Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget Proposals 16/17: Short Breaks for Disabled Children		Juliet Penley - Service Manager	16 February 2016 Version 3 (Council)
Proposal:	To reduce the funding for this service.		
Total budget 15/16:	£415,000	**Recommended officer saving 16/17:**	£345,000 (83%)
Initial proposed saving 16/17:	£345,000 (83%)	**Final recommendation to Council:**	To proceed with this savings proposal.
Nos of responses:	58 responses were received, including 46 from parents or carers. The remainder were from organisations, members of the public and two Parish Councils (Tilehurst and Pangbourne). In addition to the online formal consultation: • Met with 8 providers of short breaks (contracts) on 30/11/15 and 4/12/15. These were Mencap, Crossroads, KIDS, Dingley, Homestart, Guideposts, National Autistic Society and PALS. • 9 parents attended an open meeting arranged by Parent Voice (parent participation organisation) • Parents views collated by Mencap and Crossroads (14) • Petition online (via 38 degrees) with 3,173 signatures • Healthwatch – advocating on behalf of Mencap Users and carers. They questioned whether the proposal in conflict with the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and key challenges in regard to Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act and the spirit of Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Investment in Health Act 2007 and the Equality Act 2010		
Key issues raised:	• Budget reductions will severely affect the range and quantity of short breaks available to families. • Some services will close all together due to lack of council funding. This will affect families by not giving them a break from pressures of caring and not providing social and leisure opportunities to disabled children. • More families will suffer stress / go into crisis and require more specialised services. • More children will require residential services which will end up costing more and have negative impact on families. • Proposal in conflict with the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and key challenges in regard to Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act and the spirit of Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Investment in Health Act 2007 and the Equality Act 2010		

NB: This overview and recommendation paper should be read in conjunction with the Summary of Responses and Verbatim Responses received in relation to this proposal, circulated electronically to all members alongside the agenda pack and published online on our Consultation Portal.

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Equality issues:	None in addition to those expected.		
Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users:	**Suggestion**	**Council response**	
	Some providers of services will look for alternative funding or charge for services	This would be an appropriate action to take	
Alternative options for applying the saving in this area:	**Suggestion**	**Council response**	
	Ask Special schools to provide additional services	This would be appropriate to consider by the schools	
Suggestions for how others may help contribute:	Ask special schools to provide services and provide more personal budgets. We have also advised Healthwatch and others that we recognise the importance of working with partner providers to ensure as comprehensive a service is able to be maintained as possible as to help coordinate options to deliver as wide an offer as possible.		
Officer conclusion as a result of the responses:	Part of the feedback questioned whether the Council could meet its statutory obligations under the Children and Young Persons Act if these savings proposals were progressed. The Council recognises that it will need to work even closer with its partners to ensure statutory compliance but is confident that this will be achievable.		
Officer recommendation as a result of responses:	Feedback has not uncovered any further issues which would prevent the council from proceeding with this proposal. It's therefore recommended to implement this proposal with no changes.		

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