

Bracknell Forest Council

Full Equality Impact Assessment Report for Aiming High Short Break Service for Disabled Children

1. Introduction

Due to a significant reduction in Central Government funding Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) is having to make significant savings across the Council. The imminent reduction in resources has prompted a review of services and the way we deliver support in order to maximise efficiency and effectiveness while providing the best outcomes for individuals and their families.

The Authority is not prevented from making budget savings which may disproportionately affect people with protected characteristics but it must demonstrate that it has attempted to identify where this may occur and that it has taken all reasonable steps to remove or reduce these potential impacts.

Therefore an Equality Impact Screening tool was completed in May 2014; the outcome being to undertake a Full Impact Assessment, **Appendix 1**.

This report evidences that a significant amount of consultation opportunities have been provided to parents, carers, young people, professionals and providers regarding the potential future design of the service.

Feedback from these opportunities has indicated particular concerns about the impact of some of the proposals on disabled young people and their families. It also highlights some unexpected impacts identified via the full consultation that were not covered in the screening, but have now been taken into account in this full impact assessment. This report outlines the measures that the Council has already and can take to mitigate these should the Executive decide to implement the savings proposals.

Thinking about the impact of making budget savings there are around 740 parents registered to receive Aiming High information. There is somewhere between 275 and 350 children currently accessing 'something' – whether the Council fund, have funded or that has been developed and become sustainable. The figure for users of services that are subject to these savings is smaller; in the region of 200, and approximately 72 'families' (36%) have provided their views during the consultation.

2. Purpose of this report

This is a Full Equality Impact Assessment Report which reviews the impact of the budget reduction proposals that form part of the Aiming High Service on those groups protected by the Equality Act 2010. The key groups affected have been identified as children/ young people with a disability and their families.

The proposed savings of £120,000 are from the Aiming High Short Break Service for Children with Disabilities and their families. Therefore these proposals are within the Authority's legal duty to consider and, where possible, to mitigate any disproportionately adverse impacts of its significant policy decisions on people with 'protected characteristics'. This Full Equality Impact Assessment Report looks at the issues, considerations and conclusions around the potential reduction of Local Authority funding for disabled children's community short breaks.

The key groups affected have been identified as; children/young people with disabilities, their parent/ carers and siblings. Additional stakeholders include providers of the contracted provision, BFC staff, health partners, Tier 3 and 4 Children's Social Care services and Kennel Lane School. For a full list please see Stakeholder Analysis, **Appendix 2**.

This report sets out:

- Background
- The budget context
- Consultation detail
- Assessment of Impact on Equality with regard to Protected Characteristics
- Engagement
- Headline findings
- Mitigating actions.

3. Background

Under the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011', the Council has a statutory duty to provide short break services for disabled children and their families. This is achieved via Aiming High (and Disabled Children's Team direct payments, community child minding and Larchwood Short Breaks unit which are not subject to consideration for savings at the time of writing this report).

Bracknell Forest Council is proud of their Aiming High (AH) service, launched in 2008. Over the last few years the Authority has worked to find low impact savings and continue to do so where it is possible to avoid or minimise disproportionate impacts but this is becoming increasingly difficult as our own and our partner agencies' budgets diminish. Therefore it has become necessary to consider a significant reduction to this service (32%).

This has provided us with an opportunity to undertake an in-depth review of the service, consult with service users and aim to achieve a closer match between the needs of young people and the services to which they have access, the focus being to invest in those services that have proved to be of the most value and benefit.

The proposals are required to ensure that the Council is investing scarce resources in those services and activities that can be shown to impact positively on the lives of disabled children and their families.

The AH services are designed to meet local need and are only available to Bracknell Forest children and their parents/ carers. Over the years services users have been regularly consulted with and services have been reviewed to ensure that changing needs and gaps are met and children and young people with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as their mainstream peers.

Prior to any decisions the Local Authority has carried out a consultation to ensure due consideration has been given to the potential effects of all proposed budget options so as to minimise, as far as possible, any disproportionately adverse impacts for this service user group.

In striving to continue to provide the best possible services for its young disabled population; we are reviewing the way we deliver services to find ways of doing so at significantly less cost. Our guiding principle is to devise a fair, balanced and sustainable budget that protects essential services for the people who need them most, as far as is possible, and thereby minimising budget pressures in other areas.

