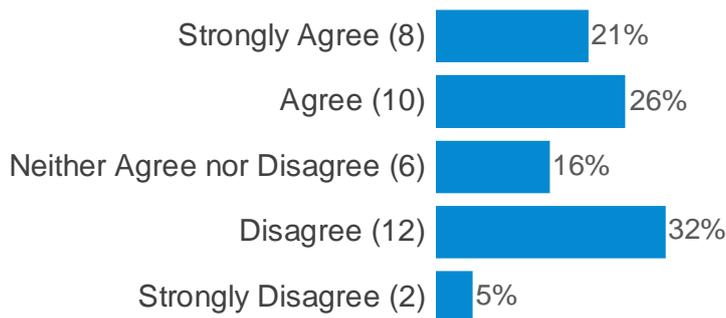
it should be decided if the need is there, not on how much money someone has

The families that are just over this threshold cannot manage the extra family holiday money, or money for a particular event that short breaks gives us, where as families recieving benefits can gain access to many other charity funds etc.

Families who are not in receipt of Tax Credits due to just being over the threshold often struggle more than those in receipt due to the Tax Credits being a golden ticket to support. If you are to look at income, it needs to be means and needs tested as a large family or a family who have a severley disabled child just above the benefit threshold could struggle far more than one in receipt of benefits.

The fact that a family is not in receipt of the benefits you hightlight does not mean that their financial circumstances may be equally difficult

The Parent Reference group felt that the Short Break Grant should be kept at £500 per family, rather than a reduced amount to reach more families. What do you think about this?



Are there any other points you would wish to make in relation to this aspect of the consultation?

Are there any other points you would wish to make in rela...

I would support a reduction so more people benefit

I personally think that all families with a SEN child should recieve the same if funds allow

I do feel that families should be given not just a fair share, but also each request should be considered under it's own merits as each families needs are different.

I think it depends on what the its going to be used for

Would it possible to stagger the amount? High needs get high amount. Lesser need get a lower amount. Could still target more families?

It should be given on a percentage of the break eg if the family break costs £800 then 50% eg£400 could be given if a break costs £500 then agin 50% would be given but ensuring the money is spent in what it's given for

reduce for more families

I think it should be shared out amongst those who are eligible. Lots of families I speak to don't know about this.

Are there any other points you would wish to make in relation to this aspect of the consultation?

Are there any other points you would wish to make in rela...

I would rather take something rather than nothing for my son

Please see how we can help with short break provision
<http://www.jonascentre.org/content/subsidisedholidays/>

It should be given per child

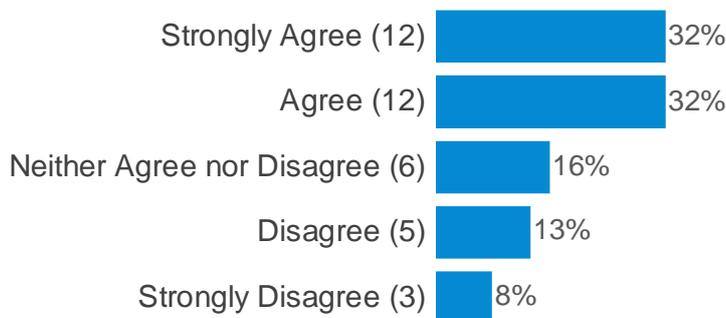
£500 is already derisory given the high level of need of many families excluded from statutory support

I think a reduced amount to reach more families makes perfect sense.

If it went down by £50 or £100 then this would massively increase the number of families offered, also not all families want the full £500, what about asking individually?

A smaller amount could make a big difference to many families

We propose to ask families to fill in a self-assessment and application form, to provide evidence in support of their application and to seek the endorsement of a professional. Please tell us whether you think this approach is reasonable?



Are there any other points you would wish to make in relation to this aspect of the consultation?

Are there any other points you would wish to make in rela...

I do agree but some times it is difficult to find a professional who knows the family well and has the time to write about it.

Some families applying for the fund may not be known to many professionals & may struggle to provide evidence. Like when waiting assessment after a diagnosis has been removed. When a person has been previously mis diagnosed.

Its hard enough to see professionals at the best of times in relation to iur children with ridiculous waitlists, would cause undue stress on families already struggling with daily life

evidence makes sense. But why ask for professional endorsement too? Surely letters previously written should sufficelf on occassion it isn't enough, then seek further professional endorsement. But this shouldn't be needed every time.

proffesional and parent may different ideas , should be completed together

It's not always easy to get the endorsement and it puts extra unneeded pressure on teachers or doctors that are already overstretched. The evidence of disability should be enough.

Getting statements from professionals is very difficult parents of disabled children have enough forms to fill in

I believe you need to make sure the money is given to the correct families.

Are there any other points you would wish to make in relation to this aspect of the consultation?

Are there any other points you would wish to make in rela...

We already spend hours filling in forms for our kids. A referral from a charity or health professional instead?

Seeking medical endorsement would take time

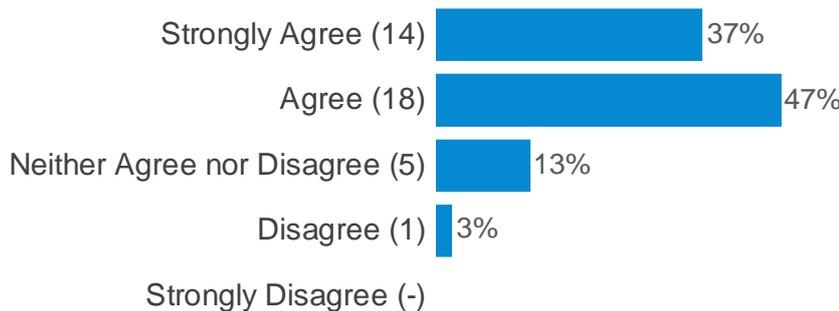
It is unclear how families will be identified as being ineligible for statutory support under s.17 Children Act or s.2 Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons Act. Only those who have undergone a legally complaint assessment and found not to be eligible for statutory services should be referred to the grant scheme. This would surely mean social care professionals would already have collected most if not all of the information necessary (except perhaps about parental income) such that further forms and self assessment would be unnecessary. The concern would be if families were asked to fill out forms for discretionary help without it first being established they did not meet the criteria for statutory help. In the past families accessing discretionary short breaks have ruled themselves out of statutory services because they were not informed of their right to a proper assessment.

I don't disagree but I just want to mention that form filling can become very overwhelming. Families with disabled children, any disability do have a lot on their plates

So long as its not overwhelming given all the other paperwork that goes on, as it simply gets put to one side and becomes a stressful event in itself.

However, support needs to be available to do this, families who are struggling may well find it hard to complete the forms or find it hard to find the time to complete them

Would you find guidance about what you can spend the grant on helpful?



Are there any other points you would wish to make in relation to this aspect of the consultation?

Are there any other points you would wish to make in rela...

As there are many ways to spend the funding, a variety of suggestions would be beneficial. Even some lesser done options ~ befriending 1:1 outreach etc

Definitely, there are a few companies that do like childcare service that costs a fortune be nice to have alternative to just that service of a break

It should be spent on what it's given for and could also be used towards school trips so both parents and child get a break

I think it should be approved spending.

It wouldn't change our chosen use i.e RSF

I am aware of what I can spend the grant on. Each child and family is different; it is what works for an individual family.

Should be able to choose

This would depend whether the Council intended to place restrictions on how the grant can be spent. If it does then clearly guidance is essential. If not, then there is no need for guidance families should be able to make up their own minds. I

needs to fit with individuals and be creative



**Children and Young People's Service
Directorate
Short Breaks Self-Referral Form**

Front Sheet : Introduction

Short breaks are provided to offer:

- an enjoyable play or leisure opportunity for your child;
- a chance for parents to have a short break from their caring responsibilities;
- an opportunity for children and young people to meet with their friends, or
- a chance for your child to learn or develop a skill.

Cont/...

In order to gain a better picture of whether a short break grant would help to meet your child's needs, please complete the following Self-Referral Form and send us any report or information about your child that you feel will help us make a decision.

If you require support to complete this form please contact the North Yorkshire County Council Customer Contact Centre on 01609 780780 or by e-mailing Children&families@northyorks.gov.uk or Children&families@northyorks.gcsx.gov.uk

Once you have completed the form please send it, together with any documents or referee details requested as supporting evidence to North Yorkshire County Council Customer Contact Centre at:

Children&families@northyorks.gov.uk or
Children&families@northyorks.gcsx.gov.uk

or Customer Contact Centre (Short Breaks Grant)

North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AD

BASIC INFORMATION : Please complete all sections in block letters / print clearly

Child's details :

Child's first name Child's surname
Child's date of birth Child's age

Address of child

Postcode

Child's ethnicity

Language(s) spoken by family

Name of school or pre-school service

Please list any short break or other services your child already receives

Please tell us your child's diagnosis or describe their disability

Please advise us of any health professionals who see your child (other than your GP, Health Visitor and School Nurse), and where they are based (e.g. Great Ormond Street Hospital)

Family Information

Form completed by

Relationship to child or young person

Telephone No.

