

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER****DATE: 15 JANUARY 2013****REPORT OF: CAROLINE BUDDEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES****SUBJECT: SURREY SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN****SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN CAPITAL GRANT
FUNDING 2012-13****KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

This report outlines proposals for the 2012-13 Short Breaks for Disabled Children Capital Grant Programme and requests that the Cabinet Member releases the grant monies for 2012-13 so that the proposed outcomes can be delivered. This grant is paid to the authority by the Department for Education (DfE) to support delivery of the Short Breaks Duty that came into force on 1 April 2011.

The report describes the priority groups to be considered when funds are allocated. In addition, it summarises the findings of the Surrey Short Breaks for Disabled Children (formerly Surrey Aiming High for Disabled Children) team's consultations with children and young people with disabilities and their families, and their analysis of existing provision within the county. These factors together inform consideration of grant applications. The Cabinet Member is asked to note and approve the approach that has been taken.

During the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme, Surrey County Council received a capital funding allocation of £609,700 in 2009-10, and £1,422,700 in 2010-11, totalling £2,032,400. However, after the coalition government was formed in May 2010, £477,772 underspend in 2009-10 (which had been carried forward to 2010-11) was clawed back. Therefore it was not possible to fund some applications submitted in 2010-11. Those applications were given priority to apply for the 2011-12 grant, and together with a number of new proposals, the total grant allocation for 2011-12 of £739,037 was spent.

In September 2012 the Secretary of State for Education announced a capital grant allocation for 2012-13 by means of a grant determination letter (see Appendix). Surrey County Council was again allocated £739,037, to be spent between September 2012 and 31 August 2013.

DETAILS:**The Grant Funds**

- 1 The Short Breaks for Disabled Children Capital Funding grant programme is funded by the DfE to support the Short Breaks Duty. Under the terms of this grant, the funding can be used to secure adaptations to buildings, new facilities and specialist equipment (including the provision of toys and sports

equipment) and other non-consumable items, in support of short breaks for children and young people with disabilities. Short break provision is fairly widely defined, and includes supporting disabled children and young people to access universal leisure-time services.

- 2 The 2012-13 Capital Grant Programme follows:
 - Two years of the AHDC capital grant programme, during which £1,554,628 capital funding was spent, allowing major investment in projects such as High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre (Pinnacle cabin), and YMCA Reigate & Redhill (Sovereign Centre),
 - One year of the Short Breaks capital grant programme, during which a further £739,037 capital funding was spent, allowing major investment in projects such as British Disabled Waterski and Wakeboarding Association (Heron Lake).
- 3 All of the money must be allocated, spent and accounted for by the end of August 2013 (with any underspend being returned to the DfE).
- 4 The Surrey Short Breaks Team for Disabled Children has developed a capital funding programme for 2012-13, and plans are in place to fund applications received, as summarised in the tables below.

Project	
Disability Challengers 'Big Build'	£500,000
Other applications in development	£239,037
Grand Total	£739,037

Project Type	
Adaptations to buildings etc.	£500,000
Disability living equipment	
Leisure facilities, play equipment, toys etc.	
Transport	
Other applications in development	£239,037
Grand Total	£739,037

- 5 Approval is being sought to release the grant funding in order to meet the outcomes of the capital grant programme. It is advisable to have the whole grant available to allocate so as not to delay implementing appropriate projects, and to meet the deadline of the end of August 2013 for spending all of the allocation.
- 6 Details of grant requests received are to be found at Annex 1 and Annex 2.

How this work is prioritised

- 7 Allocation of grant funding follows the guidelines established during the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme.

In addition, the Short Breaks Duty came into force on 1 April 2011, which defines a local authority's responsibility to provide short breaks to parents and

carers of children with disabilities, and to provide a range of short breaks for children with disabilities.

“A local authority must provide, so far as is reasonably practicable, a range of services which is sufficient to assist carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively.

(2) In particular, the local authority must provide, as appropriate, a range of—

(a) day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere,

(b) overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere,

(c) educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes, and

(d) services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.”

8 Whilst not covered by any formal legislation, the capital grant is used to comply with the requirements of the Short Breaks Duty (i.e. in compliance with The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011).

9 The priority groups identified nationally during the Aiming High programme are as follows:

- a. Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- b. Children and young people with complex health needs, including children who are technology dependent and those requiring palliative care
- c. Children and young people up to 18 with moving and handling needs
- d. Children and young people with challenging behaviour as a result of their impairment
- e. Severely disabled young people aged 14+.

