

Topic of Importance Response

Deadline for response:	Completed 21 st July 2023
Topic of Importance	Parent Carer Resilience
Areas for Consideration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are concerns over changes to household finances due to benefit changes, primarily the DLA ending and the related concerns over: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Whether a young person will qualify for PIP b. How to apply for PIP c. Lack of understanding over appointeeship 2. Lack of knowledge/ awareness/ understanding around what is available in terms of home care support (respite/ domiciliary care/ independent living) making future planning anxiety provoking. 3. Concerns that families are not aware of the support available and where to find information. 4. Concern over lack of specific information regarding mental health and neurodivergent differences and challenging behaviour 5. Parent carers reporting feeling tired, anxious, stressed over growing worries around wider household finances, being unable to access general health care and carers support. 6. Lack of wider short break/ respite opportunities.
Who is this response from? (ie, service, panel, person?) Please consider all relevant areas suggested above, and state where areas are not applicable.	<p>Theme 1 and Theme 5 have been collated by the Targeted Support service.</p> <p>Themes 2 and Theme 6 have been collated by Children’s Commissioning and 0-25 Disability Social Care.</p> <p>Theme 3 was completed by Head of SENI Services.</p> <p>Theme 4 was completed by CHILDREN’S Commissioner LD&A</p> <p>The following links relate to both Themes 1,3,4 and 5 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support, Advice and Information for Parent Carers and Carers (Local Offer) Peterborough Information Network • Money and Benefits (Local Offer) Peterborough Information Network • Support with the cost of living - Peterborough City Council • Peterborough Information Network Peterborough SEND Information Hub (Local Offer) • Transitional pathway for autism diagnostic
Response from local authority / services <u>Theme 1</u> There are concerns over changes to household finances due to benefit changes, primarily the DLA ending and the related concerns over:	<p>The SFEA’s (Supporting Families Employment Adviser) can support Lead professionals and families who are open to the Supporting Families programme (have an open early help or social care episode) by working directly with families, attending TAF meetings and liaising with DWP colleagues.</p> <p>It may be that they signpost them to the most appropriate specialist work coach (depending on the need).</p> <p>They can arrange training and awareness sessions for professionals working with families around benefits and progress to work.</p> <p>The move from DLA to PIP is going to be on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>A Family Worker supporting a family who are open to Targeted</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether a young person will qualify for PIP • How to apply for PIP • Lack of understanding over appointeeship 	<p>Support via an open Early Help episode will offer signposting advice to universal services who can offer support and guidance on specific support relating to PIP or other related benefits.</p>
<p>Response from local authority / services</p> <p><u>Theme 2</u></p> <p>Lack of knowledge/ awareness/ understanding around what is available in terms of home care support (respite/ domiciliary care/ independent living) making future planning anxiety provoking.</p>	<p>Home & Community Support is accessed by children/young open to 0-25 Disability Social Care. In Peterborough, this is primarily provided by external agencies; alongside our in-house service Peterborough Pathways. Access to these services follow an assessment of need and decision at relevant decision-making panel.</p> <p>In Peterborough, there are separate arrangements for the provision of Home & Community Support for young adults 18+. If young adults are eligible for Adult Social Care support, there are options available for them to be able to continue being supported by the same provider into adulthood.</p> <p>Details around Home & Community Support for children/young people, alongside other Short Break services, is outlined on the Local Offer/SEND Information Network.</p> <p>Following feedback from parents and carers PCC have updated the 0-25 Disability Social Care page on the Local Offer/SEND Information Network. This includes support from the Disability Social Care 0-25 Service for those approaching 18 and on into adulthood. We have also created a new page on the SEND Information Hub that details support from Adult Early Help and Adult Social Care. This includes how to access it; eligibility criteria and what sort of support is available. These pages also cover the process for carrying out adult assessments and planning for adult support, if eligible, for young people open to children's social care.</p>
<p>Response from local authority / services</p> <p><u>Theme 3</u></p> <p>Concerns that families are not aware of the support available and where to find information.</p>	<p>We are currently coproducing a SEND Comms strategy and have dedicated some funding to market the SEND Information Hub (Local Offer). The SEND Information Hub has also been demonstrated at FV to members of the community and at the SEND conference to professionals and YP.</p> <p>The Local Authority is always keen to improve so please continue to feedback parent/carer experiences on accessing information.</p>
<p>Response from local authority / services</p> <p><u>Theme 4</u></p> <p>Concern over lack of specific information regarding mental health and neurodivergent differences and challenging behaviour</p>	<p>Work has been taking place to update the information available for parent carers in relation to neurodiversity via the SEND Information Hub. The information available also links to OT, SaLT and Sensory Needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peterborough Information Network Peterborough SEND Information Hub (Local Offer) • Transitional pathway for autism diagnostic <p>Family Voice Peterborough have also been commissioned to develop a resource for parent carers to help them 'wait well' while on the neurodiversity pathway for their children/ young people. Supporting your Neurodiverse Child</p> <p>There are also other sources of information/ support available via a range</p>