Mobile Telephone No.

Email Address

Please let us know if we can contact you in the future regarding activities and services

YES/NO

Is there another adult in the household who supports you with the care of your child? If so, please tell us their relationship to you

Please tell us the difference that having a short break will make to:

- a) Your child
- b) You and/or your partner
- c) Your child's siblings (if any)

a) Your child:

b) You and your partner:

c) Your child's siblings (if any):

Do you have more than one disabled child? If so, please tell us how many disabled children there are in your family

Do **you** have a disability? If so, please describe

Do **you** have a diagnosed health need? If so, please describe

How much grant funding are you requesting? You can apply for a grant of up to a maximum of £500

Please describe what you plan to use the grant funding for, if your application is approved?:

Please Note : It is important we are able to verify the information given in this form in order to ensure the funding is allocated sensitively, consistently and equally. Could you please attach to this application any recent letters or reports to support your application: for example this could include :

- A letter from the headteacher of any school or provision your child attends
- A recent medical report or letter from your GP, health professional or other specialist your child may receive treatment or support from.
- Any information from another service provider to support your application and the statements you have made in this form regarding your child's needs and/or the needs/situation and/or benefits to the family.

BEHAVIOUR, COMMUNICATION AND LEARNING

Please tick one box in each row (for row numbers 1-5) that best describes your child's needs in terms of behaviour, communication and learning, to explain why they need more support than a child of the same age who doesn't have a disability:

	Low Support Needs	Tick	Medium Support Needs	Tick	High Support Needs	Tick		Tick
1	Because of their behaviour, needs some adult support with their self-care needs, i.e. eating, drinking, dressing, toileting and positioning, for these needs to be safely met.		Because of their behaviour, needs more regular adult support with their self-care needs, i.e. eating, drinking, dressing, toileting and positioning, for these needs to be safely met.		Because of their behaviour, needs 1:1 adult support at all times with their self-care needs, i.e. eating, drinking, dressing, toileting and positioning, for these needs to be safely met.		Not applicable to my child.	
2	Has a learning disability and may display distressed behaviour arising from a lack of understanding and/or anxiety.		Has a severe learning disability and may display highly distressed behaviour arising from a lack of understanding and/or anxiety.		Has a severe learning disability and challenging behaviour that presents significant risk of harm to self or others.		Not applicable to my child.	

Continued/..

Behaviour, Communication and Learning Cont/...

	Low Support Needs	Tick	Medium Support Needs	Tick	High Support Needs	Tick		Tick
3	Has challenging behaviour which requires some involvement and interaction with multi-disciplinary communication and learning services.		Has challenging behaviour which requires regular involvement and interaction with multi-disciplinary communication and learning services.		Has challenging behaviour which requires intensive involvement and interaction with multi-disciplinary communication and learning services.		Not applicable to my child.	
4	Has a learning disability which impacts on some aspects of communication and social interaction.		Has a severe learning disability which impacts on all aspects of communication, i.e. restricted and rigid behaviours, social communication and social interaction.		Has a severe learning disability and a severe communication impairment diagnosed by a Speech and Language Therapist and they need augmented communication support.		Not applicable to my child.	
5	Has communication/learning needs that can be met within universal services with some support in relation to self-care, mobility and engagement with peers.		Has severe communication/learning needs that cannot be met within universal services without significantly more adult support in relation to self-care, mobility and engagement, than other children of a similar age.		Has severe and complex communication/learning needs that cannot be met by universal services without 1:1 support.		Not applicable to my child.	

PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Please tick one box in each row (for row numbers 1-5) that best describes your child's physical disability, to explain why they need more support than a child of the same age who doesn't have a disability:

	Low Support Needs	Tick	Medium Support Needs	Tick	High Support Needs	Tick		Tick
1	Has a physical disability affecting some or all limbs, as identified by a paediatrician or physiotherapist.		Has a significant physical disability affecting some or all limbs, as identified by a paediatrician or physiotherapist.		Has a complex physical disability affecting some or all limbs, as identified by a paediatrician or physiotherapist.		Not applicable to my child.	
2	Has a physical disability and uses additional equipment at times to support standing, walking and feeding, and moving and handling generally.		Has a physical disability and uses additional equipment regularly to support standing, walking and feeding, and moving and handling generally.		Has a physical disability and uses additional equipment as their main means of support , i.e. standing, walking and feeding, and moving and handling generally.		Not applicable to my child.	