4. Budget Context

Since 2008 there has been a huge amount of investment in short breaks for disabled children and their families via ring fenced Government funding through the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) Programme which ran until 2010/11.

In April 2011 ring fencing was removed and each Local Authority has had the flexibility to make decisions about funding based on local need and whilst Bracknell Forest has continued its commitment to disabled children and their families the Aiming High budget was substantially reduced in 2011 when the budget for short breaks was cut by £146,000 which represented 30%. This was at a time when our neighbouring authorities (West Berkshire, Wokingham and Slough) were increasing their total budget for short breaks.

5. Consultation including Methodology and Sources of Data

To enable us to consider the impact of any savings and or service redesign we have undertaken a thorough review of all services funded from this budget. Additionally we have undertaken a 'what do you value most / use most' consultation with parents/ carers, children and young people. In addition we have consulted with contract providers, voluntary groups, members of children's social care and other key partners.

To ensure independence, overview and scrutiny we have used the services of Qa Research, an independent research company, and The Consultation Institute. Qa Research's specialist Children and Young People's team conducted the consultation on behalf of the Council including all analysis of the results and report production. The Consultation Institute was commissioned by the Council to conduct one of their quality assurance checks on the consultation process to ensure that it was open, fair, robust and in line with consultation best practice. The Institute provided advice throughout as well as closely scrutinising the process.

Consultation activity

A pre consultation event was held on the 1st April 2014 hosted by Bracknell Forest Council's Specialist Support Service in collaboration with Qa Research.

This event was held with parents and carers to draw up the options in co production that then went out to full consultation. During this event the Local Authority presented two options for service redesign that would achieve the savings target. Parents/ carers expressed concerns regarding some aspect of both options and instead drew up alternatives of their own that they felt would have less impact on theirs and their children's lives, in comparison to those that the service had designed. Qa Research also put together an option based on discussions at the session.

Although none of the parent options achieved the proposed savings target they were presented to the Council's Children, Young People and Learning Department Management Team and consultation lead Elected Members to assist them in making decisions about the final options that were presented for full consultation (**Appendix 3**). It is of note for this full EIA that a decision was made to use two of the three parent/ carer produced options for consideration during the full consultation, as these were clearly identified by parents to minimise adverse impact. Appendix 3 outlines the three options.

Following this event an overview report was written by Qa Research which provided significant insight into the impacts and value of Aiming High (**Appendix 4**).

In order to further explore the potential impact of the three proposals a six week consultation process was conducted utilising Qa Research. This involved an open access on-line consultation document and focus groups with service users, professionals and providers. Additional follow up

consultation work was conducted with children and young people. The results of the consultation have now been reported by QA Research with the outcome being that the majority of consultees are in favour of Option A which was a parent/ carer led option.

Alongside analysis of the data held within Aiming High, further data was collected from all the Local Authority funded/ part funded activities regarding take up and capacity to continue to provide a service with less funding (if required).

6. Assessment of Impact on Equality with regard to Protected Characteristics

An Equality Impact Screening tool was completed in May 2014 a summary of the outcome of this is highlighted below. Consideration has been given to the following protected characteristics in relation to being potentially impacted by the proposals:

6a) Disability Equality

This is the category of most focus. The provision of activities targeted towards children and young people with disabilities is essential to narrow the gap and ensure aspirations and positive outcomes for disabled children. In addition to this they provide a vital short break to parent/ carers who without this may struggle to continue to care for their disabled children within the family and or to meet their non disabled child's needs.

The reduction in AH funding may increase the barriers to participation for people with learning difficulties, complex health needs and disability. This will be taken into account when reviewing the ongoing service provision to ensure that we are meeting the needs of those children who would otherwise have no activities and/ or short breaks. We will also work on stimulation of the market and review flexible use of our short break unit.

Local disability population profile

Within the area there are 16900 school age children and of these:

- 320 (or 1.89%) have mild learning disabilities
- 88 (or 0.52%) have severe learning disabilities
- 13 (or 0.07%) have profound and multiple learning disabilities
- 420 (or 24.97%) have learning difficulties

Totalling 841 children/ young people with additional needs

There are around 740 parents registered to receive Aiming High information.

There is somewhere between 275 and 350 children currently accessing 'something' – whether we fund, have funded or that has been developed and become sustainable.

The figure for users of services that are subject to these savings is smaller; in the region of 200 and approximately 72 'families' have provided their views during the consultation.

In terms of the pre consultation event we had a 13% (24 parent/ carers) users representation which led to the drawing up of parent led options for full consultation.

6b) Racial Equality

The provision of targeted programmes for young people with disabilities is inclusive and will continue to be so. Of the 337 who used the service last year we know the ethnicity for 159:

- 89.3% are White British
- the remaining 10.7% are a mix of Mixed White, Asian, Black African, Asian Other

AH will ensure that all children are given the same opportunity to participate in programmes and activities and that their voice is heard. Where necessary the Inclusion Support fund can be used to offer additional assistance for example with language.

6c) Gender Equality

The current Aiming High user population is:

- Males 65%
- Female 35%

The savings will impact equally to these individuals but with more males being affected than females due to % of take up.

It is difficult to give an accurate number and thereafter gender of disabled children in England due to different data sources using different definitions of disability. However its generally accepted that the prevalence is higher among boys (8.8%) than girls (5.8%). More significantly boys are more likely than girls to experience difficulties with physical coordination, memory, concentration and learning, and communication, which may go some way to explaining the significantly higher take up from parents of boys. It is also of note that the data provided for the consultation indicated that 72% of the participants Children have autism, autism is more prevalent in boys the girls.

6d) Sexual orientation equality

AH is not aware of a significant number of young people who have advised 'staff/settings' of LGB&T sexual orientation.

6f) Gender reassignment equality

AH does not specialise in work based upon gender re-assignment. Current service users do not include anyone who has advised of gender re-assignment issues.

The needs of these groups will be kept under review and sign posting to youth services and or new programmes and services commissioned where needed.

6g) Age Equality

Aiming High services are specifically targeted at disabled children and their parents so those in these age groups could be disproportionately impacted by any reduction or removal of services. The service is from 0 up to 18 years old. Currently the youngest service users are around 3 years old, with many up to 18 years old.

However, the Council will work to reduce the impact of the savings, including working with community and third sector partners to support the development of quality alternative provision.

6h) Religion and belief

AH in Bracknell Forest does not specialise in provision for specific religions or beliefs. Any savings and opportunities will impact equally across all religions and beliefs.

6i) Pregnancy and maternity equality

Not applicable at this time.

6j) Marriage and civil partnership equality

Not applicable at this time

7. Consultation & Engagement

As discussed in section 5, AH has been engaging service users in the consultation since March 2014 – when the parent forums were notified of the potential for savings and the importance of their views.

The formal consultation period started with a pre consultation event on the 1st April 2014, followed by the launch of an online questionnaire and focus groups. The consultation close date was 9th July 2014. The consultation project plan is attached at **Appendix 5** which includes further details of the consultation methodology.

Additionally during the consultation we have given information and gained views in the following ways:

- Development Worker attended coffee mornings at mainstream and special educational needs school;
- Development Worker attended Kerith mums and Dialogue group (parent groups);
- Development Worker emailed reminders to encourage completing and participation of the consultation;
- Head of Service and Development Worker have made and been available to take numerous telephone conversations, explanations of process and possible outcomes;
- SEN parent event - presentation given by Head of Service covered consultation, savings needed and possible outcomes;
- Presentation given by Head of Service at 2 Adult Transition events which covered consultation, savings needed and possible outcomes.

Engagement has been good with 36% of the user population making their views known.

- 64 of the 36% were female
- 5 of the 36% were male
- 3 of the 36% would prefer not to say

- 57 of these families have one child with a disability
- 12 of these families have two children with a disability
- 3 of these families have three children with a disability

7. Headline findings

In regards to the full consultation:

- 72 people completed the questionnaire, which is 36% of total who use service at risk;
- 7 attended the focus groups, which is 3% of total who use services

Combined, this represents significant views - 39% of total who use services.

The outcome of the consultation was a majority of consultees in favour of the parent developed Option A by 60%

There was less support for and more concerns about adverse impact regarding options B and C.

Please see **Appendix 3** which outlines the detail of all 3 options.

