

INTERNAL CONSULTATION ANALYSIS OF THE CO-PRODUCED SHORT BREAK PROPOSAL

Purpose of Report: To provide an analysis of the consultation results on the co-produced Short Breaks proposal.

Background

1. To develop the principles of the revised co-produced Short Break offer, a working group has been established of which includes parents and carers from across Nottinghamshire and the Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum to work alongside Nottinghamshire County Council to ensure the voices of families are represented throughout the review.
2. To ensure that all families have had the opportunity to be involved in the review, the co-produced Short Break proposal went out for a three week consultation from the 8th of January until the 29th of January 2018.
3. The consultation received 97 replies and this report will summarise these responses.

Key Changes

4. The working group developed the following key changes to Short Breaks to guarantee that the offer supports the most vulnerable families across Nottinghamshire whilst operating within its allocated budget:
5. **A clear and effective information stage** – Families and the working group consistently said that if they had better resources to signpost them to support networks and alternative provision in their local communities that it would relieve pressure off the service.
6. **An online self-assessment** – During the first consultation period for the Short Breaks Review, 70% of families said they would prefer to request an assessment online. The working group felt that an online assessment tool would be a fair way of assessing and identifying the families that needed the most support and that it would ensure equality of access through set criteria for families.
7. **Clear eligibility criteria which can be amended** – The working group have developed the underpinning eligibility indicators to ensure that children and young people who are the most vulnerable are identified through this stage. Furthermore the working group developed a structure to allow the eligibility criteria to be amended which will allow the service to support families within the available local authority budget.
8. **Packages of support that are reviewed annually** – Families told us that they would value a yearly review as this would allow contact with a key professionals. The working group felt that a time limited approach to packages with a yearly review would support equitable access to short breaks, as packages can be amended to take into consideration any change in circumstances. This would allow opportunities for packages to close when outcomes are met or for the child to be better supported to meet changes in need.

Consultation Results on Key Changes

9. The consultation asked respondents a number of questions on their thoughts on the proposed key changes. The questions and results are set out in the table below:

Key Changes	Percentage of people that either strongly agree or agree	
<i>'Do you think that an online assessment for Short Breaks is a fair way of assessing and identifying families that need support?'</i>	58.8%	57/97
<i>Do you feel that the eligibility criteria below will be able to identify the most vulnerable children and young people?</i>	76.3%	74/97
<i>Do you agree that the eligibility criteria should be reviewed and amended annually to ensure the service can be delivered within budget?</i>	62.9%	66/97
<i>Do you agree that Short Breaks packages should be reviewed annually?</i>	68.0%	66/97

Other Consultation Results

10. Results of other questions asked during the consultation can be seen below:

- 90.7% (88/97) of survey respondents understood why Nottinghamshire County Council is undergoing the review of Short Breaks.
- 65.9% (64/97) of survey respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that Short Break packages should be used for the most vulnerable children and young people.
- 60.8% (59/97) of survey respondents were currently in receipt of a Nottinghamshire County Council funded Short Break and are receiving the following services:
 - Short Breaks Provider Service Sitting and Befriending (**22.7%**)
 - Short Breaks Provider Service Group Activities (**17.5%**)
 - Short Break Provider Service Over Nights Packages (**11.3%**)
 - Direct Payment for family to employ a personal assistant (**17.5%**)
 - Direct Payment for a personal budget to enable child to access activities in the community (**20.6%**)
 - Short Breaks Contract Care or Home from Home Carers (**6.2%**)
- 54.6% (53/97) of survey respondents said they'd like to be involved in future co-production work.

Further Findings

11. Statistically the proposed Short Break model was recommended by families across Nottinghamshire. However additional comments were made through free text sections throughout the consultation which may need to be considered when making any final changes to the model.

12. A large percentage of families agreed that the available Short Break budget should be used to fund the most vulnerable families in the county, but there needs to be a clear and transparent definition to explain what is meant by vulnerable and this should be considered to be part of the eligibility criteria.

13. An **online assessment** was welcomed by majority of survey respondents. For respondents the concern was around lack of human contact during the assessment process and that some human and professional judgement would be needed. There was also a concern for families who may not have a computer or technological abilities to complete an online assessment.

14. In regards to **eligibility criteria**, a large majority of survey respondents agreed. However families consistently said that family circumstances must be taken into consideration during this stage of the assessment, due to it being one of the largest factors for families needing a Short Break. Further concerns that stood out in terms of the eligibility criteria, was that it didn't take into consideration the effect on siblings who were also living in the household.

15. Many discussions took place during the working group sessions to explore how to incorporate family circumstances into the initial eligibility criteria assessment. However assessing this indicator through an online assessment seemed too complicated due to the varied amount of circumstances families across Nottinghamshire have. The working group were satisfied that families' circumstances will be captured through the second assessment during the RAS.

16. Majority of families said they either agreed/strongly agreed to **amending eligibility criteria** to ensure the service is in budget. Families who didn't agree understood that the service needed to operate in budget but also felt it was very important that the service meet need. If the Short Break service does not meet these needs then it could lead to referrals to more high cost specialist services.

17. The notion of tying the review process into another review (i.e. EHCP reviews) would be helpful for all concerned as **annually reviewing** will be resource heavy for the service and stressful for families. Families continually commented that circumstances for families who have a child with a disability very rarely change however their needs do, so potentially a two yearly review would be more preferable.

Overall

18. We asked families if overall do they agree with the new Short Breaks proposal, results can be found in the table below:

Strongly agree	16.49%	16/97
Agree	45.36%	44/97
Neither agree nor disagree	29.90%	29/97
Disagree	4.12%	4/97
Strongly disagree	3.09%	3/97

Next Steps

19. The findings of this report are to be shared with the co-production working group, NPCF and NCC colleagues.

Recommendation

20. To consider the view represented in this report when making any adjustments to the final Short Breaks proposal.

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