

Children and Young People Select Committee			
<b>Report Title</b>	SEND Strategy Update		
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	Item No.	6
<b>Ward</b>	All		
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services; Head of Joint Commissioning and Targeted Services; Service Manager Children with Complex Needs Service; Joint Commissioner, Children with Complex Needs		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date:	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017

## 1. Introduction

1.1. This report provides the Children and Young People's Select Committee with an update on the delivery of key strands of work in relation to Lewisham's SEND strategy 2016-19 and an update on the effectiveness in fulfilling our duties in implementing the provision of support for children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND) as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND code of practice 2014. These key strands include:

- Short Breaks and Special School Afterschool Clubs and Holiday Clubs
- Travel Assistance

1.2. This report also provides detail on the outcome of the inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on Lewisham's local areas effectiveness in meeting their SEND duties.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1. The Select Committee is asked to note and comment on this report.

## 3. Policy Context

### Children and Families Act 2014 – Overview

3.1 The Government introduced the most significant changes to the Special Educational Needs system in 30 years, which came into effect on the 1st September 2014 through the Children and Families Act 2014 (Part 3).

3.2 The key changes brought in by the Children and Families Act 2014 were:

- Ensuring that children and young people are at the center of planning and decision making by ensuring the views, wishes and

feelings of the family, child and young person are central to the statutory process.

- Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) have been replaced by Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans) with an increased age range for children and young people 0-25 years.
- Children and young people with a SEN and/or a learning difficulty assessment (LDA) have to have their current SEN or LDA converted to an EHC plan through a planned transition process completed by April 2018.
- Greater multi agency working bringing together education, health and social care through a single assessment process for children and young people 0-25 years. In some cases, where a person is over 18, the “Care” part of the EHC plan will be provided for by adult care and support, under the Care Act.
- Children and young people assessed as needing an EHC plan or with an EHC plan will have the option of a personal budget.
- A published local offer that provides comprehensive, accessible and up to date information in one single place from education, health and social care for children and young people who have SEN or a disability.
- An expectation that services across education, health and social care should support children and young people with SEND to prepare for adult life help them go on to achieve the best outcomes in employment, independent living, health and community participation.
- An aspiration from children and young people with SEND to achieve their potential and achieve positive life outcomes and live as "ordinary a life" as possible.
- A requirement to ensure early intervention and holistic and integrated planning across Adults and Children Services.

#### **4 London Borough of Lewisham Context**

- 4.1 Lewisham has a population of some 301,000 (the 13<sup>th</sup> largest in London and 5<sup>th</sup> largest in Inner London). The population of the borough has increased by some 16,000 since the 2011 Census and over the next 20 years is forecast to be among the fastest growing in London. Population growth in Lewisham is driven primarily by the birth rate (rather than in-migration) there are some 5,000 live births each year.
- 4.2 There are 43,537 pupils attending Lewisham’s 90 schools. In 2017, 12.7% of children and young people in Lewisham’s schools are classified as receiving SEN Support (5,499). This is higher than the National and London averages, but in line with the Inner-London average (11.6%, 11.4% and 12.8% respectively).
- 4.3 In September 2017, there were 2,024 Lewisham residents (or children/young people who are looked after to Lewisham but residing elsewhere) with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). 28.3% were accessing mainstream schools (574), 30.3% maintained special schools (614),

7.8% were accessing Independent schools (159) and 7.5% were accessing maintained resource bases/units attached to mainstream schools (153). In addition, 11.7% were accessing further education or specialist post 16 provisions (237) and 7.6% were accessing Academy provisions (155). Other provisions, including registered early years settings, non-maintained special schools, free schools and other alternative provisions accounted for 6.5% (132).

- 4.4 Of the children and young people with a Lewisham SSEN or EHCP, 27.6% are placed in out-of-borough provisions (560), of which only 14.4% are of primary school age (81). ASD, Speech, Language or Communication Need and Social, Emotional or Mental Health difficulties are the most common diagnosis in children and young people placed out of borough (accounting for 65% combined, or 365).
- 4.5 19 to 25 year olds account for 16.8% of young people with SSEN/EHCPs placed out of borough (94), predominantly attending FE Colleges and Specialist Post-16 Institutions, such as Bromley College and NASH College of Further Education. 5.3% (5) of these young people are placed in residential provisions, costing between £50,000 to £100,000 per pupil, per annum. This cohort of young people will continue to be supported by Adult Social Care.
- 4.6 In January 2017, there were 1197 children and young people diagnosed with ASD in Lewisham primary, secondary and special schools (including SEN Support and SSEN/EHCPs). This represented 17.7% of the total SEN cohort in these provision types (6775) and is higher than any other London or Inner London borough. This pattern was not observed in any other type of primary need.
- 4.7 There are approximately 499 children and young people known to the Children with Disabilities Social Work team.
- 4.8 There are currently 253 children/young receiving a specialist Short Break Service and 251 children/young people receiving a Targeted Short Break Services (not all of these will be known to CWCN social work team).

## **5. Lewisham's SEND Strategy**

- 5.1 Lewisham Council Children with Complex Needs service has developed a partnership SEND strategy 2016-19. Our SEND partnership strategy sets out our vision and priorities for improving life outcomes for children and young people with SEND and that of their families. This strategy forms an integral part of the Lewisham Children and Young People's Plan for 2015-18.
- 5.2 This strategy is updated yearly to reflect the changing needs and priorities of the service and those that access support. The SEND strategy was last updated in December 2016. The SEND strategy will be updated following the outcomes of the SEND inspection, which took place in October 2017.

