We are consulting on our plans for short breaks and other services for disabled children, young people and their families.

Please give us your views on the short breaks draft commissioning plan by completing this survey by 30th June 2014. There are 23 questions and it should take you about 15 minutes complete.

Please read the draft commissioning plan or the summary plan before answering these questions. Both documents are published here:


Your views are important as they will help shape future services.

All information you will provide is anonymous, and will not be shared wider than the project team; we will provide a summary of responses in September.

If possible, please complete this survey online:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XJ2972G

If you would like this information in a different format, for example, Braille, audiotape, large print or computer disc, or community languages, please contact The Children First Programme Team at cyps.childrenfirst@bristol.gov.uk or please ring 0117 92 24987.

We would like to hear from parents, carers, practitioners, providers and anyone else who is interested. We are making separate arrangements to get the views of children and young people who use short breaks services. This survey is not specially designed for children but if you are a child or young person, please complete the survey if you want to.

SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO: Children First Programme (CH 225), Po Box 57, Freepost SWB203, Bristol, BS99 7BR

Thank you for your time.
About you:

1. Please tell us who you are:
   - Disabled child or young person
   - Parent/carer/family member of a disabled child or young person
   - Short-break foster carer
   - Practitioner
   - Volunteer

2. If you are a disabled child or care for a disabled child, how do you describe your child’s or your disability or impairment? (Please tick all that apply)
   - Physical impairment
   - Visual Impairment
   - Hearing Impairment
   - Learning difficulties
   - Health condition
   - Autism/Neurological condition
   - Mental and emotional distress
   - Other (please specify in comments box)

In the space below, you can provide more detail on the disability or impairment if you want.
3. If you or your child receives a short-break service, please tell us what type of service this is (please tick all that apply):

- Stays in a residential unit
- Foster-based short breaks (e.g. Family Link)
- Direct payments
- A community care or palliative care service
- A residential holiday break
- A disability youth group or activity group
- Additional support to access mainstream activities
- A befriending service or buddy
- An activity you attend as a family
- Another service or support (please specify in comments box):

4. If you are a practitioner or volunteer, please tell us who you work for:

- Local authority provider
- Voluntary or community sector provider
- Private sector provider
- Local authority social work team
- Other local authority team
- Health provider
- Health commissioner
- Education provider
Reallocating funding

Currently just over half of our £3.3M annual short breaks budget is spent on providing overnight short breaks in our two residential children’s homes, the Bush and Belbrook. We plan to reduce our spending on residential short breaks and re-invest the money in a range of alternatives so that there are more options and more children are able to receive short breaks. This will mean that we reduce the size of the Bush from 10 to 5 beds. Those children who need overnight stays will continue to have them, but some will have fewer nights and some will have alternative short breaks. We will re-invest in these lower-cost alternatives:

- More short breaks with foster carers
- More residential holidays
- More funding for direct payments (which families can spend on personal assistants and/or other short breaks and expenses)
- Increased community care staff to work with families to develop resilience and prevent crises

5. Do you agree with the plan to reduce spend on residential short breaks (by reducing the total number of beds across the two homes from 15 to 10) and re-invest in a range of lower-cost alternatives?

- Agree
- Don’t know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons
Reducing beds at the Bush residential unit

6. Our proposal to decrease spending on residential units is to reduce the number of beds at the Bush from 10 to 5. We will continue to run Belbrook as a 5 bed children’s home. This will mean we have residential short break services in both the North and South of the city.

Do you agree with the proposal to reduce beds at the Bush from 10 to 5?
- Agree
- Don’t know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons

Keeping residential units in-house

7. Our plan is to keep the Bush and Belbrook as council-run services rather than buying residential short breaks from external providers.

Do you agree with the proposal to keep the residential units as council-run services?
- Agree
- Don’t know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons
Foster-based short breaks

8. We plan to increase the number of foster-based short breaks available (from 55 to 75-85). This will include asking the council’s foster service to recruit some full-time carers as well as buying some short breaks from independent foster agencies.

Do you agree with this proposal?

- Agree
- Don’t know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons and any suggestions relating to foster-based short breaks

Residential holidays

9. We plan to have a new contract for residential holidays for disabled children and young people. The current contract is to provide a minimum of 44 children with holidays. We plan to increase funding for this contract so that holidays are provided to a minimum of 64 children.

Do you agree with this proposal?

- Agree
- Don’t know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons and any suggestions relating to residential holidays
Direct payments

10. We plan to increase the funding for direct payments so that approximately 20 more children and families are able to have direct payments.

Do you agree with this proposal?

- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons and any suggestions relating to direct payments

11. Currently we only allow direct payments to be used to pay for a personal assistant. We plan to increase the range of things that direct payments can be spent on to include other services, activities and expenses.

Do you agree with this proposal?

- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons and any suggestions relating to this
Community care and palliative care

12. We plan to keep this as a council-run service and increase the funding to employ additional staff to do prevention work and help families to manage crises. We estimate this will mean they can help 13 more families each year. The service will work closely with the residential short-break units and Family Link service.