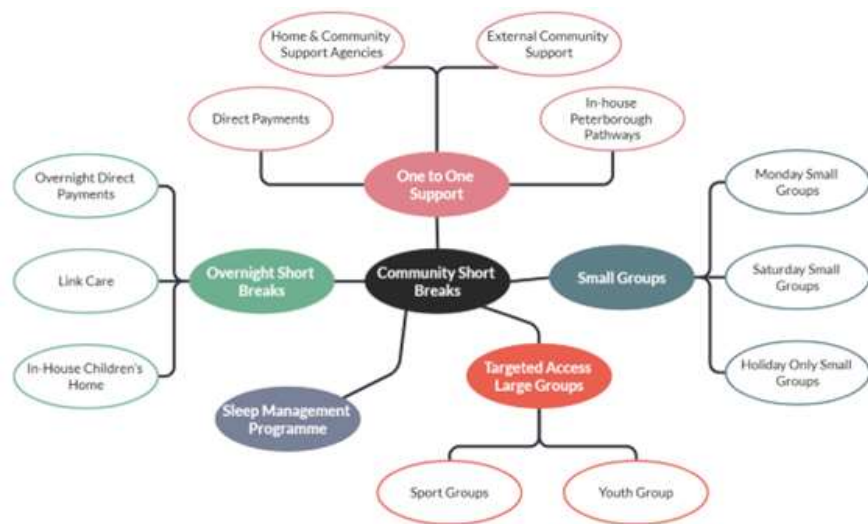
	<p>of websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home CPFT NHS Trust • Keep Your Head Mental Health Service (keep-your-head.com) • Keep Your Head Website Survey (Page 1 of 8) (office.com) • Brain in Hand: a professional digital support system • healthier together website • OAP Toolkits - Learn Together (cambsearntogether.co.uk) • Ormiston Families - Stronger Together - Sensory Resource Library • Autism Toolkit Presentation Oct 2022 - YouTube <p>Sources of information to support with Transitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (6.) Talk to ME! - One Size Fits No One (Full film) on Vimeo • NHS England » NHS-Led Provider Collaboratives: specialised mental health, learning disability and autism services • Recommendations Transition from children's to adults' services for young people using health or social care services Guidance NICE
<p>Response from local authority / services</p> <p><u>Theme 5</u></p> <p>Parent carers reporting feeling tired, anxious, stressed over growing worries around wider household finances, being unable to access general health care and carers support.</p>	<p>A Family Worker supporting a family who are open to Targeted Support via an open Early Help episode will offer signposting advice to universal services who can offer support and guidance on specific support relating to household finances.</p> <p>Families struggling with the rising costs of living can get vital support and everyday essentials at special community hubs across the city.</p> <p>Using the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund, Peterborough City Council has commissioned community-based hubs which will be run by organisation's from the community, voluntary and faith sector in key locations across the city. This is part of a series of measures to help people struggling to make ends meet in the face of unprecedented levels of inflation and rising energy bills.</p> <p>Ten Hubs are already operating in Peterborough. They are based in the Millfield, Bretton, Central, Ravensthorpe, Stanground and Hampton area. All hubs will offer food support and many of the hubs will also offer essentials, energy and warmth related essentials, and social activities. Several hubs have cafes and options to pay what you can. There are no criteria for anyone seeking support in recognition that everyone is affected by the cost-of-living crisis. Schools also have access to be able to provide families with foodbank vouchers.</p> <p>Professionals can refer children who are Young Carers in Peterborough to identify individual needs and reduce the negative impact of caring. Individual and group support, giving Young Carers someone to talk to and the opportunity to meet other young people in similar situations, support with transitions to secondary school, college, university, or work and giving Young Carers a voice through Centre 33's Young Carers Advisory Board. Fun activities are also provided to give Young Carers a break from their caring role.</p>
<p>Response from local authority / services</p> <p><u>Theme 6</u></p>	<p>The current offer</p> <p>There is a legal duty on local authorities to make the provision of short breaks available to families with children and young people with Special</p>

Lack of wider short break/ respite opportunities.

Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The regulations (Children Act 1989 and Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011) define a Short Break as:

- Day time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere
- Overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere
- Educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes
- Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays

This legislative duty (Children Act 1989, Schedule 2) requires there to be a range of specialist and targeted Short Breaks. In Peterborough we have:



The current service offer was co-produced with Family Voice Peterborough, young people and 0-25 Disability Social Care professionals. Prior to the commissioning of the current service offer, a Short Breaks Needs Assessment was undertaken. Children's Commissioners also worked alongside the local Parent Carer Forum, Family Voice Peterborough (FVP), to coproduce the offer. This included FVP developing and circulating a questionnaire regarding current knowledge, use and satisfaction of Short Breaks services locally. Views of children and young people were sought through 'The Big Youth Shout Out' report. Social care and residential short breaks services colleagues were also engaged through a series of workshops.

