

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Executive

DECISION TAKEN BY:

**Christine McInnes, Interim Corporate Director, Children,
Young People and Education**

DECISION NO:

OD/26/00010

For publication

Subject matter: Commissioning of Short Break Day Activities 2026-2028

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

Christine Palmer, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services

[Decision – 25/00069 – Short Breaks Day Activities 2026 to 2028 \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)

This decision was the initial decision for the Short Breaks Day Activities Grants.

As Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, I agree to:

- A) Approve the commencement of a competitive open grants process for the provision of Short Break Day Activities for disabled children for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028 with an option to extend for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2028 to 31 March 2029, and
- B) Delegate authority to award grants and enter into relevant agreements to the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, or other Officer as required by the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

[Executive Decision Report](#)

[Executive Record of Decision](#)

Decision:

As Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, I agree to:

Award a Short Breaks Day Activities grant to 37 applications across 20 providers within the allocated budget.

Reason(s) for decision:

The providers passed phase one of the evaluation and achieved above the minimum of 60% on quality for their tender responses.

Those who progressed to phase two were considered in terms of the district they applied for, the type of activity and the child need they support to ensure equity across the county.

The distribution of the budget is considered to be fair across the county, taking into account child need and activity type.

Financial Implications:

Following evaluation of the bids, a total annual grant pot of £1,060,088.36 will be utilised, which is £88 over the allocated budget of £1,060,00 per annum. This will ensure the grant achieves maximum coverage across the county. The total cost of the grant programme over two years (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028) is £2,120,176.72 and with the optional 12 month extension (1 April 2028 to 31 March 2029) is £3,180,265.08. Confirmation was received from the CYPE Finance Business Partner on 28 January 2026 regarding the additional £88 per annum.

This is funded from the General Fund – Strengthening Independence Service.

Legal implications:

The legal framework for the Proposed Executive Decision is:

- Children Act 1989 (Section 17 (1)) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/schedule/2>
- Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 schedule 2 (paragraph 6 (1)(c) Regulation 3 and Regulation 4 **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/707/made>

Equality Implications:

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening has been completed identifying no negative impacts. This shall be kept under constant review as this project continues.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

The Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, Christine Palmer, was contacted to seek her agreement as stated in the initial Key Decision. Approval was received on 6 February 2026.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The option to do nothing and allow the current grants to end in March 2026 was considered. This option was discounted due to the risk that Kent County Council would fail in its statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of Short Break Services, as the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 specify the need to provide Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays and provide a range of educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes. Without continued grant funding, these targeted services, particularly holiday and activity clubs, would be significantly reduced, undermining both the sufficiency and diversity of provision required by law.

The option to recommission Short Break Day Activities through contracts was considered. This option was discounted in line with Principle 2 of the Commissioning Framework, to ensure that commissioning is underpinned by a strong policy and planning framework. As the Short Break Strategy 2026 - 2031 is due to be implemented from 2026, it is preferable for this to be in place prior to redesigning a longer term Short Breaks Model. If the Short Break Day Activities were commissioned through contracts prior to the Strategy being in place, there would have been a risk the contracts would not align with the Strategy and would not present a consistent approach for families of disabled children.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

Christine McGames

signed

Date:25/03/2026