

**Expression of Interest**

***Short Breaks for Disabled Children***

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| ***Company / Organisation Name*** |
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***Date of Submission 24th October 2022***

**CONTENTS:**

**Introduction**

**Purpose of the EoI**

**Identified Need**

**Context and Background**

**Current Provision**

**Submission Requirements**

**A – Organisational Details**

**B – Enabling Services**

**C – Volunteer Peer enablement**

**D – Holiday Clubs / Saturday Clubs**

**E - After School Clubs**

**F - Overnight Respite**

**Submission Deadline**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Devon County Council (DCC) has recently developed a comprehensive Commissioning Strategy for Short Breaks for Disabled Children. This has incorporated data we currently hold that we have pulled together for this purpose, feedback from the Parent Carer Forum Devon (PCFD), Children & Families, DCS Support & Advice Team and The Disability Social Work Team.

One of the aims of the Short Breaks Commissioning Strategy is to drive a more consistent and focused approach to market development thereby increasing sufficiency of good quality relevant services that will cost effectively lead to good outcomes for disabled children.

Through the work undertaken to develop the Short Breaks Strategy, gaps in service provision were identified and we have outlined some of our ideas to attempt to address these gaps within our Commissioning Intentions that sit within the Short Breaks Commissioning Strategy.

We would like you to support us at this early stage of service development and give you an opportunity to consider whether you would like to expand your service to respond to identified need and contribute ideas from a provider perspective to the design of new service provision.

***THE PURPOSE OF THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IS TO IMPROVE THE OFFER AND OUTCOMES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES BY:***

1. Ensuring that all potential Short Breaks providers are aware of our Commissioning Intentions
2. Obtaining feedback from providers on our Commissioning Intentions
3. Communicating preliminary ideas for new services to the provider market to enable providers to help shape these ideas into a clearly defined vision and range of options
4. Enabling us to gauge the interest of providers in the opportunities, and ascertain a range of potential approaches to service delivery to consider going forward
5. Providing interested parties with the opportunity to consider joint venture partnerships where appropriate

***NB: The EoI process is not a selection process. It is an opportunity for potential partners to contribute to service design***

***CURRENT PROVISION:***

Devon County Council (DCC) currently provides short breaks services to disabled children and young people in a variety of ways across the spectrum of need. These include:

***Overnight short breaks in registered children’s homes* (*DCC owned)*** x 3 across Devon.Across the three short breaks Homes we have 12 beds available each night. This resource is joint funded by CCG.

***Overnight Provision (Spot Purchasing)*** with external short breaks registered children’s homes and residential special schools.

**Family based overnight short breaks (fostering)** *DCC have a block contract* for 1333 nights per annum with Action for Children which is jointly funded by CCG.

***The Multi-Sensory Impairment Service*** provided in house by DCC from 1.8.22

The service provides two main areas:

* Supporting children in accessing their education setting
* Providing short breaks outside of the school day.

***The Enabling Service*** provided in house by DCC from 1.08.22.

***Community Short Breaks*** across 180+ providers are spot purchasedfor the provision of community short breaks. This includes: enabling services; support workers into the home; holiday and Saturday clubs; after school clubs and activities; accessing the community and wider support such as behaviour support courses for parents.

***Direct Payments:*** The provision of direct payments to parents/carers for parents to purchase their own services

***Grants:*** DCC also support service provision for disabled children and young people through grants for:

* **Small Grants Funding** to support and encourage voluntary and charity sector to provide services to disabled children and young people, capped at £5k per provider
* **Quids for Kids** with the Citizens Advice Bureau providing support to parent/carers to access the benefits funding they are entitled to
* **Parent Carer Forum Devon** to work with families across Devon and ensure their voices are reflected at a strategic level

***WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US?***

***Number of Children***

As at June 2022, there are 8,239 children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

There are currently 1,864 children and young people with SEND who are receiving short breaks support. 1,604 of the children and young people are also in receipt of an EHCP and an analysis has been undertaken to identify where demand for services are most prevalent across the county for these children.

*Primary Need*

The most predominant primary need listed for those children and young people who are accessing short breaks and have an EHCP is Autism Spectrum Disorder (37.47%), followed by Speech Language and Communication Needs (17.77%) and then Social Emotional and Mental Health (12.78%).

*Location*

Nearly 31% of children and young people with SEND accessing short breaks live in the local authorities Mid and East locality, 28% live in Exeter locality, 21% live in South locality and 17% live in North locality. Just over 2% reside outside of Devon.