- 5.3 Our vision for the strategy is for Lewisham to be an inclusive community that is welcoming of all and that all key professionals have the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of children and young people (0-25yrs) with SEND to enable them to play, learn and work.
- 5.4 Our vision is underpinned by three priority areas for change:
1. Children and young people (0-25yrs) with SEND and their families are informed and empowered to be more resilient and independent within their communities
  2. Children and young people with SEND who have been identified as requiring additional support across Health, Social Care and Education receive the right support at the right time in order to enable them to become as independent as possible
  3. Children and young people with SEND have the opportunity to be educated within Lewisham education provisions and are provided with the right support to enable them to achieve their full potential
- 5.5 The overall objective of the strategy is that Children and Young People with SEND and their families have improved life outcomes.
- 5.6 The strategy builds on the work that has been achieved following the introduction of the Children and Families Act 2014 which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. This strategy provides direction for the Partnership and sets out the outcomes and priorities for all agencies working with children and young people with SEND across Lewisham and builds on what has been achieved so far. The strategy also establishes how partner agencies will continue to work together to improve those outcomes that will make significant improvements to the lives and life-chances of our children and young people with SEND.
- 5.7 Key strands of work set out in the strategy are:
- Local offer
  - Health
  - Specialist Placement Planning
  - Early Years
  - Quality Teaching
  - Education, Health and Care plans, Transfers and Annual Reviews
  - Social Care and Short Breaks
  - Travel Assistance
  - Personal Budget and Personalisation
  - Preparing for Adulthood
  - ASD review
- 5.8 This report sets out key updates specifically in relation to:
- Short Breaks, which includes Special School afterschool and holiday clubs
  - Travel Assistance

## **6. Short Breaks and Special Schools Afterschool Clubs and Holiday Clubs**

### **6.1 Short Breaks**

6.1.1 The Children with Complex Needs Service has a Short Breaks service which enables the Local Authority to meet its legislative duties in relation to social care for disabled children and young people and that of their parents/carers. The legislative duties include:

- Breaks for Carers Regulations 2011
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Chronically Sick & Disabled Act 1970

6.1.2 The Short Breaks service provides two types of short break services; a Targeted Short Breaks service and a Specialist Short Breaks service. These services are aimed at disabled children and their parent/carers young people and with different levels of needs.

- Targeted Short Breaks Service – is for eligible families with a disabled child/young person who has additional needs that prevents them from accessing activities that would otherwise enable their parent/ carers to take short breaks from their caring responsibilities.
- Specialist Short Breaks Service - is for eligible families with a disabled child/young person who need more breaks from caring because their child/young person's needs are so high that they have to spend much more time caring for them than they would if their child was not disabled. This service is for children/young people and their families with the highest levels of need and is accessed through a Children's Social Care assessment.

### **6.2 Targeted Short Breaks Review**

6.2.1 The Children with Complex Needs Service is committed to continually looking to improve services for disabled children and young people to ensure that it meet their needs and improve life outcomes for them and that of their parents/ carers. This level of demand for this service has been continually rising and without taking action it would lead to an overspend of the budget next year. As such it has been undertaking a review of its Targeted Short Break Service over the last year, to ensure that services can be provided to meet need within the available budget. The Short Breaks service is currently considering options to develop the service while ensuring the budget is not overspent. These were outlined in the last select committee report, they are attached to appendix 1 for reference. This review will also take into consideration the recommendations made from the recent SEND inspection. A report with recommendations will go to Mayor and Cabinet in early 2018.

### **6.3 Wraparound and Holiday Childcare Guidance**

6.3.1 The Department of Education published guidance, in May 2016, for local authority maintained schools, academies and free schools on 'wraparound and holiday childcare'. This guidance aims to maintain

school autonomy and avoid imposing unnecessary administration burdens on schools, whilst ensuring schools understand the basis on which they should be responding to requests for wraparound childcare. The overall aim of this policy is to help parents to work, or work for longer, if they choose to do so, by making more quality childcare available during the week and school holidays.

- 6.3.2 There is a strong expectation from the government that if parents request that their child's school establish wraparound and/ or holiday childcare that they consider it and should only refuse if there is a reasonable justification. Schools are expected to take the lead in managing the requests from parents and the final decision about what action to take. Governing bodies will want to ensure that any provision is consistent with the school's long term strategic vision.
- 6.3.3 The government has put measures in place to make it easier for schools to provide wraparound childcare or holiday provision. These include:
- Revising before and after-school childcare or holiday provision staffing levels so that providers have more discretion to determine how many staff are needed to ensure the safety and welfare of the children.
  - Making it easier for schools and providers to collaborate by allowing childcare providers to work in multiple locations with only one registration with Ofsted.
  - Removing the need for schools to follow advice from local authorities and the Secretary of State for Education when establishing community facilities, such as wraparound childcare.
  - Giving schools the power to determine the length of the school day, and
  - For afterschool clubs, removing the requirement to provide the learning and development element of the EYFS for reception aged children who are already being taught during the school day.
- 6.3.4 This is not to say that all schools have to provide out of school care themselves, some do, but others out-source the provision. If schools can demonstrate that there is little or no demand for extended services, they can satisfy the Government requirements merely by signposting to other local provision, such as childminders or nearby out of school clubs.
- 6.3.5 Schools are able to charge for the provision of extended and community services such as wraparound childcare if they wish. However, the provision should be broadly cost neutral and any profits that a school makes from providing these services must be reinvested in the service or in the school.
- 6.3.6 The Childcare Act 2006 and 2016 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents. Local authorities should also support schools in their area to offer out of hours childcare and encourage existing providers to

expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market.

#### 6.4 Extended School Services in Lewisham's Special Schools

6.4.1 Lewisham Council currently have 5 special schools within the borough, these are New Woodlands, Watergate, Brent Knoll, Drumbeat and Greenvale.

6.4.2 When Drumbeat was set up, as part of the establishment of the school it was agreed that the school would have an extended school service which included afterschool and holiday clubs. This model was set up to support families with childcare. This provision is only available to children and young people who attend Drumbeat. Drumbeat school manages and arranges this provision.

6.4.3 Brent Knoll has an afterschool provision which they set up to provide children and young people with extra-curricular activities. It provides children and young people with a range of different out of school activities such as football, cookery, computing, cycling and playgroup. It has not been designed specifically to meet childcare needs.