- Option A There is significant support for the retention of all the holiday provision funding which would continue to have a positive impact and is seen as a “lifeline” for many families. Option B & C would reduce this.
- Equally the retention of the weekends away funding would continue to have a significant positive impact for young people and their families. For some Young People this is the only stay away from their parents they have as they cannot engage in ‘sleep overs’ or ‘cub camps’ in the way mainstream peers often can. All three options protect the weekends away
- The consultation highlights some aspects of these saving are likely to have little or no impact (approx £40,000 worth).
- However the remainder of reductions, irrespective of mitigating actions, will have a less positive impact on the disabled children’s population. In particular some of the 63% who have not contributed to the consultation and whose views remain unknown. For 36% of the users we can be confident that we have chosen options that have the least impact.
- There may also be an impact on the economically disadvantaged. As all options do include an increase in fees for holiday and Saturday clubs.
- The reduction of funding from AH will also be an impact on local community providers/ voluntary and community sectors.
- The consultation has indicated a greater reliance on the carers grant than was anticipated. Highlighting that approx 50 families who use this do not access another AH short break. Reasons for this are currently unclear – however it is recommended that we continue to offer some funding to this provision whilst we undertake further evaluation.

8. Mitigating action

In relation to looking at impact and mitigation the following table focuses on Option A , which also contains features of Option B and C – where there are variants these are assessed separately after Option A.

Option A focuses on the impact on children with disabilities

OUTCOME (what Option A offers)	IMPACT	MITIGATION / IMPLEMENT MEAURES / Officers Comments
Aiming High Support budget provides core services Funding will reduce.	Low impact.	We will review salaries; work allocation, efficiencies and implement more effective processes where necessary to ensure the same level of provision as a reduced cost.
Targeted holiday clubs	Positive impact.	The AH service had

<p>Provision remains the same which is what most parents feel has the greatest positive impact on family life.</p> <p>Criteria Targeted Schemes – for children and young people up to the age of 18 with disabilities including complex needs. These schemes are primarily for children and young people who are unable to access mainstream or universal settings with or without support i.e. due to their high level of need and support required mainstream settings are unsuitable.</p>	<p>This is what parents/ carers most value (reference Qa pre consultation report & survey output report 2014) and what children and young people have said they want most – to have opportunities to go to clubs and be with friends (reference the consultation 2012).</p>	<p>anticipated the value of this provision to children and families and would concur with the outcome of the consultation to protect this provision.</p> <p>However additional analysis of the uptake has identified that we can seek to provide a budget that averages 11 children per day rather than 12. Along with the exact cost to us per day rather than the estimated round up figure. This will reduce the anticipated cost* of holidays with no adverse impact on service users.</p> <p>* (this saving is recommended for use later in the report to mitigate negative impact – see Carer Grant and Inclusion Support).</p>
<p>Targeted Saturday clubs Reduces from 38 per year at each provider to 20 per year at each provider (Kids and Konnections) with an increased cost to parents/carers to £20 per session from £12</p> <p>Criteria Targeted Schemes – for children and young people up to the age of 18 with disabilities including complex needs. These schemes are primarily for children and young people who are unable to access mainstream or universal settings with or without support i.e. due to their high level of need and support required mainstream settings are unsuitable.</p>	<p>Will impact on frequency.</p> <p>AH would only part fund 1/2 of their previous allocation. If the providers only provide to this attendance will reduce to once every 2 months rather than monthly.</p> <p>In order to achieve the savings target there had to be some impact on either the holiday clubs/ Saturday clubs or both. The Council had recommended a smaller reduction to both however parents were clear that they would prefer to protect the holiday clubs at the expense of Saturdays as they identified this to be of the least negative impact.</p>	<p>Both Kids and Konnections have said that they could stop between 5 and 6 sessions without any impact on the children and their families; this is due to people booking and then not attending sessions as offered. So this will reduce impact in real terms.</p> <p>For some children this is not their only short break opportunity. Therefore to reduce impact we would monitor to ensure that funded places are spread so some children are not accessing both whilst others are accessing none.</p> <p>Of the 211 users of targeted schemes - 40 of these young people meet the criteria to have a social worker so impact on them will be regularly</p>