Continued/....

Physical Disability cont/...

	Low Support Needs	Tick	Medium Support Needs	Tick	High Support Needs	Tick		Tick
3	Has a physical disability and requires some adult intervention for their self-care needs, i.e. eating, drinking, dressing, toileting and positioning, for these needs to be safely met.		Has a physical disability and requires more regular adult intervention for their self-care needs, i.e. eating, drinking, dressing, toileting and positioning, for these needs to be safely met.		Has a physical disability and requires 1:1 adult intervention at all times for their self-care needs, i.e. eating, drinking, dressing, toileting and positioning, for these needs to be safely met.		Not applicable to my child.	
4	Has a physical disability and requires some involvement and interaction with multi-disciplinary services.		Has a physical disability and requires more regular involvement and interaction with multi-disciplinary services.		Has a physical disability and requires intensive involvement and intervention with multi-disciplinary services.		Not applicable to my child.	
5	Has a <u>physical disability that can be met within universal services with some support</u> in relation to self-care, mobility and engagement with peers.		Has a <u>severe physical disability that cannot be met within universal services without significantly more adult support</u> in relation to self-care, mobility and engagement, than other children of a similar age.		Has a <u>severe and complex physical disability that cannot be met by universal services without 1:1 support.</u>		Not applicable to my child.	

HEALTH / MEDICAL NEEDS

Please tick one box in each row (for row numbers 1-3) that best describes your child's health and medical needs, to explain why they need more support than a child of the same age who doesn't have a disability:

	Low Support Needs	Tick	Medium Support Needs	Tick	High Support Needs	Tick		Tick
1	Has controlled healthcare needs requiring specialist intervention. For example, your child takes regular medication for epilepsy which controls their condition.		Has significant healthcare needs requiring specialist intervention. For example, your child requires regular medication for epilepsy, but their condition remains unstable.		Has complex and chronic healthcare needs requiring specialist intervention. For example, your child has had a tracheostomy.		Not applicable to my child.	
2	Has healthcare needs and requires some involvement and interaction with multi-disciplinary services (i.e. is seen by a medical team 3-6 monthly).		Has healthcare needs and requires regular involvement and interaction with multi-disciplinary services, which requires changes to their health care plan.		Has healthcare needs and requires intensive involvement and intervention with multi-disciplinary services (i.e. is seen by a medical team more often than once per month).		Not applicable to my child.	
3	Has healthcare needs that can be met within universal services with some support in relation to self-care, mobility and engagement with peers. For example, support required for medication administration (including insulin injections and epilepsy rescue medication).		Has severe healthcare needs that cannot be met within universal services without significantly more adult support in relation to self-care, mobility and engagement, than other children of a similar age.		Has a diagnosed long-term medical condition which requires additional input to regulate and monitor their condition , e.g. breathing, feeding or uncontrolled epilepsy, and these needs can only be met in universal services with the addition of a 1:1 support worker .		Not applicable to my child.	

OTHER NEEDS

If your child has any other needs, including sensory needs (a visual or hearing impairment), please describe below:



FURTHER INFORMATION

We need to ask you for some more information about your child and family.
Please tick the box from each section that best describes your situation (tick one box only).

1. Sleep

		Tick one box only
1.	Your child sleeps well for their age.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	There is some disturbance of your/your partner's sleep patterns due to the impact of your child's disability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	You follow specialist advice or a sleep programme, but your/your partner's sleep is still disturbed, with you having to attend to your child's needs for an hour a night for three or more nights per week.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Would you like information about how to access sleep programmes?

YES / NO

1. Effect on brothers and/or sisters under 18 years of age

		Tick one box only
1.	Your other children have friends to play with and they have social relationships appropriate to their age.	
2.	Your other children regularly have to help with the care of their disabled brother or sister and this affects their leisure and social time.	
3.	Other children in your family have a significant caring role for their disabled brother or sister and are a young carer*	

***If there is a young carer within the family, please provide their details here, so that we can provide you with information on services for young carers.**

Name

School

Date of birth

1. Impact on family

		Tick one box only
1.	You are able to use support and help from your family and/or community.	
2.	You have limited support from your family and/or community.	
3.	You have no support from your family and/or community.	