*Age*

The majority (56%) of children and young people with SEND who are accessing short breaks are aged 11-16, 34% are aged 5-10, 9% are 17+ and 1% are aged under 5.

***IDENTIFIED NEED:***

***Feedback from Disabled Children’s Service Staff***

The work to develop the Short Breaks Commissioning Strategy identified the following gaps in service based on feedback from Disabled Children’s Service staff. DCS staff were asked which services they found difficult to access within the current market. The results below are the top 6 services they found difficult to access. They are based on the % of staff completing the questionnaire that found these services ‘Always’ or ‘Frequently’ difficult to access and for which age category.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Service** | **%** | **Breakdown into predominant age category** | |
| Enabling | 100% | 32% are 5-11 | 30% are 12-16 |
| Holiday clubs | 96% | 33% are 12-16 | 28% are 5-11 |
| Saturday clubs | 96% | 31% are 12-16 | 29% are 5-11 |
| After School clubs | 92% | 38% are 12-16 | 30% are 5-11 |
| Inclusive mainstream activities | 88% | 34% are 12-16 | 30% are 5-11 |
| Overnight respite | 78% | 38% are 12-16 | 28% are 5-11 |

***Enabling:***

This was scored by DCS staff as the highest service area that is ‘always’ or ‘frequently’ difficult to access and relates in the main to the 5-11 age category, closely followed by the 12-16 age category.

This was also a feature of the 2019 engagement between Commissioning and families with disabled children. It was fed back that enabling services, which are really appreciated by families, can be difficult to find or have a waiting list. **This was reiterated in the November 2021 Parent Carer Survey** **by Parent Carer Forum Devon (PCFD)**when a quarter of responses to this survey said that they did not feel services enabled their child.

***Holiday Clubs and Saturday clubs:***

These have been fed back by DCS service staff as the second highest service area that is ‘always’ or ‘frequently' difficult to access. As with enabling services, families have fed back that they can be difficult to find and have waiting lists.

***After School Clubs/Activities:***

These are featured highly in the DCS staff survey as ‘always’ or ‘frequently’ difficult to access. **In the 2019 family engagement** it was highlighted that Transport from schools can be a barrier to accessing after school activities but also that Special Schools are not offering the same opportunities for outside the school day/after school clubs that mainstream schools offer.

***Inclusive Mainstream Activities:***

These were identified by DCS staff as the fifth highest area that is ‘always’ or ‘frequently’ difficult to access. **The PCFD Survey Nov 2021** identified that whilst many families often feel excluded from the community, extra-curricular activities and child-care are the activities they feel most excluded from. There were over half the parents that responded saying they felt excluded from child-care, around half felt excluded from extra-curricular activities such as brownies or swimming lessons. Around a third of the families said they felt excluded from both their school and their local community.

***Overnight Respite:***

This was identified by DCS staff as high on the list of areas that are ‘always’ or ‘frequently’ difficult to access largely for 12-16yr olds but with a significant number of 5-11yr olds.

***Unspent Direct Payments***

Some parents have reported significant difficulties during the pandemic in finding services to purchase or Personal Assistants to employ via their Direct Payment accounts and have said they would prefer the local authority to assume more commissioning responsibility. **Parents and carers have told us that they are often unable to spend all their direct payments due to lack of suitable local provision.** The Short Breaks offer in Devon lacks sufficient equity across the whole county. Local provision is especially important in a rural county like Devon where transport can be time-consuming and costly.

***COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS:***

***We will work to remove barriers for disabled children accessing their community and support them through the universal offer***

**How will we do this?**

* Work with universal service providers to build greater visibility of the opportunities open to disabled children within their communities
* Offer training to universal service providers to raise their awareness around SEND and enable them to be inclusive and have a better understanding of how to support children and young people with additional needs
* Review the use of grants to support the universal offer so that public money is used to encourage greater inclusion and choice and prioritisation to children and young people with disabilities and their families.
* Identification of a provider to develop a network of volunteer peer enablers to support children and young people’s access to activities within their community

***We want families to have access to clear information and advice to support children and young people with disabilities to access age and ability appropriate inclusive play, activities, and social opportunities***

How will we do this?