		<p>monitored.</p> <p>At times children don't attend without cancellation – increased parental contribution and a system of paying if you don't give a required notice period – should free up unused spaces for those who want more</p> <p>We are also giving consideration, subject to timelines being agreed, re-tendering the targeted provision of Saturday and holiday schemes to ensure best value for money and quality of provision so that new contracts commence from 1st April 2015 when the budget reductions become into force. Our current contracts are due to expire March 2016 and we are required to give 6 month notice of termination ie we would need to notify providers of our intention no later than 1st October 2014.</p>
<p>Weekends away (Kids) Provision will continue to be funded – with no reduction</p> <p>Criteria Age 12+ moderate Learning disabilities and children who do not have other overnight opportunities elsewhere</p>	<p>Positive impact.</p> <p>This is what parents/ carers most value (reference Qa pre consultation report & survey outcomes report 2014) and what children and young people have said they want most – to have opportunities to go to clubs and be with friends (reference the consultation 2012)</p>	<p>The AH service had anticipated the value of this provision to children and families and would concur with the outcome of the consultation to protect this provision.</p>
<p>Support Services Provision will continue to be funded.</p> <p>Criteria Training is provided to settings by the community nursing team that specifically meets the needs of children with</p>	<p>Positive impact.</p> <p>Without this training children with complex health needs would be unable to access targeted schemes in particular and have very little opportunity to socialise with their peers outside school.</p>	<p>Without this resource children are likely to require an increase to their care package via DCT so that opportunities to socialise and communicate with others is provided whilst also providing a short break to families at risk of break</p>

<p>complex health requirements who have a care plan in place.</p>		<p>down.</p>
<p>John Nike - holiday schemes; 1 day per week during school holidays. Funding reduced by half.</p> <p>Criteria Universal Schemes – suitable for children and young people who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have moderate learning difficulties ▪ Require low level and minimal supervision ▪ Can communicate in small group settings 	<p>Reducing the funding will have very limited impact. Funding is used to provide staff to support children attending this mainstream setting. Each session could take 10-12 children; often there are only 2/3 regular attendees per day and often no children are booked in at all.</p> <p>- 64% parents state they were aware of the sessions; - 24% have used it at some point; - 13% may use in future.</p>	<p>Whilst the consultation offered some continued support for John Nike, uptake has been on a gradual decline for a number of years. The % of children using this service does not represent good value for money.</p> <p>Disability specific ice skating that has been developed by AH and requires no funding is still available on a Thursday night; disabled children and young people can continue to access this provider and the 'winter sports' activities as any child would do.</p> <p>Disabled children wishing to attend the mainstream John Nike holiday schemes which run throughout the holidays can do so with support via the Inclusion fund if required.</p> <p>AH will work with the small number of children regularly attending the holiday days (no more than 3) to find an alternative activity.</p> <p>Oakwood also provides holiday activities for the same ability group of children – see recommendation below for this provision.</p>
<p>Oakwood - holiday schemes; 1 day per week during school holidays. Provision no longer offered.</p> <p>Criteria Universal Schemes – suitable for children and young people who</p>	<p>Adverse impact.</p> <p>Can have 10-12 children attending and these sessions are usually fully booked, currently 1/2 day session per week during school holidays.</p> <p>The pre consultation event</p>	<p>Since reducing to a half day session across the age range this year in response to demand (sessions were previously split); the take-up for this group has been consistently close to or in keeping with capacity which evidences supply</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have moderate learning difficulties ▪ Require low level and minimal supervision ▪ Can communicate in small group settings 	<p>did not identify this as high impact if it didn't continue but there has been subsequent support for this service from other sources during the consultation and attendance this summer for example suggests this service is well used.</p> <p>- 71% parents state they were aware of the sessions; - 31% have used it at some point; - 13% may use in future.</p>	<p>fits demand.</p> <p>There is 80% more use of Oakwood than John Nike. Therefore we conclude that the removal of Oakwood would have a greater impact than that of John Nike.</p> <p>AH's recommendation is that funds retained for John Nike are used for Oakwood instead and we continue to fund? half a day per week during school holidays for this group of children.</p>
<p>Carer's Grant Provision no longer offered.</p> <p>Criteria For Parents/ Carers of children & young people with a disability up to the age of 18 and living within Bracknell Forest.</p>	<p>Limited impact.</p> <p>This grant is received by roughly 99 families and enables them to take a short break from their caring role. This is the only provision of this kind available. However at the pre-consultation event there was a general view that the loss of this grant would not have as much impact as other aspects of the service. Roughly 50% of people who access this grant are also receiving other forms of short break for their children.</p> <p>- 74% parents state they were aware of the grant; - 49% have used it at some point; - 18% may use in future.</p> <p>However the consultation results show that this service was the one most used by parents and a high percentage indicated that they would consider using in the future.</p>	<p>BFC are the only unitary in Berkshire still providing a grant of this nature.</p> <p>However, if the carer's grant is no longer offered, a large number of families (50) will lose their access to a short break as they do not access anything other than the carer grant.</p> <p>We therefore suggest continuing a 'Short Break Grant', for a further year, with eligibility criteria such that parents who do not make use of any other service can continue to have a break. This will enable us to determine the reason(s) why existing provisions might not be used and support signposting.</p> <p>Funding for this will come from a more realistic cost of the targeted provision. Indicative costs had been calculated on an average daily attendance of 12 (we have revised calculation now on 11) and a reduced daily rate which has been based on the actual cost this financial year at Kids and Konnections (£1,091 and £1,021 respectively)</p>