Consent Statement

The Children and Families Service work closely with different professionals, such as teachers, health visitors and GPs. This helps us to understand and meet the needs of your family and members within it.

Before we are able to do this we need to ask you for consent to collect and share this information about your family and, before you sign to indicate you agree to this, we want to ensure you understand what we are collecting and sharing, and why.

What we want your information for and how we will use it

It is important you know that any information we collect and share about you will be stored and used in strict accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We need to look up and share your information such as names, dates of birth, addresses for 3 main purposes:

- to understand what help you or your family might need. By sharing information we can build up a better picture of your family and this will help us and our partners
 - plan the services we offer you,
 - check our records to see if and how we have worked with your family previously
 - see if you are currently working with any of our partner services or support organisations and, where appropriate, ask such organisations to provide you with any additional services which we feel could assist you.

- to improve the way we support you and other people in the future. By listening to and sharing your feedback we can make changes to the way we work and constantly improve how we offer support to you and others in similar situations.

- to show those who are funding us (eg. Central Government) if the services we are spending it on are really helping families, both now and in years to come. Also
 - Any information will be provided as part of a large group of families from across North Yorkshire
 - Any report made will be on the findings for the group as a whole and it will not be possible to identify you or anyone individually.
 - Your information will only be used for research and statistical purposes to measure the performance of the service we give you.
 - The overall findings will help both Government and ourselves develop new policy and approaches, and to see if what is being provided meets the needs of those who receive the help.

What do you need to do?

We are asking for your agreement, known as “consent” to share your information for the reasons above. It is an easy process where all we need is your signature on the declaration below.

You do not have to agree to this and you can withdraw your “consent” at any time if you change your mind, however it may make it difficult to provide the services you and your family need.

It is important to tell you that we have a legal duty to share your information with other agencies, even without your consent if we believe it will, protect you, prevent harm to someone else or prevent / detect a crime.

Your agreement

I understand why information about the family is being recorded and how it will be used and shared.

I, agree/ disagree **(delete as appropriate)** that this information about our family may be used for the above purposes

Signed:

Date:

Role in family: Individual Carer, Parent or Representative **(delete as appropriate)**

This consent needs to be given for all members of the family as appropriate.

Thank you for completing the Self-Assessment Form

Checklist

Before sending this form to us please use the checklist below to ensure you have included the information we need in order to process your request :

Have you completed all sections in full as reflects the needs of your child? **Yes / No**

Have you given details of any professionals where requested who will be able to confirm the needs of your child? **Yes / No**

Have you signed the application form and consent declaration? **Yes / No**

Have you included letters from any professionals referred to in this application confirming the diagnosis and needs of your child / family eg :

- health professionals, specialists / consultants , headteacher of any school or provision your child attends
- and/or from other professional or service provider supporting your family and able to confirm the needs of your child and/or the needs / situation and/or benefits to the family?

Yes / No

If you have answered yes to all the above, please now send your completed form and any supporting documentation to North Yorkshire County Council Customer Contact Centre by email to Children&families@northyorks.gov.uk or Children&families@northyorks.gcsx.gov.uk or by post to: Customer Contact Centre (Short Breaks Grant), North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

Thank you



North

Yorkshire County Council

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA): evidencing paying due regard to protected characteristics

Strategy for Supporting Disabled Children, Young People and their Families

May 2015

Updated March 2016 (updates in italics)

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please contact the Communications Unit on 01609 53 2013 or email communications@northyorks.gov.uk.

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔



Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are public documents. EIAs accompanying reports going to County Councillors for decisions are published with the committee papers on our website and are available in hard copy at the relevant meeting. To help people to find completed EIAs we also publish them in the Equality and Diversity section of our website. This will help people to see for themselves how we have paid due regard in order to meet statutory requirements.