Estimates indicate that there are between **8,200 and 13,500 disabled children aged 0-19 in Surrey**.¹ Utilising the disability prevalence rate from the Family Resources Survey it is estimated that **8,012 Surrey children aged 0-19 have a long-term illness, disability or a medical condition affecting day-to-day activities**.² This figure represents 4% of males and 2% of females aged 0-15 and 3% of the male and female population aged 15-24 years.³

10 Details of the applications being developed, received and accepted are at Annex 1 and Annex 2 to this report. Approval is sought to continuing this approach to the allocation of grant in the county.

¹ Estimates based on the ONS Sub-national Population Projections 2008

² Department of Work and Pensions. Family Resources Survey. 2005-06

³ Needs assessment for children with complex needs in Surrey 2008

Consultation

- 11 There has been consultation with parent/carers and children and young people. Needs analysis work was undertaken during the Aiming High programme, and provision mapped across the county. The children and young people's forum, One Voice, has been consulted for appropriateness of applications, and for suggestions on activities and organisations to approach, as has been the parents' forum, Family Voice, Surrey.
- 12 In the event of there being more applications than there is funding available, applications will be scored by a panel including representatives from Family Voice, to assess and prioritise applications, and thereby ensure optimum allocation of funding.

Financial and value for money implications

- 13 The Short Breaks for Disabled Children Capital Funding allocation from DfE covers this capital grant programme and its associated administration costs.
- 14 The grant expenditure will support projects to provide long term, sustainable short break services to families with disabled children in Surrey.

Equalities implications

- 15 This funding will be used specifically to offer increased access to short breaks for children with disabilities. All new provision will be compliant with the requirement of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Risk management implications

- 16 The plans for spending the capital grants target the areas of highest priority and need. The projects will be monitored to ensure they deliver their objectives and that all grant money is spent and drawn down before 31 August 2013.

Implications for the Council's priorities

- 17 This funding is linked to delivery of the Children & Young People's Plan:
Outcome B.3 Joint commissioning strategy in place with time bound plans for commissioning of integrated community based services, particularly for those who are vulnerable.
Action: Surrey County Council and NHS Surrey to work with parents and carers, children and service providers to plan and commission services for children with complex needs.
Output: Aiming high for disabled children short breaks services available from July 2009 and increasing services commissioned from April 2010 onwards.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

- 18 The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.
This capital grant programme is not specifically targeted at reducing carbon emissions. However applications will be favourably considered that aim to

reduce carbon emissions, e.g. to purchase mini-buses to transport children and young people with disabilities, thereby reducing the need for individual journeys by carers. It is expected that the Disability Challengers Big Build project will result in a quality building that will be of long term benefit to the residents of Surrey. The design will complement the surroundings in Stoke Park, and every effort will be made to use sustainable materials and to ensure that the finished build is carbon efficient.

Legal implications/legislative requirements

- 19 This grant is made available to local authorities through the DfE Short Breaks for Disabled Children initiative and whilst not covered by any formal legislation, the guidance from the DfE states that “The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards capital expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them”.

Section 151 Officer commentary

- 20 The Section 151 Officer confirms that grant funding is available for allocation. Procurement advice has been sought on the allocation of these funds to one provider and they have acknowledged that they will work with Disability Challengers to ensure value for money.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:

- (1) approves the release of £739,037 Short Breaks for Disabled Children Capital Funding grant, being the total 2012-13 allocation.
- (2) approves the approach that has been taken to targeting and allocating funds.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To ensure that the capital grants are utilised fully and within the grant criteria.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

With Cabinet Member approval, the Surrey Short Breaks for Disabled Children team will continue to implement the plans for spending the capital grant within the terms and conditions of the grant.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Caroline Budden, Deputy Director Children, Schools & Families

Sheila Jones, Head of Countywide Services

Sandra Elhrizi, Procurement and Commissioning Category Manager

Paula Chowdhury, Senior Finance Manager, Children, Schools & Families

Informed:

Nick Wilson, Strategic Director of Children, Schools and Families
Julie Fisher, Strategic Director for Change and Efficiency

Sources/background papers:

DfE Short Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Advice for Local Authorities
2012-13 Short Breaks for Disabled Children Capital Grant determination
The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011
