

Date: 23.3.15
Our ref: JH/kl
Your ref:



Commissioning
All Age Disability Service
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UT

Tel: 0161 770 3110

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Outcome from the Short Breaks Consultation

Oldham Council is facing significant cuts to the overall Council budget of £60m over the next two years. The Short Breaks budget for children with additional and complex needs is within this and needs to save a total of £349k across the service.

Council officers carried out a consultation over a number of months with families who access short breaks services and also worked with the Parents Short Breaks Working Group. Thank you to all who got involved and gave their views regarding the proposals. All comments and feedback from the families involved were fully considered in making final decisions regarding the future for short breaks services in Oldham.

We have worked hard to keep the impact on services to a minimum however for some services the decision to cease provision has been made for us due to the provider being unable to continue the support.

Short Breaks Future 2015-16

Services that will not continue after March 2015 are those provided by the Integrated Youth Team as the current team will not exist. We did try our utmost to maintain the two ability youth groups but this was not possible. We have managed to sustain some services within this provision by moving in to community based support. The services that will be lost from within this provision include:

- Junior and Senior Ability Youth
- Dance and Drama Club

Services that will continue after March 2015 but with some small alterations.

1. Special Schools Summer Holiday Scheme. Funding from the short breaks budget will reduce for these but other money from the authority will continue. The schools will need to decide how they will manage the schemes with a small reduction in the overall budget they will have to provide the schemes.
2. Autism Youth Club (AYC) will continue in its current format. There will be a small reduction in the overall budget for the club but this will not have a major impact on the service. Officers have met with families using the club and will work with them as the club works towards a move to new premises in September 2015.

3. Netherhey St Summer Family Trips: The trips will continue to be provided, however due to the capacity of Netherhey Street, the provider will change and POINT have agreed to deliver these trips in 2015.

Services that will continue in the current format in 2015 – March 2016

1. Barriers Breakers: Involvement group for young people
2. Shining Stars: Swimming club
3. Wheels For All: Adapted cycle centre in Alexander Park
4. 'Time Out': 1:1 support to access the community.

Targeted Support Services that will remain the same in 2015 - March 2016

1. Contract Carers
2. Independent Options
3. Early years holiday support
4. Direct Payments

Netherhey St: Short Breaks Residential Service.

Officers have met with families using the service and will continue to do so as we work with them to move towards a shared service with another local authority.

The future for Short Breaks in Oldham

As you can see from the information many of the services will continue in a very similar way for this year April 2015 - March 2016.

As we move forward and face the need to make more savings the plan is to put some of the current short breaks services out to tender, which means that the authority will ask other agencies to bid in to provide short breaks in Oldham and this will ensure that Oldham's short break services can be shaped to meet the future needs of families as well as achieving the future savings required by the Local Authority.

We want to hear from parent/carers who would like to be part of the commissioning group looking at new tenders when they come in. So if you are interested please contact me direct at the e-mail address or phone number below.

To enable us to identify what short breaks work for families and what families want or feel needs to change, we will need to know your views. So we would like you to get involved by completing a short questionnaire, the results of which will be co-ordinated and collated by the Parents Short Breaks working group.

The questionnaire can be found using the following link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5GB8PZQ> Responses close at 5pm on 30th April 2015.

Alternatively if you do not have access to the internet, POINT will be happy to talk you through the questionnaire if you attend their Ability Session between 1.30pm and 4.30pm at MAHDLO Youth Zone each Sunday. I have also enclosed a copy of POINT's questionnaire that you can return directly to them at:

POINT

Italia House Business Centre

Pass St

Oldham

OL9 6HZ

Yours sincerely

Julie Hawkins

Julie Hawkins

Short Breaks and Transformation Manager

0161 770 3126 julie.hawkins@oldham.gov.uk