**MARKET ENGAGEMENT EVENT**
**Short breaks for children and young people with disabilities and their families**

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council would like to invite you to a market engagement event on **Tuesday 2nd July 2024 from 2:00pm to 3.30pm** to share with you information about the needs of our children and young people with disabilities and their families. **The event will be held on Teams.**

The scope relates to services provided to children who have received a Child in Need assessment under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to offer a wide range of short breaks services for children and young people with disabilities, in turn this will enhance their lives, encourage independence and support their families.

Short breaks provide opportunities for children and young people to :

* Chance to develop new friendships
* Develop their independence
* Take part in new experiences and to have fun doing positive activities

Short breaks aim to provide parent carers with :

* A break from their caring responsibilities
* A chance to rest and unwind
* The opportunity to spend time with other members of the family

Short breaks mean different things to different families and children. For some children and young people, it can mean time away from their families and carers to do fun activities during the daytime, evening and on a weekend. Short breaks can also take place at home, in a range of different provisions or in the community with their family with or without the support of a carer.

Our aims for short breaks for children and young people are;

* To give good quality services which offer positive experiences for children young people with disabilities and their families
* To offer enjoyable experiences, to help young people with their personal, social and emotional development

An initial survey and market engagement event took place during May 2024 to help shape the development of future services. **The purpose of the market engagement event is to provide information on the proposed tender opportunity for services to commence 1st April 2025. This will include the proposed model and timeline for the tender.**

We would be pleased if you could join us and would be grateful if you could confirm attendance through the NEPO portal messaging system, providing an email address for each delegate you wish to put forward Please submit nominations by close of business Friday 28 June.