6.4.4 Watergate had afterschool and holiday provision until last summer, when the school governors made the decision that the school could no longer afford to subsidise the provision from their main school budget and that it had become difficult to get the staff to run it.

6.4.5 There is no extended school provision at Greenvale or New Woodlands. This is the common pattern across London's special schools more widely.

#### 6.5 Funding of Lewisham's Extended School Services in Lewisham

6.5.1 Brent Knoll runs 8 afterschool activity clubs throughout the week during term time, which is funded by the school's pupil premium. Learning Support Staff (LSA) run the provision at a cost of £12.75 per hour (including overheads). The staff ratio per child can vary depending on the activity. For football they can have a staff ratio of 8:1 but for cookery it would be 3:1, this would also be dependent on individual pupil risk assessments. Non pupil premium pupils are charged £2 per session. The estimated annual costs for the afterschool clubs is £14-15K. This is an extra-curricular activity offer and not a child care offer.

6.5.2 Drumbeat currently runs an afterschool club Monday to Thursday from 3.30 to 5pm, term time. They also have a holiday club that runs from 9 to 4 pm for 8 weeks a year (4 weeks over the summer, 1 week at Easter and the 3 half term weeks). The LSAs run the provision at a cost of on average £18 per hour (including overheads). Drumbeat is a PFI school and one of their overheads is the cost of paying for use of the building for 50 weeks of the year, which is an additional annual cost of £70K. The extended provision at Drumbeat costs an estimated £375K per year. The staff ratio at Drumbeat is a minimum of 3:1 and in some cases 2:1 or 1:1 dependent on risk assessments.

6.5.3 When Drumbeat was set up it was agreed that funding from the High Needs Funding Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) could be used to fund the extended school service. In addition Drumbeat receives an estimated £30k per year funding from the Short Breaks social care budget for Short Breaks placements. They also receive an estimated £25K contributions from parents for places and for transport cost. The additional £20k is paid from the school's pupil premium.

6.5.4 In December 2015, a paper went to the School Forum with recommendations on how to reduce the overspend on the DSG High Needs budget. As a result it was agreed that it was no longer appropriate for the DSG to be spent on Drumbeat's extended school services as after school provision is not a legitimate call on the DSG. The Local Authority has agreed to continue to fund the extended school services at Drumbeat until early 2018 from General Fund, to give the school an opportunity to look at and consider their options to develop a new extended school services model that is affordable to them and to families. There is no identified budget within the Local Authority to continue funding this provision in the long term. However, officers are working in partnership with Drumbeat to look at how to develop an achievable model. As this work progresses, a significant consideration is also the equity of extended provision across other special schools.

## 6.6 Short Breaks

6.6.1 The Short Breaks Service within the Children with Complex Needs Service commissions a number of sessions at the afterschool club and holiday club at Drumbeat for 30 children who have been assessed by social care as needing short breaks support. Drumbeat is not a Short Breaks service but the services have developed a service model that will allow a number of places to be commissioned to meet the children and young people who have been assessed by social care as needing short break support. However, these places can only be given to Drumbeat pupils. Should the services at Drumbeat end, these services users will continue to have their needs met through a different short breaks support offer.

## 6.7 Future of the Extended School Services at Special Schools

6.7.1 The government provides clear guidance and a set process for schools for when a parent requests a wraparound and holiday childcare. Through the engagement work recently undertaken, parents at Drumbeat have expressed their views on the benefit of the current extended school programme service and the importance of a continuation of the extended school services at Drumbeat. Some of the key points that the parent/carers made about the value of the extended school services at Drumbeat were:

- They were able to use the provision for childcare to enable them to work
- It was the only provision their child or young person was able to access because the provision was set up to meet the needs of



children and young people with ASD and their child or young person is unable to access universal provision

- The provision has trained staff with the knowledge to be able to meet the additional needs of their children and young people
- It provided some parent/ carers with a short break
- Some parents are willing to pay a reasonable contribution for the provision on the basis that all parents pay towards provision elsewhere
- Parents who use the provision for childcare would be willing to use provision at a different site, unlike those who use it for short breaks
- It is essential that transport is provided.

6.7.2 The Children with Complex Needs Service has been working in partnership with parents and Special School Heads to look at extended school services. The Special School Heads, other than Brent Knoll, have acknowledged that their current key challenge is that they do not have a budget for extended school services. They would also find it difficult to develop a charging model for parents that would be financially affordable for parents, unless it was subsidised due to the need for high staffing levels to meet the needs and the health and safety of the vulnerable pupils. For Greenvale they also have a current restriction on the use of their school outside of school hours due to the terms and conditions of their PFI.

6.7.3 The next step is for officers to work with Drumbeat and other Special Schools to understand the demand from parents and to follow the governments' recommended process in looking at potential affordable models for wraparound and holiday childcare, using a charging model. They will explore whether they can review their finances to subsidize the provision if needed. They will also work with the Short Breaks service to look at the possibility of a Special School being a Short Breaks commissioned provider with the flexibility to develop this model for extended school services. The ultimate decision on whether any Special School has an extended school provision will be the school's decision. The Local Authority will continue to work in partnership with Special Schools and parents to look at how to make this work. Once this work is complete, proposals regarding the Local Authority funding to Drumbeat will need to come back to Mayor and Cabinet in early 2018. These proposals will be dependent on whether or not Drumbeat is able to fund childcare provision; if not, there will need to be a decision to end the LA funding, or to commit additional resources to continue it. This decision will need to take account of the other special Schools who also do not fund after school childcare.

## 7. **Travel Assistance**

7.1 Lewisham has a travel assistance policy which is published on the local offer and the council website. Since 2016 we have increased the available forms of Travel Assistance support to families with children and young people eligible for support.