* Expand the signpost plus service to ensure that this is accessible to all of Devon.
* Support families to understand what local provision is available to them, how it can meet their child’s, and wider family’s individual needs and how they can access short breaks as close to home as possible.
* Support families to understand how they can use Direct Payments to access Short Breaks through provision of clear Direct Payment Guidance documentation and consistent professional advice
* Improve the Pinpoint directory including ease of navigation better quality provider information that includes a description about the service, its availability and cost.
* Expand access to ensure a more equitable and diverse offer of inclusive and accessible short breaks that cater for all ages across the range of eligibility.

*We will develop the short breaks provider market to ensure families can access personalised support to match their needs through flexible and responsive provision at the right time and close to where they live*

**How will we do this?**

* Through market engagement and the commissioning of a formal short breaks offer.
* Host short breaks provide fayres so that families can have the opportunity to meet and speak with providers about their child's needs and offer the opportunity of a bespoke package to support their child.
* Review the use of grants to support development of providers to enable them to widen their services. Public money is used to encourage greater inclusion and choice and prioritisation to children and young people with disabilities and their families.
* Activities which fall under HAF to be commissioned not just in holiday period but throughout the year and locally.
* Review the use of internal residential homes to provide the maximum support possible within allocated budgets.

*We will ensure short breaks providers offer high quality services that are safe, welcoming and value for money*

**How will we do this?**

* Through the introduction of a quality assurance framework that providers will have to work to, which will include site visits and review of practice, policies, and procedures.
* The child and parent / carer experience and perspective is prioritised when designing what services are delivered and how they are accessed.

*We will build strong relationships and adaptable approaches between commissioners, children and young people, their families, communities and short break providers to enable us to work together in a way that makes a difference*

How will we do this?

* Ensure services are outcome focused and, where appropriate, link into supporting a child’s EHC Plan
* Deepen collaboration across Health, Social Care, Education and the provider market through place based joint commissioning and joint packages of support for young people around short breaks
* Embed restorative, relational and trauma-informed ways of working with children and young people with Autism and SEMH focusing on ensuring they have consistent and trusted support available

*We want a short-breaks offer that will support young people to have experiences that support a positive future, access training and enable them to access employment*

How will we do this?

* Review the pathway and look at opportunities to work together with Adult Services for a more seamless pathway from children’s to adult services.
* Through provider engagement and the commissioning of a formal short breaks offer - Linking with adults services around taster sessions/“reach down” opportunities

*We will use good quality data and intelligence to inform our Commissioning to ensure we are matching services to need*

How will we do this?

* By engaging with a wider range of stake holders throughout our engagement phases, including children and young people, parent carers, families, providers, other local authorities, management information, practitioners and team managers
* We have recruited a designated business intelligence role to support this area of work
* Liaise with management information team to communicate specifically the data that we need to fully understand the need and the gaps in the market.
* Liaise with Early Help to obtain data from referral information

***We will regularly co-ordinate a review and update of the short breaks statement and the local offer in co-production in line with Statutory Guidance to ensure it remains relevant***

**How will we do this?**

* By setting up a task and finish style working group, with Parent Carer Forum Devon and key professionals

*I****f you would like to submit an Expression of interest and be involved in service design please complete the following form A and the options of B, C, D, E or F or any mix of these five options.***

*SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:*

Please complete Form A – Organisation Details

Please complete Forms B, C, D, E or F if you are interested in these service provisions. You can complete each form if you are interested in all three areas of service.

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| 1. **ORGANISATION DETAILS** | | |
| **Company Information:** | | |
| Organisation/Trading name: |  | |
| Registered office address: |  | |
| Geographical location of current service(s): |  | |
| Address for correspondence relating to this EoI: |  | |
| Person dealing with this EoI: | Name |  |
| Designation |  |
| Telephone No. |  |
| E mail |  |

**Please complete the following form if you are interested in providing this service**

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| 1. **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ENABLING SERVICES**   *DCC would like to welcome all Short Breaks Providers (or those who would like to provide Short Breaks) to tell us about the Services you currently offer, your interest in developing your service in partnership with DCC to address gaps within the enabling service area.*  *We are interested to hear from providers operating (or interested to operate) within the Devon County footprint or those close to the borders with neighbouring authorities.* | |
| 1. Please give a brief history of your organisation including years of operation | *Maximum 300 words* |
| 1. Please explain how your organisation’s skills, experience, organisational infrastructure, would enable you to deliver this type of service | *Maximum 600 words* |
| 1. How would you engage in partnership working with DCC and describe how you would be innovative in your vision for this service | *Maximum 600 words* |
| 1. If you would like to deliver an enabling service and would need support from DCC to do this, please explain what this support would look like | *Maximum 600 words* |

