

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Targeted Short Breaks

Responsible Officer

Steve Lusk - CED SC

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

Strengthening Independence Service

Responsible Head of Service

Sharon Howard - CY LDCYP

Responsible Director

Kevin Kasaven - CY SCS

Aims and Objectives

Targeted Short Breaks are preventative family support services aimed at families with a disabled child or young person to allow them to have a break from caring. They provide disabled children and young people with the opportunity to have fun and learn while doing activities in a new environment outside of the home. They provide a chance to spend quality time within their community with other children and young people who may have similar life experiences, helping to build friendships and connections beyond the family. For parents and carers, Short Breaks provide regular planned breaks from caring responsibilities, allowing time to pursue other activities, education, chores and spend time with other members of the family.

Targeted Short Breaks offer a variety of activities and support for disabled children and young people who present on a spectrum of need from mild to complex, including learning and physical disabilities, sensory disabilities, neurodivergent.

Short Breaks have two key aims:

- To give parents or carers of disabled children or young people a break from caring responsibilities.
- To enable disabled children and young people to have social opportunities and join in with safe, fun, and interesting activities, whilst developing autonomy and independence as they grow.

The objectives of the grants programme are:

- Opportunity to develop and test alternate models of support for children and young people with neurodiversity and those with more complex needs.
- Opportunity to develop and test alternate models of Short Breaks.
- Opportunity to incorporate improvements that have been identified through the development of the Short Break strategy. For example, projects that strengthen independence and transition to adulthood.
- Grants promote continued strong relationships with providers, which will be essential for the implementation of the Short Breaks strategy.
- Contribute to financial stability to Voluntary Community Social Enterprise sector.

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?

No

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Parent and Carers
Disabled Children and Young People
Social Care Practitioners
Representatives of the Integrated Health Board
Kent County Council Early Help Services

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

Yes

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

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

Positive impact for parents and carers to receive a break from caring.

The commissioning activity will provide positive impacts for disability by focussing on increasing opportunities for children and young people who are neurodiverse.

The commissioning activity will provide positive impacts for disability by focussing on increasing opportunities for children and young people who have complex needs.

Enabling disabled children and young people to be included within their communities

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

There are currently gaps in services for the age range 0-5. This has improved somewhat over the past 2 years when we specifically commissioned services to close this gap. However, we need to further commission services as services are sporadic across the districts.

Mitigating Actions for Age

We are including special schools with this engagement exercise and will also provide support in how they could provide Short Breaks within their local communities by offering the school provision and resources.

Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age

steve Lusk

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

Are there negative impacts for Disability?

Yes

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Through analysis of several sources of data neurodiversity is identified as the highest primary need and is predicted to increase in line with the national trend. This has improved somewhat over the past 2 years when we specifically commissioned services to close this gap. However, we need to further commission services as services are sporadic across the districts.

Mitigating actions for Disability

The grants prospectus will identify the requirement to provide service for neurodiverse children and young people and those complex needs.

Responsible Officer for Disability

steve lusk

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

Yes

Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

Currently the available Short Break offer tend to engage for more boys than girls. Short Break data submitted by Short Break providers show that boys take two thirds of Short Break attendance. Although there is evidence to suggest there are disabled boys than girls that are disabled with Kent; the activities

delivered via Short Breaks leads us to form the hypothesis that the activities on offer are more likely to engage and be more appealing to boys.
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Within the commissioning exercise, via the prospectus we will specify activities that will seek to engage all genders. We will work with Short Break providers and CYP to co-produce what activities will be engaging for all genders.
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Steve Lusk
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
Yes
Negative impacts for Race
By comparing Kent Census data on Kent district level data captured in 2021 to social care case work numbers on those who's status is disabled on Liberi. Data does correspond with the ethnicities reflected in caseloads in that predominantly (89.4%) children and young people across Kent are white. Using Census data we identified that some districts have a higher population of ethnicity diversity; the top three being Dartford, Gravesham, and Maidstone. We know that Dartford and Gravesham border London and Maidstone is the County town. Liberi case load data on ethnicity is in line with the county trend in that Dartford, Gravesham and Maidstone caseloads show the highest levels of ethnic diversity. National intelligence via UK Poverty Report 2022 and National Trends Ethnicity and Child Poverty UK Parliament indicates that nationally in-work poverty (families in employment) rates are higher for people from an Other Asian, Black/African/Caribbean/Black British and Other ethnic groups. Pay has also contributed to higher poverty rates for minority ethnic groups in the UK with many workers from a minority ethnic background having lower wages than white British workers. Children in Bangladeshi and Pakistani households were the most likely to live in low income and material deprivation out of all ethnic groups.
Mitigating actions for Race
The Short Break dashboard does not currently gather data on the ethnicity of those children and young people attending activities. We will now add ethnicity to the data capture to allow us to assess that ethnicity reflects the current picture across the districts. Currently we advise Short Break providers that they should charge £2.50 an hour for each CYP attending a Short Break. We also advise to have a concessionary for parents who are in receipt of benefits. We need to review this as we are aware that many families maybe living in poverty while in full time employment.
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Steve Lusk
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
Location of activities can prove difficult for carers to transport their child to.
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Engagement with parent/carer forums to ensure that barriers are identified and addressed in the grants process. The grants will aim to promote an equitable distribution of services across the County.
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
steve lusk