- 7.2 When awarding travel assistance the Council aims to offer the form of assistance that contributes to the development of children and young people's ability and opportunity to travel more independently to their chosen destination.
- 7.3 Lewisham provides Travel Assistance support for children with SEND to access education. During the 2015/16 academic year there were 651 children in receipt of this assistance which was approximately 45% of those children/young people currently with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan, 44% (LPS or taxi/ minibus) of the 45% (1% personal budget) have transport arranged by the council which picks them up from their home address. Compared to other London Councils, Lewisham was 5% higher than the average which was attributed to the lack of alternative options for assistance, such as Direct Payments or Independent Travel Training. In September 2017 the percentage of children/young people currently with an EHC plan accessing travel assistance was 35% of which 33% are accessing transport arranged by the Council.
- 7.4 During the 2016/17 academic year there were changes made to the organizational arrangements for the Travel Co-ordination Team (TCT), moving both location and directorates to the Children with Complex Needs Service. This has created closer working relationships between the TCT and the other services and teams within CWCN service, facilitating access to expertise and advice for specific additional needs and family circumstances to ensure the right support and provision is provided. Systems and processes have been strengthened including the initial transport assessment and the annual review process. This has ensured the policy has been applied consistently and exceptions considered as necessary on a case by case basis.
- 7.5 The numbers with travel assistance in Sept 2015 was 642. As a result of the service improvements introduced during the summer term (2015/16) the service has seen a reduction in number of child/young people in receipt of Travel Assistance to 606, which represents a reduction of 6% compared with the same period the previous academic year. During this period the Council has pro-actively been promoting the use of Direct Payments and Independent Travel Training as alternative travel options for young people.
- 7.6 Legislation requires Councils to review assistance provision annually to ensure the correct support is in place, promoting and supporting independence where suitable. To facilitate this, the Council has undertaken a review of all travel assistance to ensure all provision meets the eligibility criteria in the Council's Travel Assistance policies. Reviews began for those attending one of the SEN Schools in Lewisham, the initial review was completed in May 2017 when families were informed of the outcome of the initial assessment. Schools were engaged with as part of the review process to assist the reviewing officers understand the specific needs of the each child, this information was considered when deciding the outcome of each review. On receipt of the outcome families

were given the opportunity to request that the outcome was reviewed again by providing additional information for consideration. 390 children's travel assistance were reviewed, 67 were originally identified as no longer requiring Travel Assistance from the Council, following submission of additional information from the families this number was reduced to 41 with assistance ending at the end of the Summer Term 2017.

- 7.7 A similar review will be undertaken for those children and young people attending resource bases or other educational establishments previously not reviewed to ensure provision reflects the individual needs of the child. The review will take place between January 2018 and June 2018, families will have the opportunity to provide additional information to support a continuation of existing arrangements which will then be taken into account and assessed on a case by case basis.
- 7.8 Lewisham has historically had a significant overspend on the whole of the SEN Travel Assistance budget. The continuing review of our travel assistance offer (which is part of the corporate Transport Board's work on the Council's transport provision) has already begun to reduce the overspend. Current forecasts project that the overspend will be cleared by July 2018.
- 7.9 In November 2016 Lewisham commissioned an established Independent Travel Training (ITT) scheme to support children and young people to learn valuable life skills that enable them to travel independently to their chosen destination. National Star College were identified to deliver their LIFT (Learning Independence For Travel) programme. Over a 2 year period it is expected that 60 children and young people will be successfully trained, travelling independently to their place of education. In October 2017 11 young people had successfully completed the training and are now travelling independently to their place of education, 6 of whom attend/ed Greenvale School. 7 of the 11 successfully trained have also re-engaged with the programme and have received additional training to support a change in education placement, attending College. 7 young people are currently in the middle of their individual training programme and a further 14 are in the process of being assessed for suitability to add to the waiting list for training.
- 7.10 The LIFT Programme is available to children and young people who are eligible for Travel Assistance. Referrals can be made by families, schools, young person, or other professionals, however a separate assessment will be carried out by the Travel Trainers to ensure they are suitable to be trained. If identified at the time of the assessment as not suitable to begin training then they will be placed on a waiting list to have a further assessment at an agreed date in the future. These skills have allowed individuals more flexibility in terms of time of travel, as well as opening up future opportunities for future independence and employment where transport historically has been seen as a barrier. Currently, a young person can re-engage to the programme for additional support/training if it is identified that due to changing

needs/circumstances that additional training is required. For example, a number of young people had additional training in September to allow them to travel to college, following their transfer from School.

- 7.11 A workshop was held in June 2017 to review the success and future of the LIFT Programme. In attendance were families whose children had participated in the training, other interested families, School staff, and other Professionals including SEN and Social Care. Families fed back to the group how beneficial and life changing the training had been for them and their child. General feedback supported the programme as a valuable service that should explore extending to accommodate those at adult age and to support accessing other activities/services, not just places of education. Further options and models are currently being explored.
- 7.12 As part of reviewing the commissioning arrangements for the service we have introduced a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to source transport provision from the commercial market. Since going live in April 2017 we have seen an increase competition with an average of 13 bids per mini-competition over the summer, improved the payment process making working for Lewisham more attractive, reduced admin/manual tasks easing work pressures to focus on providing improved customer service. As a result rates for transport services sourced externally were approximately 11% lower than in previous years.
- 7.13 The continued reduction in numbers requiring specialist support provided by Lewisham Passenger Service has initiated a review of types of vehicles required to provide the necessary support more effectively. Any efficiencies identified as part of this process will reduce the pressure on both existing and future budgets.
- 7.14 Joint working to develop the Travel Assistance offer continues with Schools, parents and numerous services within the council. The intention that the joint working will be used to continually develop the service to meets the needs of the users of the service as well as meeting the financial pressures on the Travel Assistance budget.

