**In attendance**

Local Authority: Marie Hatton, Samantha Ives

Parent Carers: Caroline, Andy, Elsa, Karen and son Harry

**Short Breaks Consultation**

A significant number of people responded to the consultation. Many issues and ideas of a similar nature were raised and the below is a summary of messages and actions to progress.

* Continue to work in partnership with local families. Therefore a Short Breaks forum will be established that will also include guest speakers i.e. health services representatives.
* Act on feedback regarding the draft Short Breaks statement, editing and expanding it to include:
* More detail regarding the activities – costs, age range
* Produce a clear and fair charging policy for targeted activities, including clarity regarding use of personal budget for these
* Clarify the personal budget process
* Clarify eligibility for targeted activities
* Improve the registration process
* Clarify the 18-25 offer
* Ensure terminology and document length remain appropriate
* Produce a version for children and young people and in different formats to suit a range of needs
* Support the development of the Special Needs Activity centre (SNAC) hosted and run by Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council
* Implement a scheme to support empowerment of disabled people that also supports businesses and activities to be accessible – including council leisure and library services.
* Promote SEND related activities already available in the community
* Improve Local Authority communication using a range of methods and channels, particularly about the activities on offer
* Promote the existing accredited childminders and nannies to local families
* Implement a Life Skills offer that includes coaching and confidence building
* Explore buddy schemes to support access to activities and events
* Ensure parents have information regarding Transport options and consider a PA driver scheme (link to ‘Dial a ride’, ‘Driving Miss Daisy’)
* Develop the targeted activities to:
* Have a waiting list policy to ensure fairness of access
* Meet the needs of wheelchair users and those with profound needs
* Are accessible to BAME children and young people
* Consider development of a sensory room
* Review arts & crafts to consider wider arts and performing arts provision
* Consider longer sessions to provide parents with a meaningful break
* Explore how to deliver trips – day and residential
* Consider further use of the Arthog site
* Keep under review and explore new and different options
* Have a reciprocal arrangement with Shropshire Council based on school attended
* Council provided services are trusted, even when we have improvements to make - it provides reassurance to parents.
* Some things you told us that are really positive locally:
* Learn to bike scheme
* Some local brownies and scouts groups
* Wrekin Forest school
* Some leisure centres, swimming pools
* Arthog, high ropes
* Ice cream farm SEND sessions
* SNAC development
* However, there is clearly interest in improved access to leisure services and there appears to be a difference in offer between leisure centres
* Work with special schools regarding before and after school clubs
* Support the creation of small interest groups i.e. Pokémon, Lego, writers classes, coding, Comic-Con events, Wii sessions, movies, meal clubs
* Encourage Community Centres to continue to, or improve, inclusion of people with additional needs, and consider opportunities to socialise and have meals together for example.
* Explore use of the new Independent Living Centre
* Follow up on comments regarding children and people in Foster Carer and residential services not having funding to pay for activities
* Transition processes require improvement
* Families want more information about Adult Social Care with regard to:
* their 18-25 targeted activities offer
* Their personal budget and financial assessment process and clarity of information
* Clarity regarding the EHCP process

Discussion arising from the summary presentation:

* Follow up on the accessible bike scheme in the park and availability of Oakengates track
* Link with club 2000 and our leisure services
* Ice rink soft play is great, can there be an older age children session, and better publicity
* Link to the adult social care Working Together group for parents of adult age children
* Invite My Options to every-other meetings to be able to collectively discuss their services
* Access to the swimming pool at Arthog
* Future charging policy to recognise hardship related charge

Forthcoming Short Breaks forum will discuss the action plan arising from the Short Breaks consultation

**Current Market Issues**

We continue to experience a lack of care and support for local families. Enclosed is a newsletter setting out a list of providers that can be contacted. Many providers only provide a service to adults but contacts by families as potential customers would support the council’s market messages.

 

Council Officers are also looking to develop a wider range of overnight respite options including supporting Short Breaks foster carers – see link [Telford Fostering](https://www.telfordfostering.co.uk/site/)

Information regarding a Derwen college and Kingswood School residential offer to be followed up by Sam.

**Next meeting**

Our next meeting is 6th April 6-8pm, Chambers Room, Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre, Local Centre Hollinswood

Future Meetings

6th May 12-2pm, The Pavilion, Hollinswood

8th June 6-8pm, Chambers Room, Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre, Local Centre Hollinswood

**Getting in touch**

We would love to see as many of you as possible in the forum. If that is not possible, and you wish to ask a Short Breaks service question please get in touch via the Short Breaks email: Shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk and we will address it in the following forum. Individual case issues should be addressed to your case worker.

**Useful Links:**

**Childminders** [Live Well Telford Childminders](https://livewell.telford.gov.uk/Search?CategoryId=1489&SM=ServiceSearch&UDG=True&SME=True) or get in touch with Family Connect on 01952 385385

**Childrens Autism Hub -** [About Children's Autism Hub | Telford Autism Hub](https://www.telfordautismhub.org.uk/childrens-autism-hub) 01952 262062

**SEND Activities & Events page** [Activities & Events](https://www.telfordsend.org.uk/homepage/16/activities_and_events)

**PODS** [Home - PODS (podstelford.org)](https://www.podstelford.org/)

**My Options Young People’s Services** [My Options - Activity, Wellbeing & Care - Home | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/myoptionstelford/)

Dawley Town Council **Accessible Disco** flyer – looks fun!!