Name of Directorate and Service Area	Children and Young People's Service, Inclusion
Lead Officer and contact details	Michelle Allison Head of SEND Service Michelle.allison@northyorks.gov.uk 01609 797630
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the EIA	Andrew Terry Assistant Director, Inclusion Michelle Allison Head of SEND Service Dave Chapman Senior Planning and Development Officer, SEND Service <i>Updates March 2016:</i> <i>Jane Le Sage, Assistant Director, Inclusion from Sept 2015</i> <i>Michelle Allison, Head of SEND Service</i> <i>Julie Hatfield, Divisional Manager, Prevention Service</i> <i>Naomi Smith, 2020 Project Manager</i> <i>David Walker, CYPS Equalities Lead</i>
How will you pay due regard? e.g. working group, individual officer	SEND Steering Group of the Children's Trust Board; Parent Reference Group; Parent Carer Participation Planning Group;
When did the due regard process start?	July 2014
Sign off by Assistant Director (or equivalent) Andrew Terry 13 May 2015 Date	Andrew Terry Assistant Director, Inclusion <i>Jane Le Sage (Assistant Director, Inclusion) from September 2015</i>

Section 1. Please describe briefly what this EIA is about. (e.g. are you starting a new service, changing how you do something, stopping doing something?)

This EIA relates to the development of a strategy for meeting the needs of disabled children, young people and their parents and carers. The strategy provides an overarching framework for the proposed changes to the services and support that disabled children, young people and their families can access, within available resources. It is believed that this may improve the services available whilst also achieving efficiencies for the Authority.

The strategy would involve changes to the ways in which services for disabled children and young people are currently provided, and developments in the organisational structures and models that support those services. It emphasises personalised and increased local provision, and greater focus on the targeting of provision.

Section 2. Why is this being proposed? (e.g. to save money, meet increased demand, do things in a better way.)

The Council is ambitious for disabled children, young people and their families and seeks to implement a strategy which will develop and modernise approaches and provision with the aim of improving services for disabled children and young people. The strategy also seeks to make efficiencies and save money due to reduced budgets for services for disabled children and young people as part of the Council's 2020 programme whilst ensuring that the Council's statutory duties are still met. The proposed changes which the strategy would deliver would also provide savings totalling £887k .

Section 3. What will change? What will be different for customers and/or staff?

There are four main areas in which it is proposed that services and provision would be different:

1 A greater proportion of overnight short breaks to meet assessed need would be provided through family based provision, either through domiciliary care or in foster care. There would be fewer places in Children's Resource Centres (CRCs). The provision made in children's resource centres would be centralised in the Harrogate area. It is envisaged that one of the other 2 CRC's (The Ghyll, Skipton and Morton-

on Swale, Northallerton) would be closed once sufficient local family based provision was established.

2 All existing packages of support would be reviewed with a view to reducing their overall cost whilst ensuring assessed needs are met. This would be undertaken in parallel with an increased focus on personalisation.

3 Approximately 30% of cases which are open to the Disabled Children's Service would be managed with decreased interventions and less bureaucracy whilst ensuring that parents and carers were appropriately supported.

4 Resources for discretionary short break grants would be reduced but not until 2016/17 allowing sufficient time to consult on a revised Short Break Statement.

Update March 2016: The consultation on the revised model for the allocation of the discretionary short break grant was conducted between 4th February and 5th March 2016. Proposals related to the revised model were developed in partnership with a Parent Reference Group from NYPACT the parent carer forum for children and young people with SEND. The public consultation sought feedback on 4 key areas of focus and revised recommendations have been made in the following areas:

- 1. Amount of grant per child – in response to the consultation it is proposed that grants of “up to £500” be offered and that the application form be amended to ask parents to specify the amount they are applying for. In addition, to enhance the scrutiny of requests by the grant panel, a question will also be included around what the funding is being requested for. This approach offers the potential for the reduced grant pot of £100k to be used most cost-effectively as well as more families benefitting from the grant.*
- 2. Targeting of grants to those in receipt of state benefits or tax credits - the public consultation did not generate sufficient endorsement of means-testing for this approach to be implemented when allocating the revised grant. Indeed, some respondents were very unsupportive of this approach: “working families without benefits are sometimes as financially/morally/emotionally in need as those getting benefits”. Questions in relation to state benefits and tax credits have therefore been removed from the application form. Officers are confident that the more robust application process proposed (i.e. asking for endorsement by a professional, asking for information on what the grant is needed for, and asking for information on particular issues the child or family face) will enable effective targeting of the grant, however this will be kept under annual review.*
- 3. Application process for grants - the proposed application and approval process will be implemented, however a number of small changes have been made to the application form, as outlined above. It should however be noted that some families indicated that it may be difficult to find a professional who*

knows the family well enough to provide the endorsement for the application. The guidance accompanying the application process will make clear to families that existing evidence of the child's needs will be acceptable (for example a recent medical report from a GP, health professional or other specialist the child may be receiving support or help from). Through consultation a question was raised about discretionary services being offered where statutory assessment would be more appropriate to check that a disabled child or young person is eligible to receive a service from the council. The short breaks grant process proposed does not infringe the right of parents to request an assessment for services for a child in need.

