



Short Breaks Consultation

Event for parents and carers

December 2023



Introduction / Context



Due to current financial pressures and a General Fund budget gap that is likely to be in the region of £18million during 2024-5 and is expected to rise to £32 million over the duration of the next five years, Bristol City Council is looking across all its services to establish where we can do things differently to reduce costs and be more efficient in how we do things.

It was agreed by Full Council at Annual Budget Setting in January 2023, that a reduction of £273,340 (10 per cent of Bristol City Council's contribution to the Short Breaks Budget) would be made from 1st April 2024. More information can be found [here](#). This is a total reduction of £273,340 in 2024-25 to a total budget of £3,346,454 including NHS ICB (Health) contribution.

Bristol's Targeted Short Breaks Services are run by external organisations (WECIL, KHAAS and FACE) and these contracts are running out in 2024 and so this presents the opportunity to revisit Bristol's Short Breaks offer whilst recommissioning is underway.



What Families Have Told Us So Far

Bristol City Council ran an engagement survey May-July 2022 to find out what parent carers and young people thought of the current Short Breaks offers. Following this, the Commissioning Team ran [two workshops](#) in May 2023 with parents, carers & professionals looking at emerging themes and priorities for future services, to give parents and carers a further opportunity to feedback on the key matters that were important to them to inform the recommission.

Five main considerations that emerged from this engagement survey with parent carers:

1. Specialist knowledge of staff: Parent/carers need to know that their child/young person will be in safe, knowledgeable hands
2. Drop offs: Parent/carers want to be able to drop off their child/young person to a session so that the child/young person can have fun independently and they can have a break or focus on other members of their family.
3. Regularity of the session: Parent/Carers want a regular session so they can plan their lives around it.
4. Transport: Parent/carers may not have their individual modes of transport. If they do not have their own transport, they may have to get onto a bus (or more- if their child's condition permits), and the time, money and effort that takes to get to the venue might outweigh the benefits of a Short Break session.
5. Day of the week: Parent/Carers are mainly interested in Weekend and holiday time sessions.



Short Breaks Consultation 2023

The Short Breaks consultation is live from 20 November 2023 until 02 January 2024.

You can complete an online survey and there is an Easy Read online version as well.



Here is the link:

[Short Breaks Consultation 2023 | Ask Bristol Consultation and Engagement Hub](#)

Short Breaks Consultation 2023

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About Short Breaks

Short Breaks are supportive, family services that allow parents and carers to have time out from their caring responsibilities looking after children who have additional needs and/or disabilities. They also give children and young people with additional needs and/or disabilities the opportunity to go places, spend time with friends, take part in fun and enjoyable activities, become more independent and try new things.

Short Breaks services used to be called 'respite care'. In Bristol, Short Breaks refers to several services run by Bristol City Council and other services which are funded by Bristol City Council and run by external organisations.

Why we are consulting

We need to make £273,340 of savings from next financial year onwards (2024-25). However, we intend to maintain a range of Short Breaks services across the city. We are consulting you now on ways to make these savings.

Key Dates

- Consultation start date
20 November 2023
- Consultation end date
02 January 2024

Timeline

- Open**
This consultation is open for contributions.
- Under Review**
Contributions under review

Bristol Short Breaks Offer – what does it look like and who is it for?

Universal Services

Inclusion Service

Run by Bristol City Council

Inclusion Small Grants - For disabled children & those with additional needs, who want to access universal services eg a local club or activity.

Receives 7% of funding and supports 95 children (8% of total).

Targeted Short Breaks

Externally commissioned

Evenings, weekend and holiday Short Breaks including:

- Out and About Consortium run by WECIL, FACE and KHAAS
- Holiday Short Breaks for Complex High Needs run by WECIL
- Bristol Autism Project (BAP) run by FACE

For disabled children and those with additional needs, who require activities that have been designed to meet their specific needs and disabilities.

Receives 16% of funding and supports 870 children (71% of total children)



Specialist Short Breaks

Run by Bristol City Council

- Residential Overnight Short Breaks at the Bush and Belbrook
- Family Based Short Breaks (was called Foster Short Breaks and Family Links)
- Direct Payments

For disabled children and young people with severe learning disabilities and complex needs where the identified need cannot be met by Universal or Targeted Short Breaks Services.

For those children whose needs are so complex they will always need professional support and have an expected pathway into adult social care services.

77% of funding supports 264 children (21% of total children)





Proposal 1: Internal Review (savings of £144,923)

Proposal 1: Savings of £144,923 have been identified by reviewing internal BCC contractual arrangements and staffing structures, in order to make them more efficient and deleting vacant posts which are no longer needed.

We do not think that this savings proposal is likely to mean major changes to service the council provides, so we are not planning to ask you about this any further. We are describing this proposal here to give a full picture of our savings proposals.



Proposal 2: Residential Holiday Short Breaks service (savings of £75,000 in 2024-5)

Discontinuation of Residential Holiday Short Breaks service with a cost of £75,000. This service has not been running since 31 March 2022 when the provider handed the contract back and we were unable to find another provider to run the service.

The rationale for this proposal is that it was an expensive service (costing at least £1,500 per head for a two or three night residential holiday). This service was vulnerable to cancellation due to staff and/or child illness. Unlike all other Short Breaks services, this service does not offer a regular year-round break to children and young people.

Proposal 3: There is still a savings target of £53,417 that needs to be found.



Let's look at Proposal 3 more closely – this has proposals about how to find the remaining £53,417 that has not yet been identified.

