



SEND Short Breaks - Responses to Parent Carer Forum Questions

Questions were shared with PaCC Representatives at the previous Parent Carer Meeting. These can be seen below in blue. Responses from the Short Breaks team in Brighton and Hove to those questions are below:

Capacity and Availability:

Parents / carers have experienced gaps in provisions for over 16's, under 8's and those aged 12-14. In addition, parents / carers have identified a need for more comms around provisions for under 5's.

- What are we aiming to? What's the offer going to look like?
- What is the end target numbers wise for the Short Breaks offer?
- My child has been given 4 days across 2 providers – will struggle with different places/people
- The summer holiday offer does not span the 6 weeks.
- The offer needs to consider working parent carers and even more single working parents – they need activities for their children and respite for the parents!
- Working family's childcare is a bigger issue than Short Breaks – families need to access full CYP care with vouchers
- The disparity of the specialist offer versus mainstream and HAF (16 sessions over summer is inequitable)

We also recognise the offer is not where we want it to be with regards to the number of sessions which offer a full day for working parents / carers, and it is a primary focus moving forwards.

Link Up has been put in place for the summer with the purpose of increasing the number of places available for children and young people with complex needs. We are working with Link Up colleagues to review how we could increase places available in future school holidays. We also recognise the offer is not where we want it to be with regards to the frequency of sessions which offer a full day for working parents / carers, and it is a priority moving forwards.

Where possible, we have tried to allocate sessions at one provider across the whole summer holiday, to promote consistency and continuity. Some children and young

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people have been allocated spaces across both Amaze and Link Up, to increase the number of days they have Short Breaks sessions.

- What can the special schools develop for after school clubs, short breaks and holiday clubs- insufficient provision still
- A SALT club would be great- Social Communication Circle

We are working with the Wraparound Childcare Manager from Brighton and Hove City Council, to identify where there are existing clubs which need expanding to offer childcare between 8am – 6pm, and where schools currently have no afterschool provisions. We hope to be able update parents and carers in the new school year on developments to the after-school club provision. Within this process we will take forward feedback about the development of a SALT Club.

- It makes no sense for DR/TH CYP being unable to access the daytime offer there.

At present, the capacity available at Drove Road and Tudor House means we could only offer the daytime sessions to those not already accessing overnight respite sessions. We hope that in future, as the staff get to know the children and young people attending, that we will be able to expand this offer to those already attending Drove Road and Tudor House.

- The offer needs to include non-physical activities.

Puzzle Bored Café have recently become one of our SEND Short Breaks providers, a stay and play provider whose neuroaffirmative puzzle and games space has been designed to provide a safe and calm play environment for children with young people with SEND, whilst parents / carers / PA's can enjoy a hot drink in the café downstairs. This is feedback we are taking forward in the expansion of Short Breaks activities in the future.

Feedback

- Please include 1.1s feedback in the evaluation – Agency and pool of BHCC staff

We have asked providers to specifically request parent / carer feedback about the 1:1 support. As part of the review of summer SEND Short Breaks, we will be paying close attention to any feedback received regarding the 1:1 support, from both BHCC

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staff and agency staff. This will be analysed as a separate pillar of the SEND Short Breaks provision within the review.

If your child has been supported by a 1:1 in any of our SEND Short Breaks setting, please share your feedback with us:

Short.Breaks@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Training

- PaCC – How do families find out if a provider has attended the training? That could be added to the checklist.
- PaCC – there is a need of training around care/toilet training and continence plan from providers

Thank you for this suggestion. We have now reached out to providers to ask that they include this information on their Eequ listings in a uniform format. Summer is a busy time for providers and often they have reduced admin capacity, so we have asked that they update their listings ahead of the October half term at the latest.

Communication

- PaCC - What % number of families are accessing the meetings taking into account the total number of families with high needs CYP in the city?
- Are we capturing all the families, i.e. from minoritised communities and/or early years?
- Some parents have struggled over how to pay for provision- some don't realise they can use DPs.

BHCC is working with PaCC to ensure we are contacting every family across the city who is entitled to SEND Short Breaks. To ensure all parents and carers across the city are kept informed, we are going to utilise BEEM in the new school year, as well as sharing all comms with schools and SENCOs for circulation.

- Feedback – all providers to use same form; to record experience form parents and from children

Following the July meeting, we worked with providers to design a shared feedback form. Unfortunately, due to the time constraints, many had already developed their own forms and did not have time or capacity to implement a shared one. However, we have urged providers to ask for written feedback from all attendees and will be circulating the written feedback form to all at the end of summer for any remaining

feedback. Following this, we will conduct a thematic review of the feedback, including both qualitative and quantitative data. This will help to shape future developments in the Short Breaks offer, so we encourage all parents / carers to provide both positive and constructive feedback where possible.

- [Confusion on how to get 1:1; what's the process? How different families access 1:1?](#)

Where families reached out to us indicating they had no additional support throughout the holidays, we have worked with them to identify a 1:1 who could offer some respite hours or find clubs and activities which may be enjoyable and accessible for their child or young person.

Jacqui Parfitt and Katie Rowe are working on the development of an in-house PA Register, whereby BHCC employees (teaching assistants and care staff, for example) can apply for overtime hours supporting families in our city. The application process for this support is at the forefront of the planning process for this Register.

- [Timescales for all holidays must be brought forward for families to plan, including booking confirmations.](#)

Whilst the pre-summer allocations process for Link Up and Amaze meant that spaces were allocated fairly across those who purchased tickets and expressed an interest, it meant the allocations were shared much closer to the summer holidays than we would have liked.

Looking ahead at future bookings: we will agree a date for bookings to go live at our September Short Breaks provider forum and publish this at the September Parent Carer Forum.

Booking process

We recognise that parents feel they are becoming admin for their children and juggling mainstream provision for their children and siblings with SEND. Parents ask if the current booking system and model is the right one.

- [Is this model the right one? Parents are becoming admin for their children...](#)
- [Is there an in-house opportunity, one point of contact? Requests can then be managed by the LA](#)

Over the summer we have reviewed our booking platform and taken on board the feedback from providers, parents and carers. We are working closely with the CEO

of Eequ to streamline the process for parents and carers ahead of future school holidays. We are looking both at short term adjustments which can be made immediately, to make the booking process easier, but also at long term developments, and what the platform might look like in future.

Other

- [Summer Adventure Camp – why can't they close the gate.](#)

The Cardinal Newman site team have agreed with contractors that as much as possible, the gate will be closed. They have repeatedly reminded contractors working on site about the importance of closing the gate when entering / leaving the site. A majority of the works have now been completed so there is less site traffic.

- [How are Extratime staff being used in the summer holidays across providers.](#)

There are staff who previously worked at Extratime, who are now employed by various SEND Short Breaks providers. When Extratime closed, the names of employees at the time of closure were not recorded or shared with us, and so this is not data we currently hold.