

March 2018

PaCC response to the Consultation on Inclusion Funding for CYP accessing Mainstream After School clubs and Holiday Clubs

PaCC believe that all children in the city attending mainstream schools must be able to access mainstream afterschool clubs and holiday clubs.

Brighton and Hove is a city that prides itself on inclusion and equality; the local equality and inclusion policy clearly demonstrates this ethos. *"To achieve excellence in our equality practice, as measured by the Equality Framework for Local Government, by 2020"* ref: Brighton and Hove equality and inclusion policy statement and strategy.

PaCC is highly concerned that the proposal to remove the funding element for non-working families, which provides the necessary 1.1 support for the cohort of CYP with additional needs to access mainstream after school and holiday clubs is a significant step indicative of disability discrimination.

PaCC had a useful meeting with managers from the Childcare Strategy team and Out of School and Childminding Development team, in which the aspects of the consultation were discussed. It was agreed that the teams would work to ensure that the consultation has a wide enough reach and the teams supported PaCC in putting forward a response. PaCC fully appreciates the budget pressures that exist within the council and also acknowledges that some work has been done to identify how this cohort of families could apply for funding for this 1.1 support from either the social care budget or other non-local authority organisations.

However PaCC has significant concerns about this proposed policy and stress the importance of officers and councilors strongly consider the issues below.

Children and Young People with additional needs who are members of non-working families

1. The CYP in these families could have a **significant level of need** that make the caring role so difficult that the parent/carers may have too big a task on their hands to cope with working. Parent Carers may also have a disability and or health issues that precludes them from work.
2. A non-working status for families can be misleading. A parent carer claiming Carers Allowance is eligible for this allowance because they are **working 35 hours per week in their caring role.**
3. Siblings and friends of the CYP with additional needs will attend mainstream clubs; excluding siblings with additional needs would be very

- destabilising for all family members.** *"My child would suffer psychological harm if they were not able to attend a club, as it helps them to know they are not alone."* ref: Every Disabled Child Matters
4. Families with a disabled child live in a higher percentage of **single parent households, again a significant barrier to work.**
 5. Play and social opportunities must remain a right for all children. Excluding CYP who need extra support is not equitable and will potentially lead to poorer outcomes and isolation and therefore not in line with **The Children and Families Act 2014** which places good outcomes at the heart of the legislation.
 6. PaCC are concerned that there **will be an evident disparity in social care opportunities for CYP with additional needs in mainstream schools to their peers in special schools.** The community is aware of the development of extended days and weekend opportunities at the new special school hubs. It is inequitable to increase opportunity for one cohort and decrease it for another.
 7. **All families in Brighton & Hove can access after school and holiday clubs, excluding CYPs of non-working families is an example of disability discrimination.**

Alternative Funding Options available to non-working families

1. **Assessment by the Children's Disability Team** to secure funding for 1.1 support in mainstream afterschool clubs and holiday clubs. PaCC reports that the assessment process undertaken by the CDT will be more lengthy and costly than the current process undertaken by the Inclusion team. The overall citywide budget will therefore show a larger deficit related to securing this type of essential support and therefore a B&H cost saving will not be achieved. PaCC also feedback that parent carers undergoing or waiting for social care assessment report a capacity crisis within the Children's Disability team, added pressure on this team is ill advised.
2. **Family Fund.** PaCC request confirmation that the family fund includes applying for funding for 1.1 support in after school and holiday clubs. "The family fund states that we can consider help with costs of clubs and activities such as; swimming lessons, team sports, riding lessons, trips or help with cost of equipment. Family Fund would not be able to help with Childcare costs as this is outside our area of funding."
3. **Ofsted registered childcare.** The scheme is known as tax free childcare. Families applying for this are applying for tax relief related to the cost of the childcare for working parents. Non-working parents are not included in this scheme.
4. **Working Tax Credit and Universal Credit. Under Universal Credit this will increase from 70% to 85% of childcare costs.** Parent carers in receipt of working family tax credit or universal credit will be working parents and therefore eligible for the inclusion grant. Non-working parents do not receive working family tax credit and ditto non-working universal credit claimants do not receive childcare costs.

5. **Disability grants** PaCC request confirmation from the LA as to which disability grants would cover an application for 1.1 funding in an after school club or holiday setting. Parent carers have fed back to PaCC telling us that **grants tend to be restricted** to trips to hospital, specialist equipment, extra clothes, laundry, and higher electricity bills.

PaCC request to see the equality impact assessment related to this proposed saving.

PaCC strongly recommends that this funding stream remains in place for CYP of non-working parents.

PaCC welcome any communication on any of the issues contained in this document. You can contact us by emailing Fiona England
PaCC Chair fiona@paccbrighton.org.uk or calling **01273 234862**

The Parent Carers' Council (PaCC) is a parent-led forum which represents parent carers with children and young people with any kind of physical disability, learning disability, complex or long-term medical/health condition, or special educational need. The group was formed to enable parent carers to work closely together to help improve services and support. It aims to help parents get more directly involved in the strategic delivery of services for disabled children in Brighton & Hove and now has about **350 signed up members**. This position statement was developed through discussions with our Steering Group members and our nine partner groups: Barnado's Link Plus, Brighton Pebbles, Extratime, Autism Support and Awareness Promotion (ASAP), mASCot, T21, Sweet Peas, Amaze Face 2 Face and Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG).