

**Cheshire East Council – Short Breaks for Disabled Children**

**Soft Market Testing Questionnaire**

Cheshire East Council is conducting a soft market testing exercise to understand interest from providers in the delivery of Short Breaks for Disabled Children.

Short Breaks Services for Children with Disabilities form an integral part of the overall local offer for children with disabilities within Cheshire East ensuring that our statutory duty as a local authority is met. In addition to commissioned services, the local offer for children with disabilities includes Early Help Individual Payments, Direct Payments and Residential Short Breaks. The current service design of commissioned services will be reviewed to ensure that the re-commission focuses on achieving the 6 outcomes of the Children and Young People’s Plan 2019-2021. The re-commission will also focus on achieving greater value for money and effectiveness for children, young people and their families.

Cheshire East Council would like to gain insight from providers who may be interested in providing these services in Cheshire East. Your feedback will help to inform future commissioning intentions.

The current Short Breaks service provision includes the following programmes:

* Regular activities weekly or fortnightly during term time and / or school holidays. These activities are offered during weekends, after school and/or in school holidays
* Examples of this provision include: group based social or youth clubs, sports and activity sessions, drama and arts classes, social skills groups 1:1 support and rebound therapy
* One-to-one support for disabled children and young people to access local community based universal (available to all) social and leisure activities they would not otherwise be able to participate in
* Example of this support include supported activities in universal settings, ‘Buddy’ schemes
* Group sessions for young people who traditionally because of specific care needs, experience difficulties accessing universal and inclusive or other targeted provision

A full service re-commission is currently being developed, and your feedback will help to inform the future commissioning intentions of the Short Breaks Services for Disabled Children. A market engagement event in will be held for interested providers in early 2020. Formal procurement of the service is planned during the March – May 2020 period, contract award will be in June 2020 with contracts due to commence on the 1st September 2020.

**Potential Direction**

Cheshire East Council is currently conducting engagement with stakeholders and residents on the most effective delivery model. As part of this, there are some key ideas that we are considering:

* Enhanced offer of commissioned provision of overnight short breaks outside the home, in a specialist overnight short breaks setting
* Enhanced offer of commissioned services/activities during school holidays and weekends
* Continue to strengthen partnership working between commissioned providers and Cheshire East Council, achieving positive outcomes for all children, young people and families of Cheshire East
* An extended contract length that offers consistency and sustainability to the commissioned offer of Short Breaks for Disabled Children

**Guidance**

This document contains a series of questions that we would like you to answer. If you could kindly return your completed questionnaire to: Commissioning@cheshireeast.gov.uk no later than 30th September 2019.

The purpose of the market engagement is to capture your comments, and to help inform the future commissioning direction of Short Breaks for Disabled Children for Cheshire East Council residents. Your responses will be used by commissioners in commercial confidence.

Please note: you are not obliged to answer all or any of the questions asked within the questionnaire. Your responses will not be scored in any way. This is an information gathering exercise and is not a pre-qualification process. This soft market testing exercise does not form any part of any subsequent formal procurement process. Completion of this questionnaire does not create any formal relationship between the responder and commissioners.

You must carefully consider the use of phrases such as ‘in confidence’ or ‘commercially sensitive’ when responding since they will not necessarily protect your organisations information from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In respect of any information submitted by your organisation which is considered commercially sensitive, you should clearly identify such information as ‘commercially sensitive’.

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| **Organisational Details**  |
| Organisation  |  |
| Organisation Address |  |
| Contact details (including name, email address and telephone number) |  |
| **Questions**  |
| **Question 1**  |
| Do you have experience of delivering short breaks for disabled children? If so, what model(s) have been used? Does it include overnight support? If so, how was this delivered? |
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| **Question 2** |
| What do you understand to be the main challenges to the delivery of short break services for children? How can these be effectively addressed to improve outcomes for the residents of Cheshire East? |
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| **Question 3** |
| Given your experiences and expertise within this field, what new and innovative ways of working can your organisation bring to this service? |
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| **Question 4** |
| Would your organisation be interested in tendering for this service? If so, what would be your desired length of contract to ensure best value, and how long would you require mobilising a service from contract award? This should include recruitment of staff, advertisement and promotion of commissioned services/activities. |
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| **Question 5** |
| How would you ensure that commissioned services work towards achieving the 6 outcomes of the children and young peoples plan 2019-2021?1. Children and young people we care for are happy and given every opportunity to achieve their full potential.2. Children and young people feel and are safe.3. Children and young people are happy and experience good mental health and wellbeing.4. Children and young people are healthy and make positive choices.5. Children and young people leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and the life skills they need to thrive into adulthood.6. Children, young people and young adults with additional needs have better chances in life. |
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| **Question 6** |
| Please give any suggestions for how service delivery could be improved for children, young people and families of Cheshire East.  |
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Thank you for completing this questionnaire