## **8. Local Area Inspection**

- 8.1 The Department for Education has tasked Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) with inspecting the effectiveness of local areas, (including the Local Authority both children and adults services, Clinic Commissioning Groups, Public Health, NHS England, Early Years Settings, Schools and Further Education providers) in fulfilling their duties contained in the Children and Families Act 2014 (Part 3) and SEND code of practice 2014. Details of the framework for the inspection has been published on the Ofsted website.
- 8.2 The inspection looks for evidence to make a judgement on the following three questions:

- (a) How effectively does the local area identify children and young people who have special educational needs and/ or disabilities?
- (b) How effectively does the local area assess and meet the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/ or disabilities?
- (c) How effectively does the local area improve outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/ or disabilities?
- 8.3 All local areas are being inspected, with inspections taking place over a five year period, starting from the end of May 2016. On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 Sara Williams, Executive Director of Children Services, and Martin Wilkinson, Chief Officer CCG received formal notification of Lewisham's local area inspection which would take place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October for one week.
- 8.4 The inspection team lead was Brian Oppenheim (HMI Lead inspector), Ms Karen Collins-Beckett (CQC inspector), Roger Rickman (Ofsted Inspector) Ms Hannah Daughtrey(Ofsted observer) and Ms Lucy Harte (CQC observer).
- 8.5 Sara Williams Executive Director, Martin Wilkinson CCG and Paul Aladenika, Local Area nominated officer were the main point of contact for the inspection.
- 8.6 Information in advance
- 8.6.1 Prior to the inspection on site, the inspectors reviewed information that was in the public domain. They also requested various data and information, which was to be provided by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September by 5pm. The data and information included:
- SEND Strategy
  - Commissioning and Performance data on delivery of healthy child programme(previous 12 month)
  - Commissioning & Performance delivery of school nursing service (previous 12 month)
  - Commissioning & Performance data on neonatal screening programme
  - Commissioning & Performance data on 0-25 services for CAMHS, SALT, Physiotherapy (to include commissioned care Pathways & specialist arrangements for children with SEND)
  - Copies of the STP proposals, as they relate to SEND 0-25
  - Copies of any peer review, CCG assurance or benchmarking activity.
  - Role description of DMO/DCO & any annual report

## 8.7 Timetable for the inspection week

8.7.1 The timescale for the inspection was extremely compact. During the period on site a number of interviews and focus groups were required to be arranged with relevant people. An indicative timetable was provided by the inspectors the week before the inspection so that arrangements could be made in advance of the inspection on site. It also included site visits to a number of identified schools.

8.7.2 On the first morning of the inspection there was an introductory meeting with the inspectors and key staff from the Local Authority and Health. At this meeting there was a presentation which set out an overview of local area and details of the local area self-assessment. There were keeping in touch meetings every morning. At the end of the week the inspectors provided verbal feedback.

8.7.3 The inspectors spoke with children and young people with disabilities/and/or special educational needs, parents and carers, local authority, and National Health Services (NHS) officers. They visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they were implementing the special educational needs reforms.

8.7.4 Inspectors looked at a range of information about performance of the local area, including the local areas self-evaluation. Inspectors met with leaders from the local area for health, social care and education. They reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning.

8.7.5 The following interviews and focus groups took place over the week:

- Early Years
- Identification of SEND and Early Intervention (as opposed to early years)
- Participation, involvement and engagement with parents/ carers
- LAC meeting with designated LAC health professionals
- Vulnerable groups with SEND
- Support for children with disabilities and transition to adulthood
- Interview with DMO
- Outcomes and impact of local area improvements on raising standards
- Assessment and meeting needs
- Universal Family Nurse Services
- Information, Advice and Support
- SEN Panel – arrangements for moderating requests for additional funding / statutory assessments
- Participation, involvement and engagement with parents / Carers
- Community Children's Nursing team
- Joint commissioning
- Parents, Carers and Young People (18-25yrs)

- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)
- Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy combined therapies
- Social care meeting – to discuss CIN, short breaks, respite
- Child Development Unit
- CAMHS- including case reviews
- SEN Support and School Improvement

8.7.6 The inspectors undertook site visits to the following education settings:

- Rushey Green Primary School
- Childeric Primary School
- Trinity Church of England Secondary School
- Sir Francis Drake Primary School
- Dalmain Primary School
- St James's Hatcham Church of England Primary School
- Lewisham Opportunity Pre School
- Christ the King Sixth Form College
- Greenvale Special School
- Clyde Nursery School

8.8 Outcome from Lewisham Local Area Inspection:

8.8.1 The Local Area received verbal feedback on the last day of the inspection (6<sup>th</sup> Oct) which set out the findings. This information remains confidential until the Inspection letter is published. The inspection team provide the draft letter to the Local Area 33 days after the conclusion of the inspection. The Local Area has 10 days for factual accuracy check. Once this is agreed the letter is then published. At the point of writing this report the Local Area received the draft report on the 13<sup>th</sup> November and is currently completing its factual check. The final outcome letter has been published 30<sup>th</sup> November and is attached to this report.

## 9. **Local Government Ombudsman's Report**

9.1 In September this year, the Local Government Ombudsman published a report following an investigation into a complaint to the Children with Complex Needs Service. The LGO report and the officers report which subsequently went to Mayor and Cabinet and Council can be accessed below:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s52661/LGO%20Social%20Care.pdf>

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s52660/Local%20Government%20Ombudsman%20WCN%20Service%20Complaints%20Service.pdf>

## 10. **Financial Implications**

- 10.1 There are no specific financial implications to this report although it concerns the council's finances both in terms of the General Fund or Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 10.2 There are no specific capital implications arising directly from this report
- 10.3 School transport and the shortbreaks budget is met from the general fund. There is currently a grant, known as the SEND reform grant that meets the cost of converting statements of need to the new EHCP. This grant is expected to end at the 31 March 2018. The rest of the high needs expenditure, such as the cost of special schools and placements is met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 10.4 The shortbreaks budget is expected to be overspent by £0.3m at the year end, the transport budget is currently predicated to overspend by £0.7m this year.
- 10.5 The government will introduce a new national funding formula for the high needs block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant in April 2018. Under the changes Lewisham loses funding but our high needs block has been protected to the current level and an additional of £0.9m has been made to reflect some growth.
- 10.6 The high needs block is expected to be in balance at the end of this financial year and the next. It then goes into deficit if the growth in pupil numbers and current cost profile continues.

