

# Short Breaks Forum - 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## In attendance

Local Authority: Marie Hatton, Samantha Ives, Amardeep Grewal, Andrew Meredith

Parent Carers: Andy, Elsa, Denise

## Our Forum

Even though there are small numbers of parents attending, everyone agreed that the forum is working well and the conversations are positive and productive. We acknowledge that parents engage in a range of ways, including talking with peers, passing on issues, reading these notes, etc. Going forward, we will include My Options (provider of the targeted activities) and our SEN team, alternately – See the 'Next Meetings' details towards the end of this note.

## Benefits Advice

We talked about how to support parents to access the benefits and support that they are eligible to have and how all services have a responsibility to signpost to this. Sam will ask our DWP contact if easy read information is available regarding benefits, and the role of local support organisations – we will feedback at the next meeting. In the meantime, a benefits advice leaflet has been produced – attached to these notes.



Supporting  
Families Leaflet Telf

## My Options Activities

A number of issues were discussed in relation to the Targeted activities provided by My Options (Sports & leisure, Arts & Crafts, club 17):

- Recruitment issues affect what we're able to offer and how much. We are constantly recruiting for staff and if you can help with this, please let us know!
- There are more bookings than we have capacity for Sports & Leisure, so we offer sessions to everyone who books on so no-one misses out. This may be offered as every other Saturday until we have more staff on board.
- We would like to confirm that Sports & Leisure do have 1:1 and 2:1 slots, so that children with more complex needs can attend.
- We have heard the ask for Sports & Leisure to be for longer than 2 hours and we will continue to work on how we could do this, capacity allowing.
- We note that Club 17 does not cater for children with personal care and toileting needs which means these children are not able to attend by themselves.
- We think we can develop the Arts & Crafts offer, and will look at some alternative options to bring to our next meeting.

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## Preparation for Adulthood

A previous Preparation for Adulthood conference was really positive and you'd like to see another one of these – we will certainly see if we can do that.

A Preparation for Adulthood programme for people aged 18+ is being developed. There is future potential for this to be offered to younger people.

During this time, Childrens Services will embed the Preparation for Adulthood approach within our procedures so that we better support young people into adulthood.

Future potential housing options for when young people become adults are being considered from age 14 so that housing providers can be advised.

## 'We're Coming to See You' document idea

We talked through how we can better support children and young people to prepare for social care visits and discussions, by providing prior information in accessible formats so that young people can think about their needs and options. This is a really good idea that we wish to develop with you.

## Current Market Issues

- Acorn Way remains closed while Care Tech (the provider) recruits locally. If you know anyone who would be interested in this very rewarding role, please get in touch!
- There is encouraging interest in Short Breaks foster carers and anticipate some offers over the coming weeks. Again, if you know anyone interested in this get in touch.
- We have been in contact with a couple of new Care and Support providers that wish to offer a service in Telford. We will update you once we have them signed up to our frameworks and available to you.
- We're exploring options for use of a local cabin for use by families and for respite
- We will improve our direct payment and PA recruitment support to families. We may need to check out our approach with you, hold a workshop, look at new and creative ways of recruiting PA's and link to Local Authority PA marketing campaigns.

## Next meetings:

6 <sup>th</sup> May 12-2pm,	The Pavilion, Hollinswood, with My Options
8 <sup>th</sup> June 6-8pm	Chambers Room, Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre, with SEN Services
? July 12-2	The Pavilion, Hollinswood, with My Options
? Aug 6-8pm	Chambers Room, Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre, with SEN Services
? Sep 12-2	The Pavilion, Hollinswood, with My Options
? Oct 6-8pm	Chambers Room, Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre, with SEN Services
? Nov 12-2	The Pavilion, Hollinswood, with My Options

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? Dec 6-8pm

Chambers Room, Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre, with SEN Services

## 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](mailto: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](#) or get in touch with Family Connect on 01952 385385

**Childrens Autism Hub** - [About Children's Autism Hub | Telford Autism Hub](#) 01952 262062

**SEND Activities & Events page** [Activities & Events](#)

**PODS** [Home - PODS \(podstelford.org\)](#)

**My Options Young People's Services** [My Options - Activity, Wellbeing & Care - Home | Facebook](#)