

## Short Breaks Update

May 2019

### Overnight Short Breaks – June 2019 Cabinet meeting

As you will know, since the Cabinet meeting in July 2018, we have been working together with parent carers, adult services, other professionals and providers to come up with a set of proposals for the way overnight short breaks are delivered. We are preparing to go to the Cabinet meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June to recommend that we start a consultation about these proposals. The Cabinet papers will include information about the proposals and will be published on the County Council website between 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May. We will hold a meeting for parent carers so we can explain the proposals and information in the Cabinet paper more clearly and give you the opportunity to ask questions. Details of this meeting are below:

Parent carer meeting  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 11am – 12noon  
Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester, WR4 0DZ

We will send a letter to all families who access overnight short break units to confirm this date and give you any further information at the end of May.

All information we send out will also be uploaded to our News and Updates page:

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDupdates](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDupdates)

### Other Short Breaks news

At the co-design events in September, some parent carers told us they would like short breaks to be more flexible and offer different types of support to meet different types of needs. In response to this, unit managers at Moule Close (Kidderminster) and Providence Road (Bromsgrove) are working towards providing:

- Short breaks in the daytime during the holidays or weekends
- Teatime activities
- Youth groups and clubs
- One-to-one support with unit staff on days units are closed

This type of short break wouldn't replace overnight respite if that's what is needed but is a different option that families can access. Daytime short breaks and teatime activities and clubs can also be offered to children and young people who don't currently access the units – meaning that more support can be offered to more families. Unit managers are offering these different services to families currently accessing the units and are planning to be able to offer these to other families from the summer.

Unit managers are also looking at other ways that the units can be used when they are empty during the day. This includes offering parent support groups, Stay and Play sessions and family contact meetings. Any funding that is made by this will be put back in to the units to offer more support and different activities for children, young people and families.

## **An update on Ofsted registration from Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust**

Ludlow Road is now registered by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust with Ofsted. An unannounced inspection is anticipated to take place in the next few months. Monthly regulation 44 visits are underway and actions that have been identified have been addressed.

The application to register Osborne Court Short Breaks Units is progressing. Ofsted have undertaken the pre-registration inspection and confirmation of registration is expected shortly. Regulation 44 visits have commenced. On the pre-registration visit, Ofsted informed the Trust that the two-bedroom bungalow on the Osborne Court site requires a separate Ofsted registration. The application to register this bungalow is underway.

As a reminder, these locations are already registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). A change in national regulations means they also needed to be registered with Ofsted.

## **One-to-one support workers**

Worcestershire County Council changed the way it bought one-to-one support for children and young people with disabilities. Since April 2018, we changed from having one agency delivering all the one-to-one support to having a list of agencies we could contact to deliver one-to-one support for different young people. This has meant that:

- We have reduced the time it takes to get a support worker in place which means families are getting the support they need quicker
- We have lots of agencies who can support a wide range of needs and do a wide range of activities with young people
- We have gone from delivering one-to-one support to 29 young people in April 2018 to 128 young people in April 2019 – at no extra cost to the County Council

## **Children's Disability and Additional Needs Register**

We have recently launched our Children's Disability and Additional Needs Register, which we have designed together with Families in Partnership. Every Local Authority has a Children's Disability and Additional Needs Register (sometimes known as a Disabled Children's Register). It is used to gather information about any child or young person in Worcestershire with a special educational need and/or disability. We will use the information to help improve services for these children and young people because it will help us to understand more about what support is needed and where. The register is free to join and completely voluntary.

You can find more information on the SEND Local Offer: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer)

## **Keep in touch**

If you would like to share your views and/or work more with us on short breaks you can contact Families in Partnership on: [enquiriesfip@carersworcs.org.uk](mailto:enquiriesfip@carersworcs.org.uk).

If you have any concerns about the support you currently receive to meet your or your families' needs you can speak to your social worker or the Children with Disabilities team by calling 01905 844343.

Any queries about the content of this update can be emailed to [shortbreaks@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@worcestershire.gov.uk) or call 01905 843657.