

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

## SHORT BREAKS

### ENGAGING PARENTS AND CARERS

Birmingham City Council would like to encourage parents and carers to complete this questionnaire. Your views and feedback are essential to finding new ways to shape and plan future Short Breaks services. **\*Please note:** that this not a consultation document.



Through engagement and conversations with parents and carers of disabled children, we have received consistent messages about the types and characteristics of services valued by children and young people. These include:

- Provision of services in the local area.
- Activities covering school holidays.
- Saturday clubs and weekend activities.
- After school and evening activities.
- Opportunities to develop friendships.
- Flexible and timely support to meet changing family needs.

#### **The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011**

Came into effect in April 2011, these place a duty on local authorities to have regard to the needs of carers who would be unable to continue to care for their disabled child without a short break or would be able to care more effectively if breaks are given; look after other children of the family more effectively; take part in training and education or carry out day to day tasks in running the household. In particular the local authority must provide, as appropriate, a range of:

- 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 home.
- Services available to assist carers in the evening at weekends and during school holidays.

## **Birmingham City Council Budget - The story so far: six years of cuts**

Since 2010 Birmingham City Council have been forced to remove approximately £590 million from the budget as a result of unprecedented cuts in the amount of grant the Government has awarded Birmingham City Council. This equates to a 34% reduction in grant since 2010.

Birmingham City Council has to save a further £180,000,000 by 2021 from the budget consultation which means that the way in which services are commissioned and provided will undoubtedly change considerably. The Budget Consultation 2017+ referred to short breaks and proposed that the way that the services are commissioned be changed to reduce duplication and create a more joined up approach for providing these services. Savings are proposed to be achieved by developing a more efficient model of service delivery which reduces overhead costs whilst maintaining investment in direct service delivery to the children and families who benefit from the support.

The Children's Commissioning Team is committed to supporting partnership arrangements between parents and providers that helps identify creative solutions and maintains a diversity of short breaks provision to achieve the proposed savings.

There are approximately 47,000 children with SEND in Birmingham, of who 8,000 have an Education, Health and Care Plan. Currently we are able to offer just over 3,000 children a short break. The challenge for the Council is how to try and increase this number to meet demand whilst managing budget pressures.

## **WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS?**

Below you will find questions which are designed to obtain the views of parents and carers about how the Council can commission short breaks for 2018 onwards. Even better, we would like you to be part of commissioning process.

As described above the council has to manage significant reductions in budgets. Short breaks have been protected from this for several years, but now we have to find new ways of commissioning and providing our services.

### **1. Do you have a child or children that are currently assessing Short Breaks?**

Yes

No

If yes, please complete the table below.

<b>Age Group of child(ren)</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Service Accessed</b>
0-4		
5-11		
12-16		
16-18		

**2. If you were in charge of the budget, how would you spend less money while providing support for more children?**

**3. What do you think children get out of having a short break?**

**4. What are the top three things that does/would encourage you to access short breaks for your child?**

**5. Are you a member of a parent led support group?**

Yes

No

If yes, please provide the contact details of your group:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Childcare

**We are interested in understanding the demand for child care.**

**6. Are you a working parent that currently accesses childcare for your disabled child?**

Yes

No

If yes, please provide complete the table below.

<b>Age Group of child(ren)</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>School holidays</b>	<b>After School</b>
0-4			
5-11			
12-16			
16-18			

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire.**

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE RETURN OF THIS FORM IS:**

**THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**RETURNING THE QUESTIONNAIRE:**

**PAPER COPIES:**

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO YOUR DISTRIBUTOR / PROVIDER.

**ELECTRONIC COPIES:**

RETURN YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS:

**[debbie.harriott@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.harriott@birmingham.gov.uk)**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION**

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

**The engagement of Children and Young People will be part of this process at a  
Later date.**