

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****DATE: 4 FEBRUARY 2014****REPORT OF: MRS MARY ANGELL, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES**  
**DIANE MCCORMACK, HEAD OF CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX AND SPECIALIST HEALTH NEEDS INCLUDING CAMHS**

**SUBJECT: JOINT STRATEGIC REVIEW OF SHORT BREAKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Joint Strategic Review of Short Breaks is a joint project between Surrey County Council (SCC) and NHS Guildford and Waverley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on behalf of Surrey CCGs. The scope of the Review (from the Terms of Reference May 2013) is to look at the provision of short breaks for children and young people with disabilities in Surrey, including; -

- Funding and provision of short breaks for Children and young people with disabilities in Surrey;
- Residential services at the Beeches and Applewood;
- Other residential services in Surrey and out of county;
- Community based services;
- Value for money from services commissioned in all settings.

The Review has focused on options for the future use and funding of Applewood (SCC) and Beeches (NHS) as other areas of residential short break services were found to be working well.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Endorses the Joint Strategic Review of Short Breaks for children and young people with disabilities.
2. Approves the options for consultation.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Recommendations will be put to Cabinet for decision on 27 May 2014 based on a comprehensive consultation process taking place in February and March 2014.

**DETAILS:****Business Case**

1. Short breaks are a lifeline for many families of children and young people with disabilities and act as a preventative service helping to stop the breakdown of families and the need for more specialist, social care support.
2. Short breaks are intended to provide children and young people with disabilities with an opportunity to spend time away from their parents, relax and have fun with their peers.

They can promote positive experiences for children and young people, by encouraging friendships, social activities, new experiences and support relationships with parents and carers. Short breaks also give parents the opportunity to have a break from the demands of day and night care responsibility for their child.

3. Key drivers for this work are: -

#### National Drivers

- Short Breaks Regulations 2011.
- Children and Families Bill 2013 - Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in particular personal budgets and Education Health Care Plans and a duty for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and social care services to work more closely with Health.

#### Local Drivers

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013. Improving Children's Health and Wellbeing – Children with Complex Needs.
- Surrey County Council's Corporate Strategy.
- Surrey County Council's Children's Strategy.
- Children Schools and Families Public Value Programme – Disabilities.

4. Surrey County Council has a statutory duty to provide short breaks under the Short Breaks Regulations 2011. This legislation states that local authorities have to offer short breaks as a preventive, early intervention service; offer a range of services for parents and publish a statement of those services to parents and families.

5. Surrey County Council's Children's Services spends over £8m per year on short breaks for children and young people with disabilities and Surrey CCGs currently fund approximately £1.3m per year. Surrey County Council invests significantly more in short breaks than many other local authorities and it continues to be a priority for the Council.

6. The review has identified that both Applewood and Beeches are currently under occupied offering poor value for money. Neither Applewood nor Beeches services are meeting the needs of children with complex behavioural needs.

7. Options for public consultation are:

	Options	Detail
Beeches Options	Option B1:	Beeches remains open and responsibility for future commissioning and funding of the service transfers to Surrey County Council.
	Option B2:	NHS decommissions Beeches, funding is reallocated to meet the health needs of children and young people with disabilities in the community. Care packages for children using the service transfer to alternative providers.
Applewood Options	Option A1:	Applewood remains open and Surrey County Council develops an improved in-house service.
	Option A2:	Surrey County Council closes Applewood and makes alternative provision for children and young people who use the service.
	Option A3:	Surrey County Council outsources the management of Applewood, to a private or voluntary organisation.
Combined Option	Option C1:	Decommission both Beeches and Applewood and develop a new service based on Applewood or an alternative site.
Other Option:		Option for public to recommend an alternative option

8. All options are based on the assumption that: -

- The outcome of the consultation may be the approval of more than one option.
- Surrey County Council will retain Ruth House with mix of short breaks and longer term placements (52 weeks) and continue to commission services from the voluntary and private sector.
- Any options will include future working with Adult Services to develop inclusive residential short breaks for 0-25 year olds based on assessed needs.
- Any future services will be developed to meet the need for services for children with complex health needs and challenging behaviour.

**CONSULTATION:**

9. Consultation so far includes a questionnaire for parents carried out in July 2013 and which had 63 responses.
10. An offer was made to visit 11 Surrey maintained Special Schools to meet with parents, two schools invited the Review Team to visit: Ridgeway School in Farnham and Brooklands School in Reigate.
11. A Parent/Carer Panel of parents who attend Beeches and Applewood. The Panel was set up to ensure that parents and carers views are fully considered within the Review and to allow us to work together, co-designing the proposals for the full public consultation.

**RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

Risk	Mitigation
Any changes to families short break provision could result in negative feedback.	We have set up a parent/carers panel to involve parents/carers in this Review.
Some of the options suggest outsourcing the services to the voluntary sector. There is a risk that there may not be provision, capacity or quality in the private or voluntary sector to meet this need.	Currently developing a new framework for Short Break providers to help to stimulate the private or voluntary sector.
CQC report from an inspection of Beeches in July identified a number of actions required. This could have implications on some of the options within this Review.	Team Manager and Short Break Manager have conducted a service review. We will revisit options after this review has been completed.
One of the options could be to develop a new service based from Beeches however the building is owned by Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust.	We have asked Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust if the Beeches building would be available to rent .

**Financial and Value for Money Implications**

12. Surrey County Council's Children's Services spends over £8m per year on Short Breaks for Children and young people with disabilities and Surrey CCGs currently spend approximately £1.3m per year.

13. Neither Applewood nor Beeches are fully used. Both services are unable to deliver services for children with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour and are therefore under occupied.
14. At this stage of the project, the financial implications can only be used as a guide and further work will be required as the options are developed. The options regarding Applewood should save the County Council money. However, it would also appear that the plans NHS Surrey have regarding funding short breaks at Beeches, will mean additional costs to Surrey County Council. It is not yet known whether the investment in community services NHS Surrey will make in the future, will create savings to the Council.

**Section 151 Officer Commentary**

15. The Section 151 Officer confirms that options for consultation have been developed, but that the potential costs and savings benefits need further development and analysis before decisions can be made following the consultation period.

**Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

16. The Council has a duty to meet the needs of children with disabilities, which includes providing a range of services that will enable those who care for them to take a break from their caring responsibilities. The Joint Strategic Review has identified options for public consultation that will shape future service provision in this area, but at present the details of the proposed consultation are not known. Members will need to be satisfied, when making a final decision on the options.

**Equalities and Diversity**

17. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and no adverse impact was identified in carrying out the Review so far. A copy of the EIA is attached as Appendix 6 to Annex 1 and a summary of the impacts is included below.

<b>Key impacts (positive and/or negative) on people with protected characteristics</b>	The Review is to achieve best outcomes for children and young people with disabilities and their families.
<b>Changes you have made to the proposal as a result of the EIA</b>	None
<b>Key mitigating actions planned to address any outstanding negative impacts</b>	Not applicable
<b>Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated</b>	None

18. Once the public consultation has been completed and recommendations have been made the Equalities Impact Assessment will be updated.

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**Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

19. There are currently children and young people who are Looked After under Section 20 who use residential short breaks. Any options which are recommended that change a child or young persons short breaks provision will ensure that there is a seamless transfer to another provider.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

Timescale	Milestone
February 2014	Cabinet/CCG Collaborative
February - March 2014	Public Consultation
May 2014	Recommendations to Cabinet/CCGs for decision
May 2015 <sup>1</sup>	New service in place

**Contact Officer:**

Holly Beaman  
Commissioner, Children's Social Care and Well-being Commissioning  
T:020 8541 7180 | M: 07816130242 | E: holly.beaman@surreycc.co.uk

**Joint Strategic Review Group:**

- Ian Banner Head of Commissioning, Children’s Social Care and Wellbeing, Children Schools and Families Directorate, Surrey County Council
- Diane McCormack Head of Children with Complex and Specialist Health Needs including CAMHS
- Sandy Thomas, Service Manager for Children with Disabilities

**Consulted:**

Individuals:

- Caroline Budden – Assistant Director of Childrens Services and Safeguarding/Deputy Director of Children Schools and Families, SCC
- Sheila Jones – Head of Countywide Services, SCC
- Garath Symonds – Assistant Director of Services for Young People, SCC
- Diane McCormack – Health Commissioner, Guildford and Waverley CCG
- Sarah Parker – Associate Director for Children’s Health Commissioning, Guildford and Waverley CCG
- Angela Mann – Finance, SCC
- Kerry Middleton – Communications, SCC
- Carmel McLoughlin – Legal, SCC
- Keith Barker – Estates, SCC
- Gurbax Kaur – HR, SCC
- Yasi Siamaki – Procurment, SCC

Groups:

- Children Services Management Team
- Children Schools and Families Directorate Leadership Team
- Children Schools and Families Directorate Equalities Group

<sup>1</sup> Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust would need 12 months notice if Beeches were decommissioned.

- Parent/Carer Panel – parents of children and young people who use Beeches and Applewood
- Surrey CCG Collaborative: Children’s Clinical Leads Group

**Annexes:**

Annex 1: Joint Strategic Review of Short Breaks

**Sources/background papers:**

None

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