Do you agree with this proposal?

- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons and any suggestions relating to this
Two city-wide contracts for play, leisure and sport activities and befriending

We currently have five contracts plus one council service providing befriending and activities for children in holidays, at weekends and after school. These contracts will expire in March 2015. This means that we will need to make new arrangements for services to be in place from April 2015.

We currently spend £237,000 on these services. The current providers and services are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WECIL consortium</td>
<td>A range of weekend and after-school activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special schools consortium</td>
<td>Holiday activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Autism Project (council-run service)</td>
<td>Holiday activities for children with autism and their families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KHASS</td>
<td>Weekend and holiday activities for South Asian children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to Share</td>
<td>Befrienders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to Share</td>
<td>Holiday activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We plan to have two city-wide contracts and to increase the budget to £270,000. We will encourage groups of providers to work in partnership to make a group bid for these contracts (consortia bids). Each contract will be to provide a range of short break activities across the city. The range must include activities that are suitable for each age group between 3 and 17 years and for children with different complex needs including health and behavioural issues. One contract will include a befriending service and the other contract will include a BME targeted service (see next question).

13. Do you agree with the proposal to have two city-wide contracts for these short breaks?

- Agree
- Don’t know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons and any suggestions relating to this
14. Do you agree that it would best if these two contracts are delivered by two groups of providers (consortia)?

- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons and any suggestions relating to this
15. Please list 3 activities that you would most like to be available as part of these services

1. 

2. 

3. 

BME targeted service

16. We propose that one of the city-wide services includes a specialist service for disabled BME (black and minority ethnic) children and young people. This service will not be just for particular ethnic groups but we will expect that it is provided by an organisation with expertise in working with BME children and families and that it has staff with appropriate language skills and cultural awareness to work with children and families from those BME communities that may find it harder to access other short-break services.

Do you agree with this proposal?

- Agree
- Don’t know
- Disagree

Please give your reasons and any suggestions relating to this
Do you have any ideas?

17. We would like to hear your thoughts about how to improve short breaks in Bristol and other local support for disabled children and their families.

Please tell us the top three things you would change:

1. 

2. 

3. 

Any other comments

18. Please make any other comments about the draft commissioning plan here
Equality monitoring questions

Equalities monitoring helps the Council to check both that everyone in the city is accessing the services to which they are entitled and that no-one is discriminated against unlawfully. Information provided will be treated confidentially and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and only used to ensure that everyone is treated fairly. All questions are voluntary and it will not make any difference to the service you receive if you do not answer them. However, by answering the questions you will help us to ensure that our services are fair and accessible to all.

19. How would you describe your ethnic origin? (Please tick)

White

English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British ( )
Irish ( )
Gypsy (including English, Scottish and Roma Gypsy) or Irish Traveller ( )
Eastern European ( )
Any other White background (please describe) ______________________

Mixed / multiple ethnic groups

White and Black Caribbean ( )
White and Black African ( )
White and Asian ( )
Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background (please describe) ______________________

Asian / Asian British

Indian ( )
Pakistani ( )
Bangladeshi ( )
Chinese ( )
Any other Asian background (please describe) ____________________

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

African ( )
Somali ( )
Caribbean ( )
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background (please describe) ____________________

Other ethnic groups

Arab ( )
Iranian ( )
Iraqi ( )
Kurdish ( )
Turkish ( )
Any other ethnic group (please describe) ____________________
Prefer not to say ( )

20. What is your gender?

Female ( ) Male ( ) Prefer not to say ( )

21. Are you transgender?
(Is your gender identity different from the gender you were assigned at birth?)

Yes ( ) No ( ) Prefer not to say ( )
22. What is your age group?

15 or under ( ) 16 to 24 ( ) 25 to 49 ( ) 50 to 64 ( )
65 to 74 ( ) 75 and over ( ) Prefer not to say ( )

23. Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

Yes ( ) No ( ) Prefer not to say ( )

24 It helps us to know whether we are reaching all disabled people, please can you tick the relevant impairment (disability) group for yourself below and you are welcome to tick more than one box if appropriate.

Physical impairment ( ) Visual impairment ( ) Hearing impairment ( )
Deaf BSL user ( ) Learning difficulties ( )
Specific learning difficulties like dyslexia ( ) Mental and emotional distress ( )
A health condition e.g hiv, multiple sclerosis, cancer ( ) Prefer not to say ( )

25. Please say how you would you usually describe your sexual orientation?

Lesbian ( ) Gay ( ) Bisexual ( )
Heterosexual(straight) ( ) Prefer not to say ( )

26. What is your religion? (Each category includes all denominations and sects)

No religion ( )
Christian ( )
Buddhist ( )
Hindu ( )
Jewish ( )
Muslim ( )
Sikh ( )
Any other religion or belief (Please describe) _____________________
Prefer not to say ( )

Thank you for completing the questionnaire.