## **11. Legal Implications**

- 11.1 In addition to those legal implications previously referred to in this report, members attention is drawn to the following.
- 11.2 The Human Rights Act 1998 safeguards the rights of children in the borough to educational provision which the local authority is empowered to provide in compliance with its duties under domestic legislation.
- 11.3 Section 9 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on local authorities and funding authorities to have regard to the general principle that children are educated in accordance with their parents' wishes, so far as is compatible with the provision of efficient education and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure.
- 11.4 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to consider and respond to parental representations when carrying out their planning duty to make sure there is sufficient primary and secondary provision and suitable Special Educational Needs provision in their area.
- 11.5 Departmental guidance requires that when proposals are being developed for reorganising or altering special educational needs



provision local authorities and/or other proposers will need to show how they will improve standards, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special educational needs.

- 11.6 Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 introduced major reforms to the statutory framework for children and young persons with special educational needs. The local authority retains the pivotal role in identifying, assessing, and securing the educational provision for children and young people with special educational needs.
- 11.7 The Children and Families Act 2014 requires: that in exercising their functions in relation to special educational needs local authorities must have regard to four guiding principles:
- the views , wishes and feelings of the child and their parent , or the young person;
  - ensure children young people and parents participate in decision-making;
  - provide the necessary information and support to help children, young people and parents participate in decision making; and
  - support children, young people and parents in order that children and young people can achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes.
- 11.8 The Equality Act 2010 introduced a new public sector equality duty. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 11.9 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
  - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 11.10 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
- 11.11 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is

drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-andpolicy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

11.12 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
3. Engagement and the equality duty
4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
5. Equality information and the equality duty

11.13 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-andguidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

## **12. Crime and Disorder Implications**

12.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## **13. Equalities Implications**

13.1 The initial equality analysis assessment indicates that the proposals in this report would not unlawfully discriminate against any protected characteristics but would positively promote equality of opportunity for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

## **14. Environmental Implications**

14.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

## **Background documents – Appendix 1 Short Breaks Review**

### **Short Breaks**

The Children with Complex Needs Service has a Short Breaks service which enables the Local Authority to meet its legislative duties in relation to disabled children and young people and that of their parents/carers. The legislative duties include:

- Breaks for Carers Regulation 2011
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Chronically Sick & Disabled Act 1970

The Short Breaks service provides two types of short break services; a Targeted Short Breaks service and a Specialist Short Breaks service. These services are aimed at disabled children and young people with different levels of needs and that of their parent/carers.

- Targeted Short Breaks Service – is for eligible families with a disabled child/young person who has additional needs that prevents them from accessing activities that would otherwise enable their parent/carers to take short breaks from their caring responsibilities.
- Specialist Short Breaks Service - is for eligible families with a disabled child/young person who need more breaks from caring because their child/young person's needs are so high that they have to spend much more time caring for them than they would if their child was not disabled. This service is for children/young people and their families with the highest levels of need and is accessed through a Children's Social Care assessment.

These are explained in more detail below.

### **Specialist Short Breaks**

Under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, all children with a disability are considered to be 'Children in Need' without any further test. Therefore all children with a diagnosed disability are eligible to be considered for a Children's Social Care needs assessment by the London Borough of Lewisham. Lewisham has a set criteria in line with legislation which they use in considering whether an assessment would take place or not. This is available on the Lewisham website.

The Specialist Short Break Service was retendered this year after Mayor and Cabinet Agreement. The new contract for two of the three lots was awarded to Ravensbourne who will provide the weekend, holiday and overnight Short Breaks provision from July 2017. The current provider is providing this service until then. The third lot was awarded to Young People Relate to provide a Buddying and Mentoring Service. This service

started in April 2017 and provides support for young people from 12 years of age to develop strategies and approaches to enable them to prepare for adulthood and achieve optimum levels of independence as soon as they are able.

The new commissioned service providers are expected to provide a range of support programmes based on the assessed needs of the children / young people and that of their parent/carers, in order for them to meet the child or young person's identified outcomes.

The identified programmes of support are aimed to enable children and young people to be able to fulfil their potential, become as independent as possible and prepare them for adulthood and help parents/carers to be provided with a greater understanding and confidence to be able to care for their child or young person.

Following an assessment by a social worker, if a child and or parent/carer is assessed as needing a Specialist Short Breaks package in order to meet their needs and identified outcomes, this recommendation is taken to the Care Panel for discussion and agreement. Following agreement at Care Panel the social worker will then inform the Short Breaks service and they will be responsible for arranging and procuring the Specialist Short Breaks package detailed within the care plan.

Depending on the assessment of need the Specialist Short Breaks package could include:

- Direct Payments – which are payments made available to parents/ carers to enable them to identify, choose and buy the required short break support needed to meet their child's additional needs as detailed within their child or young person's care plan.
- Short Breaks In-House Service, commissioned provision and spot purchases of places at:-
- Rockbourne Short Breaks Service (weekday, and holiday service)
- The Saturday Club (Saturday service)
- Ravensbourne Project (Weekend and holiday service)
- House on the Hill, (Residential service)
- Drumbeat Special School (weekend and holiday service)
- Domiciliary care - to assist disabled children or young people with activities of daily living which they are unable to provide for themselves without assistance, such as personal care or carers.
- Brokerage Support – where the required short break support is procured and arranged by the Short Breaks coordinators to meet the disabled child's additional needs to access mainstream activities.
- Young Person Relate – Mentoring and Buddying Service

### **Current Targeted Short Break Criteria**

The Targeted Short Breaks scheme was set up in 2013 and the agreed eligibility criteria for Targeted Short Breaks put in place at that time was that a child or young person must be:

- under the age 18 years
- living permanently within the London borough of Lewisham
- diagnosed as having a disability
- in receipt of the higher rate care component of the disability living allowance
- not already in receipt of a specialist short breaks service.

If children /YP met the above criteria they were automatically eligible to receive the Targeted Short Breaks offer without any further assessment.

