

Appendix Three Summary of group Short Break Consultation organised by Bromley Parent Voice

Total no. of meetings – 2, venues: Hawes Down Centre (day time) and Community House, Bromley (evening)

Total no. attendees – 49

Provision Type	Overnight Short Breaks	Group based Short Breaks	One to one Short Break Care (Childminding)	Direct Payments	Community Outreach	Obvious gaps
Comments	Needs to work better for parents who wish to select their own times for taking short breaks, esp. weekends and holiday periods	Use of school premises – particularly resources available at Riverside. Concerns that Riverside School may not wish to continue to deliver group based provision - parents would like to be involved if this resource is withdrawn.	LBB should facilitate the development of a sitting service- even if they do not block buy places. Parents could pay for it themselves but need a service to be available to them	Need a better market for direct payments to be successful		Information. Use of Bromley MyLife does not suit parents' needs.
	Drop of and collection times not always convenient	Need a policy for 'clawback' of funding for under utilised group commissioned which the Council has commissioned		Need greater flexibility or clarity around flexibility as what they can/cannot be used for		Dissemination of information not good enough

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	Skills of staff could be better utilised within other community settings or for individual parental support	Need a policy re non attendance at group based provision that LBB has commissioned		Need an analysis/profile of DP users to identify which groups of cyp use DPs successfully		Question as to whether LBB are listening to parents' concerns
	Spare capacity which is block commissioned. must be used efficiently to obtain value for money	Needs better communication with parents re. activities that cyp are involved in		Gap in advice around tax and NI implications		Car pooling – could LBB facilitate informal networks
	Governance arrangements should include parents	Programme of activities should be available on providers web sites and sent out to parents with dates		LA should provide/offer a resource for training of support workers		Sibling support is required
	More challenging cyp should have same opportunities as less challenging – might be achieved by better monitoring of outcomes for individuals	More venues needed – borough wide				Eligibility – transparency around assessment, thresholds etc. needs urgent work as there appears to be a high level of subjectivity

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						One off events can provide good, cost effective support for families

Other comments:-

- LBB and parents/carers should be working to develop a ‘trusting relationship’ – this should be added to Vision Statement to. Parents need to feel that they are being listened to
- There are a lack of Carers Assessments
- No obvious provision/account of those with EAL
- Thresholds for cyp with high functioning ASD sometimes precludes access to specialist services but access to universal services is difficult/fraught/ inappropriate
- Support for siblings – the borough does not recognise their needs
- Agenda is now 0 -25. These services are still directed at under 17 year olds. Work need to accelerate to accommodate the new agenda.
- Anxiety about reduced service provision if there is a wholesale move towards direct payments
- Market development – providing for SEN is a ‘niche’ market which may not attract the right level of development from providers
- A service which provides better family support, particularly for those at risk of breakdown would be beneficial for some families
- Better use of facilities (esp. schools) borough wide
- Need a policy for offer of short break when a child is in hospital

Other comments:

Access to leisure facilities, esp. swimming – could be organised at Riverside School or Marjorie McClure.
Support for 18 + - need to think about impact of Carers Bill