4. *Guidance around how short break grants can be accessed and used - respondents overwhelmingly felt that the Council should not place restrictions on how the grant can be spent, however would value guidance. Information and guidance will be made available to the public via North Yorkshire's Local Offer.*

Detailed information in relation to consultation feedback and revised proposals are outlined within the report to the Executive (5th April 2016).

The annual grant to East Barnby outdoor education centre would also cease in 2016/17 which would allow sufficient time to support the Centre to develop an alternative funding model. Local voluntary and community groups would be assisted to extend and develop their support and provision. Targeted Youth Service provision would be maintained but could be provided and delivered differently.

Section 4. What impact will this proposal have on council resources (budgets)?

Cost neutral? N

Increased cost? N

Reduced cost? Yes

The overall budget for disabled children, young people and their families will be reduced in the three year period 2015-18. The savings target is £887K which is a 16.66% reduction in the overall level of funding available in 2014/15. £500k of this total would be found from provision budgets.

Section 5. Will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics?	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? State any evidence you have for your thinking.
Age		X		The strategy includes improvements in the arrangements

				<p>for preparation for adulthood (Transition) for disabled young people. This would include earlier planning, access to consistent high quality information, earlier access to the supported employment service, appropriate education and training, and fully coordinated move into adulthood at the most suitable transition point for each individual, including those requiring adult social care services. It is believed that these are improvements for the benefit of disabled children and young people.</p>
Disability		X	X	<p>Overnight short breaks to meet assessed needs. For approximately 40 disabled children and young people and their families this would represent an improvement in provision. Where appropriate to need, it will be made more locally in family based situations whereas currently some families requiring an overnight short break do not have this option and have to use a children's resource centre.</p> <p>Depending upon location, centralising the remaining CRC provision in the Harrogate area could mean longer journeys from home for some children and young people.</p> <p>Packages of Support Following Assessment. All packages of support will be reviewed with a view to reducing their overall cost whilst ensuring assessed needs are met. This will be undertaken in parallel with an</p>

				<p>increased focus on personalisation.</p> <p>Less bureaucracy in 30% of cases. This would be welcomed by many parents and there would be safeguards put in place to ensure that each family retained a named social worker and that there would be greater engagement with the Disabled Children's Service should a review indicate that it was necessary.</p> <p>Discretionary short breaks and targeted provision. A reduction of resources for discretionary short break grants would have a negative impact. <i>Following consultation on the revised model for allocating the short breaks grant, a more targeted approach will be adopted from 1st May 2016 in order to ensure that the grant is more effectively targeted to those most in need of discretionary support.</i></p> <p>The ending of the annual grant to the East Barnby outdoor education centre would have a negative impact unless a different local charging scheme could be developed.</p> <p>The local changes to the management of targeted youth support would have no impact.</p>
Sex (Gender)	X			.
Race	X			

Gender reassignment	X			
Sexual orientation	X			
Religion or belief	X			
Pregnancy or maternity	X			
Marriage or civil partnership	X			
Section 6. Would this proposal affect people for the following reasons?	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Give any evidence you have.

Live in a rural area		X	X	<p>The aims and objectives of this strategy would apply to all children and young people with disabilities, irrespective of their home location.</p> <p>Some family based overnight short breaks would be made by the foster care service in more rural locations. This would mean more localised provision and shorter journeys for some children and young people.</p> <p>The centralisation of the CRC provision may cause longer journeys for some.</p>
Have a low income	X			Disabled children's services and education, health and care plan (EHCP) provision are non-means tested and are based on assessed

				need. Therefore, the strategy will be applied equitably, irrespective of an individual's household income.
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Section 7. Will the proposal affect anyone more because of a combination of protected characteristics? (e.g. older women or young gay men?) State where this is likely to happen and explain what you think the effect will be and why giving any evidence you have.

As service responses will be dependent on the assessed need of the individual, there will be no disproportionate impact on any combination of protected characteristics.

Section 8. Only complete this section if the proposal will make things worse for some people. Remember that we have an anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can access services and work for us.

Can we change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts?