These consultation and coproduction exercises led to a series of recommendations including:

- Access to specialist services being decided by relevant decision-making panel.
- A greater focus on review and progression against outcomes.
- More age and needs specific activities; including independence

skills for young people and play opportunities for children.

- There being a range of opportunities for weekend and evening support, as well as school holiday times.

Alongside the commissioning of services, Children's Commissioning undertake contract monitoring; this contract monitoring puts great emphasis on feedback from both parent carers and children/young people.

All services, including though Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide, have been under pressure due to financial restraints and challenges. Despite this, Children's Commissioning have sought to ensure the continuity of service provision, and financially invested into the Community Short Breaks offer significantly in recent years. For example, the spend on One to One Support has increased by 101% from 2019-20 to 2021-22, with further increases expected in 2022-23, along with an increase of 10% to the Group Services to increase capacity. Alongside this, children's Commissioning have submitted bids for funding to ensure the services available have increased capacity to further meet increased demand.

Eligibility for Short Breaks Services

Access to specialist services is often linked to children and young people being eligible for 0-25 Disability Social Care; access to specialist services follows an assessment of need and a decision at the relevant decision-making panel. The SEND Information Hub details the threshold for the service. This notes that an assessment will be provided where a child/young person has:

- A presenting need which relates directly to the child's disability.
- A physical, learning and or neuro-developmental disability or condition diagnosed by a doctor or consultant that is substantial, long lasting and permanent.
- Complex needs which in order to achieve outcomes appropriate to their potential, as a result of their disability, the child requires total or substantial support, not appropriate to their age, from another person which is not available within their family or wider network
- Social Care and safeguarding needs that cannot be met without specialist social care assessment.

The disability may include significant and permanent:

- Physical Disability
- Sensory Impairment
- Moderate to Severe Learning Disability
- Global Development Delay

- Complex Health Conditions resulting in significant physical and or learning disability
- Neuro-Development conditions which significantly impact on their ability to undertake activities appropriate to daily living.

Next Steps

Consultation

In an effort to avoid duplication and in being conscious of the time pressures placed by parent/carers, Children's Commissioning would like to work with FVP to collate a survey around Community Short Breaks. This will be part of a wider consultation exercise to inform the re-commissioning of Community Short Breaks. A survey to parent carers, and focus groups with parent carers, will be integral to this; as will be the support of FVP. As previously stated, there will also be opportunities to feed directly into the specifications, method statement questions and be part of the evaluation panel to ensure that the Community Short Break offer going forward meets the needs of children and young people with disabilities, and their families, in Peterborough.

Part of the consultation will focus on barriers to access and improving how Community Short Break services, alongside the wider Short Break offer, is communicated. Given the success of the day trips offered by FVP and the themes around family-based leisure activities within this Topic of Importance, we can consider these options within the upcoming Community Short Breaks consultation to understand if there would be a preference for these above the kind of services that make up the current service offer.

Children's Commissioning have recently collated and distributed a Home & Community Support questionnaire for parent carers. The results of which, alongside future focus groups, will directly inform the offer of Home & Community Support going forward.

Uptake & Need

As Children's Commissioners, a great deal of our focus is on understanding uptake and forecasting demand. In practice, this includes monitoring usage of our Short Breaks alongside analysing demography and feedback from parent carers and children/young people; this feeds into re-commissioning exercises and supports us in working with providers to ensure provision evolves to meet demand. This work is reflected in the Children with Disabilities (CWD) Sufficiency Statement, available on the [Children's Commissioning Team website](#).

Understanding uptake and forecasting demand was also vital to informing the contract extension of the Community Short Break contracts. Therefore, prior to the contract extension in April 2022, Children's Commissioning collated a Contract Review & Impact Report. This provided the opportunity to ensure that the service offer was reflective of need and highlighted upon any areas for development. One of these areas for development was within the Large Group services; we found that, despite the service being targeted rather than specialist, some

	<p>children/young people accessing the services required additional support. We were therefore able to work with the provider to increase their staffing ratios, provide personal care where needed and increase the range of activities available. We also saw an area for development within the Small Group services; some families were telling the provider that they would benefit from holiday only support; this was reflected by feedback from 0-25 Disability Social Care Teams. We therefore worked with the provider to introduce Holiday Only Small Groups to better meet demand.</p> <p>The Contract Review & Impact Report also picked up on a number of wider factors; it outlined that, whilst Peterborough's overall population was increasing in line with forecasts, the cohort of children and young people in receipt of DLA/PIP was increasing beyond forecasts, as was the number of children/young people open to 0-25 Disability Social Care. It also noted the increase in complexity of need of these children/young people.</p> <p>One of the conclusions of the report was therefore that there needed more sustainable support for children and young people with disabilities not open to Social Care, alongside developing the accessibility and skill-base within universal services. Due to the limited funds available internally, Children's Commissioning have therefore taken the opportunity of the Short Breaks Innovation Bid to look at opportunities for more targeted support that increases the accessibility of universal services and therefore the support available for children/young people not open to 0-25 Disability Social Care.</p>
<p>Actions / Impact of considerations (please use bullet points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●