If a child or young person was not in receipt of the higher rate care component of the disability living allowance, Short Breaks coordinators would undertake an assessment to establish whether the child/YP were:

Unable to access any activities without support from the Targeted Short Breaks service to meet their additional needs, due to their disability.

Eligible families with disabled children and young people are currently provided with 100 hours of short breaks per annum from caring for their disabled child or young person. Families are offered one of the following options to use their 100 hours:

- Direct Payments – which are payments made available to parents/ carers to enable them to identify, choose and buy the required short break support needed to meet their child's additional needs, while they have a short break. The payments are £10.94 per hour, which works out to be a total of £1,094 per year on a pro rata basis.
- Brokerage Support - Short break support is procured and arranged by the Short Breaks coordinators to meet the disabled child support needs.
- Domiciliary care – a carer who will look after the child or young person for a Short Break in their own home.
- In House Short Breaks Services or young person Lewisham Council Short Breaks Services or young person Rockbourne or the Saturday Club Short Breaks services.

### **Targeted Short Breaks Review**

The Children with Complex Needs Service is committed to continually looking to improve services for disabled children and young people to ensure that it meet their needs and improve life outcomes for them and that of their parents/carers. However, level of demand has been rising, and without taking action would lead to an overspend of the budget next year. As such it has been undertaking a review of its Targeted Short Break Service over the last year, to ensure that services can be provided to meet need within the available budget.

Since the Targeted Short Breaks scheme was established in April 2013, there have been 536 families who have applied for the Targeted Short Breaks. Of those 536 families, 342 families were eligible to receive Targeted Short Breaks. Of those 342 families, as of June 2017, there are 251 receiving a service.

Of the 342 families who were eligible for the service, 259 were automatically eligible because they had the higher rate of disability living allowance, 83 families were assessed and agreed at Care Panel. Of the 83, 16 were as a result of a change from a specialist package to a targeted package.

Of the 342 families who were eligible for the service, the child or young person's age at the date of referral was: 99, 0 – 4 years, 170, 5 -11 years and 73 were 12 + years.

Of the 342 families who were eligible for the service, the primary need of the children and young people was: 258 (75%) children and young people - behaviour, communications, social interaction and learning difficulties, 33 (10%) complex needs, 16 (5%) had a mobility condition, 13 (4%) had health conditions, 9 (3%) had Downs Syndrome, 5 (1%) had global developmental delay, 5 (!%) had parents who had no-one to support to give them a short break, 1 had mental health issues (child), 1 had mental health issues (parent and child) and 1 family circumstances. Of the 342, 251 (73%) had an ASD diagnosis as part of their identified needs.

The data shows that families were accessing services to enable them to have a short break. Whilst their child or young people benefits from developing new skills, having fun and making new friends. It is however felt that further development work is needed within the Short Breaks Service to look at the challenges and barriers that families have in accessing universal activities within the community and how these challenges can be addressed with both the providers and families in order that children and young people are able to access these activities as independently as possible.

### **Targeted Short Breaks Consultation**

The Children with Complex Needs Service undertook a consultation of its Short Breaks offer to families. The aim of this review was to ensure that the services and offer were meeting the needs of the eligible child and young person with disabilities, and that of their parent/ carer and was improving outcomes.

The consultation and engagement activities took place between June 2016 and February 2017 and included the following:

- Consultation events with parent/carers in partnership with Parent Carer forum June 2016

- Two further consultation events held on the 23rd and 27th February for families, children and young people and for representatives from Lewisham parent/ carer forum and Contact a Family
- Questionnaire sent out to all families currently receiving a Targeted Short Break
- Email and telephone contacts given to families to enable them to give individual and personalised feedback.
- In addition there was an arts and craft session held with children and young people receiving the service.

The aim was to seek views on:

- The current service
- The proposed changes
- Ideas on how to provide services

Feedback from the consultation events included:

- The current targeted short break service does enable parents/ carers to access facilities / activities for their children, but that families had to take their children to and from activities themselves, which they did not feel gave them a sufficient short break.
- Most parents felt it would useful to be able to have a more detailed telephone assessment in order to be able to describe their child/young person's needs.
- Most parents felt that it was right that the service matched the child/young person's needs and did not give an automatic amount of hours.
- Some families felt that sessions rather than whole days would not meet their young person's needs
- Most parents identified as a major issue, trying to cope with difficult behaviour at all ages, but particularly in adolescence. They also identified behaviour as the barrier to accessing universal services.
- Families wanted somewhere to go to where the staff were trained and understood the needs of their child or young person.
- There was also a consensus of requests for help with independent living skills / travel training for teenagers.

The key points from the children and young people's art and craft session activity were:

- That the children and young people enjoy the same activities as other children and young people, such as computers, bowling, the cinema, swimming, boxing, cycling, music and going out.
- Friendship was really important to the young people and enjoying activities with other young people.
- They preferred to do activities as a group rather than by themselves.
- The young people would like to go out more and do more activities.

After taking into account the feedback from the consultation activities and analysis of the service a number of proposed changes to the service were identified which will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet in July 2017 for approval.

These Proposed changes include:

- New eligibility criteria
- Up to 100 hours of support rather than an automatic 100 hours
- Introducing AM and PM sessions rather than automatic all day support at the in-house provision at Rockbourne and Saturday Club

The proposed new eligibility criteria for Targeted Short Breaks is the child or young person must be:

- under the age of 18 years
- living permanently within the London Borough of Lewisham
- diagnosed as having a disability
- not already in receipt of a specialist short breaks service
- in receipt of disability living allowance
- unable to access any activities without support from Targeted Short Breaks to meet their additional needs, due to their disability.

Out of the current 251 individuals currently receiving a service, 220 are automatically eligible for a service through having the higher rate care component of the disability living allowance. This will mean that if the change is implemented all of those families who received the service through automatic eligibility will be required to undergo the further review. The data shows that 75 service users are currently spending their direct payment on mainstream activities. The assessment will enable Short Breaks coordinators to check if these services users are able to access these activities independently and whether they have any barriers due to their disability. If they are able to access the activities independently these service users may no longer meet the proposed new eligibility criteria.