**Please complete the following form if you are interested in providing this service**

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| 1. **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR VOLUNTEER PEER ENABLEMENT**   *DCC would like to welcome all Short Breaks Providers (or those who would like to provide Short Breaks) to tell us about the Services you currently offer, your interest in developing your service in partnership with DCC to address gaps within the volunteer peer enabling service area.*  *This would be through recruitment and management of a network of volunteer peer enablers to support Children and Young People to access activities within their community.*  *We are interested to hear from providers operating (or interested to operate) within the Devon County footprint or those close to the borders with neighbouring authorities.* | |
| 1. Please give a brief history of your organisation including years of operation | *Maximum 300 words* |
| 1. Please explain how your organisation’s skills, experience, organisational infrastructure, would enable you to deliver this type of service | *Maximum 600 words* |
| 1. How would you engage in partnership working with DCC and describe how you would be innovative in your vision for this service | *Maximum 600 words* |
| 1. If you would like to deliver a volunteer peer enabling service and would need support from DCC to do this, please explain what this support would look like. | *Maximum 600 words* |

**Please complete the following form if you are interested in providing this service**

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| 1. **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOLIDAY CLUBS / SATURDAY CLUBS**   *DCC would like to welcome all Short Breaks Providers (or those who would like to provide Short Breaks) to tell us about the Services you currently offer, your interest in developing your service in partnership with DCC to address gaps around Holiday Clubs and/or Saturday Clubs.*  *This covers a range of needs from those supported by inclusive mainstream clubs through to specialist support.*  *We are interested to hear from providers operating (or interested to operate) within the Devon County footprint or those close to the borders with neighbouring authorities.* | |
| 1. Please give a brief history of your organisation including years of operation | *Maximum 300 words* |
| 1. Please explain how your organisation’s skills, experience, organisational infrastructure, would enable you to deliver this type of service | *Maximum 600 words* |
| 1. How would you engage in partnership working with DCC and describe how you would be innovative in your vision for this service | *Maximum 600 words* |
| 1. If you would like to deliver Holiday Clubs and / or Saturday Clubs and would need support from DCC to do this, please explain what this support would look like | *Maximum 600 words* |

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| 1. **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**   *DCC would like to welcome all Short Breaks Providers (or those who would like to provide Short Breaks) to tell us about the Services you currently offer, your interest in developing your service in partnership with DCC to address gaps around After School Clubs.*  *This covers a range of needs from those supported by inclusive mainstream clubs through to specialist support.*  *We are interested to hear from providers operating (or interested to operate) within the Devon County footprint or those close to the borders with neighbouring authorities.* | |
| 1. Please give a brief history of your organisation including years of operation | *Maximum 300 words* |
| 1. Please explain how your organisation’s skills, experience, organisational infrastructure, would enable you to deliver this type of service | *Maximum 600 words* |
| 1. How would you engage in partnership working with DCC and describe how you would be innovative in your vision for this service | *Maximum 600 words* |
| 1. If you would like to deliver after school clubs and would need support from DCC to do this, please explain what this support would look like | *Maximum 600 words* |

**Please complete the following form if you are interested in providing this service**

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| 1. **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR OVERNIGHT RESPITE**   *DCC would like to welcome all Short Breaks Providers (or those who would like to provide Short Breaks) to tell us about the Services you currently offer, your interest in developing your service in partnership with DCC to address gaps in Overnight Respite Services.*  *Providers completing this section need to be registered or willing to become registered with the appropriate regulatory body (e.g. CQC or Ofsted).*  *We are interested to hear from providers operating (or interested to operate) within the Devon County footprint or those close to the borders with neighbouring authorities.* | |
| 1. Please give a brief history of your organisation including years of operation | *Maximum 300 words* |
| 1. Please explain how your organisation’s skills, experience, organisational infrastructure, would enable you to deliver this type of service | *Maximum 600 words* |
| 1. How would you engage in partnership working with DCC and describe how you would be innovative in your vision for this service | *Maximum 600 words* |
| 1. If you would like to deliver an overnight respite service and would need support from DCC to do this, please explain what this support would look like | *Maximum 600 words* |

**Submission Deadline: Monday 24th October 2022 12pm.**