		rather than indicative estimates of £1,200 per day.
<p>Sibling Support (BandS) LA funding will stop.</p> <p>Criteria For siblings of children with disabilities approx 8yrs+.</p>	<p>Limited impact.</p> <p>AH partly contributed to the cost of running this group which was set up and run by Konnections (Kerith)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50% parents state they were aware of the group; - 7% have used it at some point; - 11% may use in future. 	<p>The siblings group was a Kerith Centre initiative.</p> <p>Consultation indicated some parent/ carers would pay around £3 to £5 per session for a sibling support group. So it may be that with parental contribution direct to the provider this could continue.</p> <p>Alternatively Mencap, run a sibling support group, Smiles for Sibs (8-13 years) for siblings of children with a Learning Disability or Autism Spectrum disorder and Kids run a group for young carers; both of which parents can be signposted to.</p>
<p>Physical & complex needs group (Peapods) LA funding will stop.</p> <p>This parent run charity provides activities/ days out for families of children with physical disabilities.</p>	<p>No impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40% parents state they were aware of the group; - 6% have used it at some point; - 8% may use in future. 	<p>Peapods have stated they will continue to provide activities for families as they have always done and continue to raise funds to support their work; the reduction of AH funding will have no impact on this service for this priority group. But may have an impact on the Peapods fund raising activity.</p>
<p>Family fun day LA funding will stop.</p> <p>Criteria Disability specific fun day; accessible by any family living in Bracknell Forest with a disabled child.</p>	<p>Some/ little impact but alternatives available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 63% parents state they were aware of the group; - 28% have used it at some point; - 18% may use in future. 	<p>This annual summer activity was provided for a number of years and arranged by a parent group on behalf of AH.</p> <p>Families of disabled children have access to a range of family fun day opportunities and activities which are available to all families within the Borough through out the year and which are advertised via AH.</p> <p>Parents could utilise their</p>

		parent participation grant monies, which are currently being administered and supported by Kids to arrange an annual information/ fun day for families of disabled children.
<p>Inclusion Support Provision will continue to be funded – with no reduction.</p> <p>Criteria For children with additional needs who require support to access mainstream activities.</p>	<p>Positive impact.</p> <p>Funding will continue to be available.</p>	<p>It is recommended that some of the savings identified in the targeted holiday provision be used to ‘top up’ the inclusion fund. This will give us the capacity to mitigate impact of the withdrawal of the carers grant in 2016/17 and transition children from complex groups to mainstream groups where appropriate. This will become increasingly necessary when savings are active as all the provision will be running at full capacity. (see Executive Report for more detail August 2014).</p>
<p>FRC GO LA funding will stop.</p> <p>Criteria Disability specific activities’ accessible by any family living in Bracknell with a disabled child.</p>	<p>Low adverse impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 54% parents state they were aware of the group; - 25% have used it at some point; - 24% may use in future. <p>Around 39 families used this service last year.</p>	<p>These are monthly family activities e.g. bowling, ice skating, fireworks etc and as such these are locally available in Bracknell Forest for family days and activities (reasonably priced and easily accessible). As parents are with their children, the issues around access and care are not relevant. Therefore the impact of losing this service is deemed to be low.</p> <p>The consultation indicated that there are some who would also be happy to pay more for FRC GO as it did seem “<i>cheap</i>” at the moment. So it may be that with parental contribution direct to the provider this could continue.</p>
<p>Transition Grant Remove AH support for</p>	<p>Little impact.</p>	<p>The development of Person Centred Planning</p>