In order to maintain a comprehensive and meaningful service for the same number of disabled children, young people and their families, it would be necessary to target provision at the highest need, which would mean reducing the cost of packages of provision over time, whilst still meeting assessed need.

The Council would actively promote and support Personalisation/Direct Payments and work to develop the range of local providers so that parents have more choice and control over the way in which provision is made and increase personalised choice. NYCC is a comparatively high spending council on services for disabled children which in part reflects the relatively costly way in which some types of provision is currently made.

In response to the public consultation, the following revisions have been made to the draft Strategy:

The proposal to reduce the budget for discretionary Short Break Grants from £150k per Annum to £100k per annum from 1 April 2015 was deferred to 2016/17 pending consultation on a revised Short Breaks Statement.

The proposal to end the £58k per annum grant to East Barnby Outdoor Education Centre be deferred to 2016/17 to provide the opportunity to assist the Centre, working with the voluntary and community sector, to devise and implement new funding arrangements.

Not to implement the proposal to reduce the financial value of new packages of support following a review of the indicative service response guide. Instead, all

existing cases will be reviewed using the existing indicative levels of service, which together with more personalised approaches to making provision should result in reduced cost whilst still meeting assessed need.

To provide £80k of fixed term funding over two years to enable work with the voluntary and community sector in Selby to develop a 'special families' group building on the positive experience of Ryedale Special Families and the parallel approach being taken to parent led capacity building in Scarborough and Filey.

To retitle the strategy 'Supporting Disabled Children Young People and their Families' as this better reflects that it includes preventative and early intervention work as well as statutory assessment and specialist provision.

That a Carers Assessment will always be offered whenever a section 17 Assessment for a disabled child is carried out This will enable the Council to identify the extent to which there are parent carers of disabled children in the area who have needs for specific support. This will also be considered in cases where a Common Assessment is taken forward or a Short Break grant is offered.

Clarification that disabled children who do not meet the criteria for the Disabled Children's Service, but nevertheless are children in need, can have their needs assessed and met by the Children and Families Service.

Can we achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people?

The development of the voluntary and community sector should help to ameliorate some of the potentially negative impacts by providing more local, community based help and support to families. The Council's Stronger Communities programme would support this initiative with individual groups and through North Yorkshire and York Voluntary Forum. A Scarborough and Filey Special Families group is being established. We propose to replicate this in the Selby area which would help to improve local support to disabled children, young people and families.

If we need to achieve our aim and can't remove or reduce the adverse impacts get advice from legal services. Summarise the advice here. Make sure the advice is passed on to decision makers if the proposal proceeds.

It is imperative that the council continues to deliver services and meet needs in compliance with its statutory duties owed to disabled children and young people and their parents and carers. It may be possible to achieve efficiencies if innovative changes can be introduced whilst ensuring needs continue to be met. The draft strategy illustrates that some measures may have an adverse effect, such as the capping of the budget for discretionary short breaks and the removal of the grant for East Barnby. Although this is discretionary provision it will have a negative impact on those receiving this provision but it is a proportionate action, having regard to the available budget and need for change.

Delaying this aspect of the Strategy for a year provides time to consult on a revised Short Break Statement and support East Barnby in the development of an alternative funding model.

Section 9. If the proposal is implemented how will you find out how it is really affecting people? (How will you monitor and review the changes?)

The development of the strategy has been informed by engagement sessions with a group of parents from North Yorkshire PACT (Parent Carer Forum) and with frontline staff who provide support to disabled children, young people and their families. The Flying High group of disabled young people will be engaged in assessing the success of the proposals relating to improvements in transitions.

These groups will continue to contribute during the implementation and delivery of the strategy and will provide important perspectives on the strategy's progress and impact.

The implementation and delivery of the strategy would be measured against a range of quantitative indicators and new qualitative indicators that would enable the council to gauge the satisfaction of children, young people and families. These would form part of regular reporting on progress on implementation of the strategy to the North Yorkshire Children's Trust Board.

The regular review of individual cases would provide the basis for knowing how the proposed changes were affecting individual disabled children, young people and their families.

Section 10. List any actions you need to take which have been identified in this EIA

Action	Lead	By when	Progress
Launch public consultation on strategy.	APT	17.12.14	
Close public consultation on strategy.	APT	11.3.15	
Develop a delivery plan and monitoring arrangements for the Strategy ensuring that actions in the EIA are clearly identified and considered.	KP/MA	30.6.15	