







**Parent & Workforce Consultation Summary and Findings****1.0 Consultation Summary**

1.1 Consultation and co-production with parents/ carers, children & young people and workers has been crucial to the success of reviewing Overnight Short Breaks provision; this has been undertaken through:

- Written communication to all stakeholders, using the same format, script and structure (including families, council workforce PCC & CCC, incumbent provider workforce, ancillary services, schools and health professionals),
- Short Breaks questionnaire to parents, workers and young people via an online link and letter,
- Two parent consultations in late April and three in September including an evening session; and
- Summaries of findings and progress reports via a designated webpage¹.

1.2 The questionnaire was extremely well received by parents and carers, it was completed by 62 out of a total of 74 parents. The question 'Which of the following is (or would be) your preference for an overnight break?' was asked and parents and carers were able to select as many options as they wished. Of the six available options, 'residential overnight in a short break children's home' was by far the most popular, with 70% of parents selecting this option. The second most popular option was for direct payment workers to provide overnight support in the direct payment workers home; 44% of parents and carers selected this option as a preference.

1.3 It's important to note that though 70% of parents selected 'Residential overnight in a short break children's home' as the preferred type of overnight support, this is currently the main option for respite and therefore the option that most families will currently be most familiar with.

Type of overnight support		%	Number selecting this option
Overnight support in your child's home		37%	18
Overnight support with link foster carers in their home		31%	15
Direct payment workers to provide overnight support in their home		44%	21
Shared and longer term care (for those who may need more than a short break)		25%	12
Residential overnight in a short break children's home		70%	34
Other (see below):		27%	13

¹ www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/overnight-stays



1.4 Other softer intelligence was gathered from families in order to understand their priorities; this included a review of what's working, frustrations, worries and overall experiences of Overnight Short Breaks.

1.5 Families responded with a wealth of feedback and information; the below issues were raised, specifically:

- Trust and continuity of care
- Reliability of care and the ability to plan in advance
- Being able to receive care and support at home
- Interim emergency care
- Pressure to receive emergency care
- More availability of training / resources for Staff and Personal Assistants
- Overnight support in Personal Assistants home
- Current provision is not flexible or wide ranging
- It works best when everyone is engaged and the family are in control.

1.6 A webpage for this work on the County Council website² has ensured an ongoing running log of consultation activity and feedback for parents, carers and young people. The webpage ensures we are able to put all information and updates captured and shared in one place including: background to the work, summaries of all consultations and questionnaire feedback, key messages and future plans.

1.7 The summaries, as linked in the webpage, make repeated reference to a need for a more flexible approach and offer of direct payments. The key points noted in the summaries suggest that there will be an initial immediate take up of Direct Payments, followed by a likely steady increase in families moving towards a Direct Payment, and/ or an initial take up for children & young people being newly assessed.

1.8 It was also strongly stressed that a 'no one size fits all' approach was essential and that that a family and/or child might want and need different types of overnights at different ages; care in the family home might work very well when young but a residential type setting may be best as the young person gets older.

1.9 An initial summary of potential structural service changes were raised to families in September 2019, in order to test the Local Authority's understanding of the outcomes against the proposed model for delivery and to ensure continued co-production throughout service specification development. In the main, this was well received by families with expected comments in relation to practical requirements.

² <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/consultation-on-overnight-support-for-children-with-disabilities/>



NB: The red stickers above and below are areas identified as priorities at the 17.11.19 session