

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title	Short Break Day Opportunities for Disabled Children and Young People
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Responsible Officer	Nicola Bowden - ST SC
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Type of Activity

Service Change	No
Service Redesign	No
Project/Programme	No
Commissioning/Procurement	Commissioning/Procurement
Strategy/Policy	No
Details of other Service Activity	No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate	Children Young People and Education
Responsible Service	Disabled Children and Young People
Responsible Head of Service	Sharon Howard - CY LDCYP
Responsible Director	Mark Walker - CY LDCYP

Aims and Objectives

The Short Break service is designed to meet Kent County Council's statutory obligations (particularly under The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011). This has regard to the needs of those carers who would be unable to continue to provide care without breaks, or where suitable breaks would enable them to care more effectively by allowing them opportunity to undertake certain other activities.

Some disabled children can join in on activities for all children such as Beavers or Brownies, or summer fun days run by their local council. This means that their parents can have a break. Kent County Council commission activities for those children who need extra support, including activities for children who need significant levels of support. These short break activities are crucial services in supporting the resilience of families of disabled children and young people in Kent. Most of these activities are open to families without having to go through a social worker

A successful short break service will therefore:

- provide a break to parent carers to enable them to continue their caring duties
- provide meaningful activities for children, young people when their carers are on a break.

Aims:

To ensure continuity of service delivery, we are planning competitively tender for a new strategic grants framework in to establish a new range of suitable providers able to work with us to deliver a range of suitable opportunities across the county from 1 April 2022.

By ensuring a wide range of available short break activities across the County at different times and to meet differing needs the programme support the following outcomes:

- Children will be working towards specific outcomes during their shortbreak to strengthen their independence.
- Parents and carers feel better supported and have more opportunities to relax with each other or spend quality time with their other children.

- Parents and carers have increased capacity to cope in their caring role improving their health, wellbeing and quality of life.
- Parents and carers have a reduced likelihood of breakdown and crisis in their family role and reduced likelihood of needing social care intervention.
- Children and young people who are disabled have opportunities to enjoy experiences and activities with their peers and siblings, independently of their primary carers.
- Children and young people become more active members of their communities and so as adults tend to be less reliant on adult social care services.
- Better provision of availability and information regarding short breaks opportunities and a reduction in barriers to mainstream and community services so that eligible children and young people have the same access as their non-disabled peers.
- Leverage of other funding sources including in-kind contributions and volunteering to ensure sustainability and increase in short break provision.
- The co-production of services/breaks with parents/carers, children and young people and partner agencies.

Summary of Analysis

Continue: There is a low adverse risk that a range of services to meet varied levels of need will be available across all the districts. The procurement process will include provider and parent/carer engagement to inform the strategy which will seek to mitigate against this risk.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?	Yes
It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?	Yes
Is there national evidence/data that you can use?	Yes
Have you consulted with stakeholders?	Yes
Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?	
<p>Parents/carers and CYP</p> <p>In 2019 a survey of families was conducted and again in 2021 a qualitative study was undertaken with families/carers who had engaged with short break activities. 91 families/carers responded to the questionnaire. Although feedback clearly indicated that short breaks were invaluable to families, there was dissatisfaction with the short break process such as availability, accessibility based on need and waiting lists.</p> <p>Social Care Practitioners have identified that there is a need for services to support children and young people with autism as well as availability of services for people with complex needs.</p> <p>Providers of Short Breaks services.</p>	
Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?	No
Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of	Yes

your activity?	
Section C – Impact	
Who may be impacted by the activity?	
Service Users/clients	Service users/clients
Staff	No
Residents/Communities/Citizens	No
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?	Yes
Details of Positive Impacts	
<p>The grants will provide for open access for disabled children and young people, meaning that a social worker assessment, and application of statutory eligibility criteria will not always be required.</p> <p>Analysis of service gaps for children with complex needs will be targeted in the grants prospectus and market engagement activities to promote a more consistent and equitable offer for families across the county.</p> <p>Enabling disabled children and young people to be included within their communities.</p> <p>The commissioning exercise will seek to provide a range of services to meet the varying needs of children with disabilities, including children and young people with a diagnosis of autism but do not have a learning disability. Education Health and Care Plan data indicate a high proportion of children and young people with a ASD diagnosis and outcomes from recent innovation grants to support people with autism, will be built into the grant’s prospectus for future delivery.</p>	
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions	
19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age	
Are there negative impacts for age?	Yes
Details of negative impacts for Age	
<p>0 – 5 age range.</p> <p>Data analysis from the indicated a lower proportion of 0-5 age range receiving short breaks through a direct payment and services are not across all districts in Kent. Like a non-disabled child, children will have access to universal services, such as Children’s Centres, which they would ordinarily access with a parent. The age range may be extended downwards in exceptional circumstances in line with current practice. This service is targeted at Children</p>	
Mitigating Actions for Age	
<p>Ensure that professional/ agency’s (children centres, social workers, health visitors) involved in families with children 0-5 are aware of the short break offer.</p> <p>Ensure that all families with children within this age range have access to the 0-5 short breaks across all districts</p>	
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age	Nicola Bowden
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability	
Are there negative impacts for Disability?	Yes
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability	
<p>Parent feedback indicates a low negative risk that services for people with complex needs will not be widely available throughout the county. The commissioning exercise will set out the aims and objectives of the</p>	

grants programme, including the need for services to meet the complex needs of individuals.	
Mitigating actions for Disability	
Engagement with parents and market engagement to ensure adequate provision of services for people with complex needs across the county.	
Responsible Officer for Disability	Nicola Bowden
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex	
Are there negative impacts for Sex	No
Details of negative impacts for Sex	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Sex	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for Sex	Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender	
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender	No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender	Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race	
Are there negative impacts for Race	No
Negative impacts for Race	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Race	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race	Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief	
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief	No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief	Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation	
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation	No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation	Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity	
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity	No

Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity	Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities	
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities	Yes
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities	
Potential risk that activities are not flexible enough for individual circumstances.	
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities	
Engagement with parent/carer forums to ensure that barriers are identified and addressed in the grants process.	
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities	Nicola Bowden