

MTRP Proposal - 18/19 and Beyond - Business Case

Service Area	Children's Services
Unique Reference Number	CFS181901
Proposal Title	Review of Oaklands short breaks service
Version	20 th December 2017
Proposal Summary Description	To remodel the short breaks service at Oaklands to provide care on five nights a week with an increased emphasis on outreach care.
Impact on Performance	The – council has a duty to provide short breaks for disabled children. Short breaks will still be provided for families but the service will be provided over five days and nights a week instead of seven
Impact on FTE Count	The rotas for Oaklands will be revised. The final figure will depend on the restructuring.
Impact on other Service Areas	There could potentially be increased demand on other Children's Services teams and schools
Impact on Citizens	Support for families with a disabled child will be reduced.
Delegated Decision (Head of Service/Cabinet Member/ Cabinet)	Cabinet
Activity Code	SOC30 children residential

Net Savings (£000's)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	154			

Implementation Costs (- £000's)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension	tbc			
Revenue – External consultants	0			
Revenue - Other	0			
Capital – Building related	0			
Capital - Other	0			
Implementation Cost - Total				

Current Position

The local authority has specific requirements under the Children Act 1989 and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 to provide support for disabled children. The definitions of which children and the type of support are laid out in our Short Breaks statement agreed by Cabinet and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW).

As part of this support, Oaklands provides short breaks for disabled children. The children accessing Oaklands have multiple disabilities including learning disabilities,

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autism, physical disabilities and life limiting medical conditions. All of the children require extensive physical care for example, feeding, toileting and/or changing, mobility, behaviour management, lifting and turning, invasive medical procedures

Currently during the course of each year the service provides support on a rota basis to 35 – 40 children.

The purpose is twofold. Firstly, to provide positive experiences to children who, because of their disability, find it extremely difficult to access other play and leisure opportunities and, secondly, to give parents and carers time to recharge and provide care for siblings. Many of the children require 24 hour care and place very heavy demands on carers. The break of Oaklands gives parents time to be able to carry out ordinary domestic tasks and recover a little. It can mean the difference between a child continuing to remain with their family and coming into local authority care.

A scoping exercise has been completed with the manager at Oaklands

Current Resources

The staff group can be restructured as a result of anticipated changes from expected retirements and other movements. The potential for a reduction and change in the services will require further discussion and consultation.

Key Objectives and Scope

This proposal, if agreed, would result in a remodelling of the current short breaks services for disabled children.

To ensure the shared objectives of short breaks of respite for families and positive experiences for children are still met, implementing this proposal will require extensive consultation with families.

The scope of the savings would be focussed on Oaklands and the children accessing the services of Oaklands.

Options considered

Option 1 - Retain the current arrangements

The services would continue to be funded in the same way so no saving would be realised.

Option 2 - Saving of £124K

The service would be remodelled to provide care on five nights a week instead of seven and with an increased emphasis on outreach care. For some children there would be a reduction in the offer within their package of care.

Recommended Proposal/Option

Option 2

Required Investment

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This proposal will require ongoing staff support

High Level Milestones and Timescales

Staff would need to be advised before the end of the calendar year to achieve a full year saving

In light of the need for full consultation with families, a full year saving may not be possible to achieve and this will require further consideration.

Key Risks/issues

Risk Description	Risk Score (as per matrix below)	Mitigation Measures
Poor communication with parents and children leading to dissatisfaction and complaints	2 x 5	Communication plan implemented with early and meaningful consultation
Diminution to service creates additional stresses for families thus placing pressures on other services	3 x 4	Ensure remaining services offer families effective support

Specific linkage with Future Generation Act requirements

The proposal is a direct saving as a result of a reduction in services. Specific linkage with the Future Generations Act requirements is, therefore, limited. However, the proposal will ensure full collaboration with services working with disabled children and collaboration with families to ensure the services if the savings are achieved can deliver positive outcomes for families.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment

Yes