<p>transition work provided by Just Advocacy at Kennel Lane School.</p> <p>Criteria Approaching adulthood at Kennel Lane School.</p>	<p>Schools will still need to meet these expectations. AH funding was always time limited to give initial impetus.</p> <p>This was not a short break.</p>	<p>for young people with disabilities at Kennel Lane should be fully supported now by Education and/ or Adult Social Care. There is no responsibility for this to be funded by the Short Breaks budget.</p>
<p>Children and Young People Consultation & Dialogue Group (parent forum)</p> <p>LA funding will stop.</p> <p>Criteria Any disabled child & Parent/ carer of a child with additional needs.</p>	<p>Little / no impact</p> <p>We will continue to participate and obtain feedback from children and young people in a number of ways; using the child participation officer and obtaining annual evaluation and monitoring forms from providers.</p> <p>In regard to the continuation and future development of the parent forum, we have worked with the group, Kids and Contact a Family to secure funding for this group's sustainability.</p>	<p>Children will be consulted, at least annually, regarding activities and how changes and improvements can be made in the future.</p> <p>The parent group now has funds available; substantially more than the LA provided. It is hoped that this group will further consider charitable status. AH are keen to still be key partners with parents and assist where we can with community development.</p>
<p>Miscellaneous costs – supports all services Service no longer offered.</p>	<p>Some impact.</p> <p>Paper copies of leaflets and individual mailshots via post will no longer be sent to families who do not have access to email.</p> <p>Instead, AH will work closely in the coming months to ensure information is readily available to parents via schools; details on activities, short breaks and support groups will also be published and readily available in our Local Offer.</p>	<p>The consultation feedback indicates that there is some confusion over what will continue to be made available to both parents of disabled children and professionals working with families by way of information.</p> <p>AH will continue to collate, prepare and send out regular updates via email but this is likely to reduce to termly rather than monthly; items of interest and significant change will continue to be emailed on a regular basis to parents and professionals registered with AH.</p> <p>Information will also be available to parents via schools and will be published and readily available in our Local Offer.</p>

Note - There should not be any double impact on children attending Kids / Konnection and Oakwood or John Nike as the criteria for both Kids / Konnections is different to John Nike and Oakwood, there could however be an impact if children were to attend both Oakwood and John Nike. Bracknell Forest Council also have a separate (not AH) contract with Berkshire Autistic Society to provide some support which includes a club to young people with autism over 9 years old. This is a service that would be open to similar age and ability level as John Nike and Oakwood.

The Wayz offer two youth clubs; the purpose of these groups are to boost social skills and other life skills of young people aged 12-16 yrs with moderate learning difficulties and a separate group for 16 - 25yrs with moderate learning difficulties. The Wayz are able to take young people with specific health needs and can access training from the community nursing team where necessary. There has also been the option for support via the inclusion fund from Aiming High to support a young person with settling into the activity and links and uptake can be built upon.

Options B & C

The table for option A has not been produced for options B & C as all options make similar cuts to several services (see appendix 3) but maintain the same number of targeted holiday sessions. In summary, the major difference between the options is to the reduction in Saturday sessions and amount paid per day by parents for the targeted provision:

Option A – reduces the number of Saturday sessions from 38 at each provider to 20 at both Kids and Konnections, with an increased cost to parents/ carers to £20 per session; reduces John Nike provision by half.

Option B – reduces the number of Saturday sessions from 38 at each provider to 15 at both Kids and Konnections), with an increased cost to parents/ carers to £20 per session; removes John Nike all together.

Option C – reduces the number of Saturday sessions from 38 at each provider to 17 at both Kids and Konnections, with an increased cost to parents/ carers to £25 per session; removes John Nike all together.

During the pre consultation event, at dialogue groups and focus groups service users have been clear that they want to protect their holiday clubs and wherever possible retain as much Saturday provision as possible.

Option B and C Option see will have a greater adverse impact on the Saturday clubs that Option A.