This proposed change to the eligibility criteria will enable the Short Breaks service to focus on and identify those children and young people who are unable to activities without support from Targeted Short Breaks to meet their additional needs, due to their disability. It will also enable the Short Breaks service to have a greater understanding of the child and young person's barriers and challenges to accessing activities so that they can work more closely with families to address these with the family's individual Short Breaks offer.

The Short Breaks service will also be putting in place new processes to support those families who are do not meet the eligibility criteria but need signposting and support in accessing mainstream services to enable parent/carers to receive a short break. These processes will include



working with mainstream providers to build their capacity and knowledge to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

### **Proposed Change to the Targeted Short Breaks offer to eligible families**

Currently families with disabled children and young people who are eligible for the Targeted Short Breaks service are provided with 100 hours from the service.

The proposed new eligibility criteria (detailed above) removes the automatic entitlement to receive the Targeted Short Breaks offer of 100 hours. This will mean that every family who meets the former eligibility criteria will on review be checked for future eligibility. This will then be reviewed by the Care Package Panel, which is a decision-making panel, which considers the assessments and recommendations put forward by social workers and short breaks coordinators. The Care Package Panel is in place to ensure that all single assessments of children and young people are robust, fair and are appropriately challenged.

Families will be offered the following targeted short breaks service provision options in which to use their short break hours, including:

- Direct Payments
- Brokerage Support
- Domiciliary care
- In House Short Breaks Service – access to Lewisham’s Council’s in house Short Breaks services, Rockbourne or the Saturday Club Short Breaks services, where places are available.

The proposed new offer to families who are eligible for the Targeted Short Breaks will be provided with up to 100 hours of short breaks from caring for their disabled child or young person. If they require more support than the 100 hours then a referral will be made to social workers so that a social work assessment can be carried out under Section 17 Children Act 1989.

To begin to address the barriers and challenges that families are having in accessing mainstream activities it is **proposed** that the use of Direct Payments becomes more focused on:

- Employment of carers
- The additional cost of specialist activities,
- Additional support at activities,
- Specialist services,
- Or specialist equipment to ensure access to activities
- Or other costs that can be demonstrated as required to meet the additional costs of the parent/ carer to access activities.

The Children with Complex Needs service is currently in the process of re-commissioning the preferred provider framework for carers. The service is looking at adding a new Lot for mentors/ buddies (with skills in working with young people with challenging behaviour). When the framework is recommissioned in January 2018, families could have the potential to access this service to use their Targeted Short Breaks offer, which could look at addressing their young person's barriers.

To address the challenges and barriers that families have with accessing universal activities, the Children with Complex Needs service are continuing to consider what additional support options are needed. Also the Council has undertaken an ASD review and the outcome of this review will also help inform what changes are needed to support families who are unable to access universal activities and services due to their child or young person's disability.

### **In House Short Breaks Service (Rockbourne and Saturday Club)**

The Targeted Short Break service review evidenced that parents and young people wanted more access to services where there are trained staff who understand the children/YP's needs and will work with them to develop their skills and increase their independence.

Currently eligible families can use their short break hours to access our in house Short Break Service, Rockbourne or the Saturday Club. However, these services are now at full capacity during holidays and weekend and there isn't any capacity or budget to increase the numbers these services take. There is some availability during the sessions on a weekday evening but take up is low during these times.

The proposed changes to both our in house Short Break Services, Rockbourne and Saturday Club would enable more capacity to be created for the children and young people by creating morning and afternoon sessions rather than all day sessions. Those who need all day sessions will continue to receive them. However not all children and young people need all day sessions.

Currently Rockbourne, Cyberzone and Saturday Club provide the following services:

- Rockbourne which runs short break activities Monday and Wednesday (6.30pm – 8.30pm) and during the school holidays (8am – 6pm). Target age group: 11-17 years (last day of their 17th birthday).
- Saturday Club, run activities to different age groups on alternative Saturdays (10.30am – 3.30pm). Target age group: 8–12 and 13–17 (last day of their 17th birthday).
- Cyber zone, is a self-referral service where children and young people with SEND can attend with their parent/ carer to access the computer suite on a Saturday from 10-4 with two Lewisham Council present to facilitate the session.

Proposed changes to:

- Rockbourne holiday club run a morning session from 9.30 – 12.30 and an afternoon session from 1.30 – 4.30.
- Saturday club run a morning session from 9.30 – 12.30 and an afternoon session from 1.30 – 4.30.
- The evening clubs at Rockbourne reduce from two evening to one evening, due to limited demand for these sessions and increased numbers within the one evening session remaining.
- Closure of the Cyberzone due to limited numbers attending this club and these staff would then be used to increase the numbers at the Saturday club sessions.
- We would expect there to be 24 places in the morning session and 24 places in the afternoon session, during holiday and Saturday sessions. This is an increase from the current number which is approximately 15 at Rockbourne and Saturday Club.
- There may be times when the provider will be expected to take children and young people across both the morning and afternoon session, both at Rockbourne and Saturday Club, this will count as 2 places.
- It is expected that the provider will provide a 1:3 ratio for these children, unless they have been assessed as requiring additional staffing support assessed by the Children with Complex Needs service in partnership with the short breaks club manager. If additional staff ratio is required to meet their additional needs this will count as 2 places for 1:2 staff ratio and 3 places for 1:1.

These changes will enable the service to offer more places to children to attend the holiday club and weekend clubs. But still ensures that those who need additional support can access these services across a whole day.

These changes are in line with the model that we are using for the retendering of our commissioned service to increase from 20 places to 24 places per session for specialist service users. These are service users with the highest level of need as assessed by a social worker under Section 17.

The Children and Complex Needs Service is confident that should these proposals be agreed it will provide greater flexibility for families and allow more families to be able to access services as appropriate.