

## Appendix Two Summary of face to face Short Break Consultation with Council Officers

Total no. of meetings – 8, borough wide

Total no. attendees – 30, plus 3 staff from Hollybank

Provision Type	Overnight Short Breaks	Group based Short Breaks	One to one Short Break Care (Childminding)	Direct Payments	Community Outreach	Obvious gaps
Comments	Under use of Hollybank is a concern	Not always appropriate for individual children – more community activities should be considered		Not suitable due to lack of skilled workers, Needs market development		Lack of easily accessible up to date information. A calendar of forthcoming events/activities would be helpful.
	Hollybank expertise should be available for advice on managing behaviour, inc. how to cope within a home environment	Autism specific group based scheme is beneficial		Too bureaucratic		Lack of appropriate provision for 18+ group <i>NB. Short Breaks are for young people up to age 18</i>
	Parental choice of days would be preferable	Offer secure breaks with high parental confidence		Cannot always find provision for use of d.p.s, especially for those with complex needs		Looking for a service which promotes independence

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		Request for activity specific schemes		Stressful to manage		Volunteers can be unreliable
		Request for schemes which enhance independence		Will not suit everybody		Parents want better support for access to community sports facilities
		Using school premises offers familiarity for some children		Do not suit anybody		Networking facility for info exchange would be useful.
		Using school premises is not beneficial for some children		Parents would like an analysis of users, and types of services sourced which could provide good information for those not currently using them		Support for siblings – scheme at Maypole was good for this
		Riverside being oversubscribed is testament to there being a need		Clarity required on Council policy on DBS checks inc. how often they should happen		Training required for universal providers
		Need to have a policy for use of spare capacity when there are 'no shows'		Parents want DP as they offer:- Flexibility Responsibility Accountability		Consider 'Chartermark' for universal services

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		Greater use of Hawes Down should be explored as this is 'safe', particularly at weekends, using volunteers for support				Volunteer scheme for transport could enable better access
		Venues/locations are very important				Some universal providers 'exploit' need for specialist groups
						Sometimes need emergency breaks
						Support for parents to manage challenging behaviour would be beneficial

**Summary of specific comments:-**

- Across the board praise for Hollybank and Riverside, request for more provisions
- Generally requests for more locally based provision
- Request and comments about information, including information about surrounding boroughs provisions
- Clarity around use of and monitoring of direct payments
- Request for more diversity of provision, e.g. wheelchair users, those with health needs
- Request for more ASD specific provision, balanced with comment about too high a focus on ASD specific provision
- Possible use of Marjorie McClure School for group based provision
- Requests for provision that specifically addresses needs of teenage group, inc. physical activities
- Consideration of provision for whole family
- Requests for development of services which parents can pay to access
- Request for development of activities, especially swimming