As can be seen, evidence suggests that options B & C are not supported by parents/ carers. In addition:

Option B

- Would reduce the provision for children with moderate learning difficulties who are too able for a targeted service and are unable to access a mainstream setting, with or without support. Whilst the feedback for John Nike and Oakwood was limited in the pre consultation event; greater need was evidenced in the full consultation. Oakwood's attendance figures indicate a sustained need for this provision.

Option C

- Does not provide for children with moderate learning difficulties who are too able for a targeted service and are unable to access a mainstream setting, with or without

support. Whilst the feedback for John Nike and Oakwood was limited in the pre consultation event; greater need was evidenced in the full consultation. Oakwood's attendance figures indicate a sustained need for this provision.

- The general feeling was that parents felt they could not afford a 50% increase to the daily charge for holiday and Saturday short breaks.

A further potential adverse impact on choosing Option B or C over Option A is the service user group are likely to feel their views were not heard or valued.

There was a widespread understanding and acceptance from parents and stakeholders about the need for cuts to the Aiming High Short Breaks budget but services provided are nevertheless hugely valued and 80% said that services provided a large or huge improvement to their families' quality of life. Option A was almost universally preferred as the option of choice, described as the 'least bad option' and a 'good compromise'; 86% parents who felt able to choose suggested this Option and 55% of Stakeholders supported this view (40% of stakeholders had no opinion).

We recognise the need to give further consideration in relation to children with disabilities in low income families.

Bracknell Forest is one of the least deprived areas of the country (ranked 291 out of 326 local authorities in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010). At ward level, the average score of deprivation shows that the most deprived wards in the Borough are.

- Wildridings and Central
- Great Hollands North
- Priestwood and Garth
- Old Bracknell and
- Harmans Water

At LSOA level the highest deprivation can be seen within Wildridings and Central, Great Hollands North and Crowthorne. The data for Crowthorne includes Broadmoor Hospital so does not accurately reflect the demographic in this area.

Disabled children are more likely to live with low-income, deprivation, debt and poor housing. Nationally 66% of disabled children live in a 2 parent family. The proportion of children living in lone parent families (34%) is greater than that for non-disabled children.

Fulfilling potential 2012

AH does not currently have access to service user ward data, this will however form part of our action plan should the savings proposal go ahead. AH will ensure that it identifies service users from these wards for particular attention.

The general view from parent/ carers was they could not afford an increase in fees to £25 taking this in to account Option C would have a significant adverse impact if taken forward. This view should be given consideration to minimise impact. There was a general view that an increase of between £15 to £20 a day was manageable and is a feature of Option A & B. However those families who are economically disadvantaged may not be able to fund the increase in parental contributions for sessions. We will work closely with the settings to ensure these children are identified and where possible provide assistance/ sign posting for support.

Moving forward it is important that funding is provided to those in greatest need.

9. Conclusion

The Council seeks to minimise the impact of proposed budget reductions on the most vulnerable citizens. Each budget proposals is subject to an equality screening in accordance with Council

policy and where a potentially disproportionate adverse impact is identified mitigating actions are being taken as required and where possible.

Officers with budgetary responsibilities are mindful of the need to assess and take due regard of the impact of their proposed budget savings on service users, particularly those with protected characteristics.

This EIA will accompany the outcomes consultation report which will go to the Executive Briefing on the 9th September 2014 and Full Executive on the 23rd September 2014.

Work with our partners will be maintained to ensure that services for the most vulnerable are protected as far as is possible. Monitoring and consultation will continue with providers and service users to ensure that any changes to services will be delivered in as fair and equitable way as possible. This will include some detailed work around the identification of those economically disadvantaged.

The Council will make applications for funding from Housing Associations and others to provide some one off events where there is an identified gap.

We will also continue to work with parents to consider charitable status to enable them to bid for money and have choice and control of how this is used to meet their needs as a community.

Monitoring the ongoing situation against our short break sufficiency statement and our equalities ambitions is of great importance. In the case of these savings being adopted by the Executive monitoring and evaluation will be a priority area for AH alongside serious consideration for re tendering.

Appendices

These are available electronically on request. They are the detailed consultation documents.

1. Equalities Screening Record Form
2. Stakeholder Analysis
3. Final options presented for full consultation
4. Qa Consultation Report (full version)
5. Consultation Project Plan