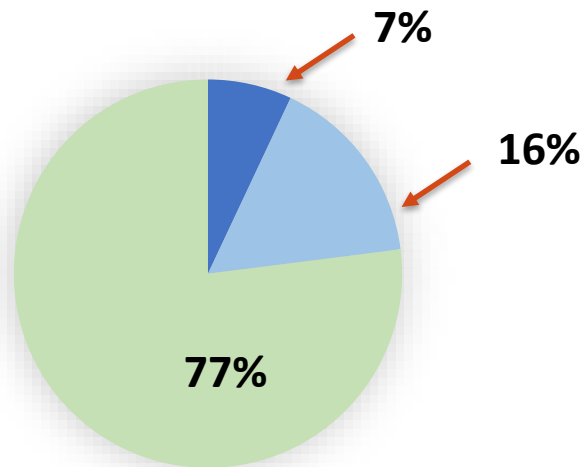


Proposal 3: To find the remaining £53,417 of savings needed, we could do several things:



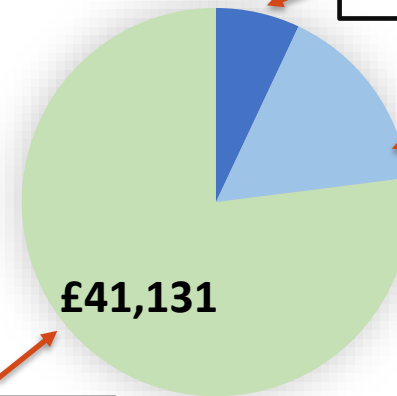
- Proposal 3, option a - Split the remaining £53,417 saving needed proportionally across all parts of the Short Breaks system

Current Funding Split in %



Key	
Specialist Services	■
Targeted Services	■
Inclusion Service	■

Funding reduction that would be made to each area (totalling £53,417)



£3739 - INCLUSION SERVICE

£8547 - TARGETED SHORT BREAKS

- Short Breaks Evenings, Weekends and Holidays service (Out and About run by WECIL, KHAAS and FACE),
- Holiday Short Breaks service (run by WECIL)
- Bristol Autism Project (run by FACE)

SPECIALIST SHORT BREAKS

- The Bush
- Belbrook
- Direct Payments
- Family-based Short Breaks

Proposal 3, option a continued... Funding taken out of each part of the system would look like:

Universal Services

Inclusion Service

Reduction is
7% of
£53,417
= £3739



Targeted Short Breaks

Reduction is 16% of £53,417 =
£8547 in total for this part of the
system



Specialist Short Breaks

Reduction is 77% of £53,417 =
£41,131 in total for this part of
the system



Proposal 3: To find the remaining £53,417 of savings needed, we could do several things:

- **Proposal 3, option b - Split the remaining £53,417 saving needed by reducing all individual Short Breaks services budgets by £3000 - £10,000.**



Budget level	Proposed Budget Reduction	Services – what would this reduction look like to each Short Breaks service?
Services with a budget over £500,000	£10,000 reduction to each service’s annual budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bush (-£10,000) • Belbrook (-£10,000) • Direct Payments (-£10,000)
Services with a budget between £100,000-£300,000	£6000 reduction to each service’s annual budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family-based Short Breaks (-£6000) • Inclusion Service (-£6000) • Short Breaks: Evenings, Weekends & Holidays (Out and About currently run by WECIL, FACE & KHAAS) (-£6000)
Services with a budget under £100,000	£3000 reduction to each service’s annual budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol Autism Project (currently run by FACE) (-£3000) • Holiday Short Breaks for Complex High Needs (Currently run by WECIL) (-£3000)

Proposal 3: To find the remaining £53,417 of savings needed, we could do several things:

Proposal 3: option c1, c2 and c3 - take all the savings needed from one area of the short breaks system



The following proposals ask you what you think of taking £53,417 out of just one part of the system:



‘Should we take £53,417 out of one part of the Short Breaks system?’

- Proposal 3, option c1 – Reduce the budget of the Inclusion Service by £53,417
- Proposal 3, option c2 - Reduce the budget of Targeted Short Breaks by £53,417
- Proposal 3, option c3 - Reduce the budget of Specialist Short Breaks by £53,417

Proposal 3: To find the remaining £53,417 of savings needed, we could do several things:

Proposal 3: option d1, d2 and d3



The following proposals look at dividing £53,417 by 2. Then taking £26,709 from 2 parts of the system:



**'We could divide £53,417 by 2 = £26,709.
Then reduce £26,709 from two parts of the Short Breaks system'**

- Proposal 3, option d1 - Reduce the budgets of both the Inclusion Service and Targeted Short Breaks by £26,709 each
- Proposal 3, option d2 - Reduce the budgets of both the Inclusion Service and Specialist Short Breaks by £26,709 each
- Proposal 3, option d3 - Reduce the budgets of both Targeted Short Breaks and Specialist Short Breaks by £26,709 each

Proposal 4: Bristol Autism Project would only be accessible by families who live in Bristol



As part of this consultation, we are proposing to cease offering Bristol Autism Project membership to families who live outside of Bristol City Council boundaries where the child attends a Special School based in Bristol. This proposal is not intended to contribute to the £273,340 of savings that we need to make to the short breaks service. Instead, this proposal intends to maximise the Bristol Autism Project for Bristol children.

Bristol Autism Project has seen a large increase in membership from 175 different young people in 2019 to over different 630 young people in 2023. Current members living outside the Bristol boundaries would not be affected. This eligibility criteria would be applied to new applications for children from outside the Bristol City Council area from 2024 onwards.

Thank You – The End



Any more questions or feedback, please contact:

The Children's Commissioning Team

Email: jcu@bristol.gov.uk

Title of email: Short Breaks

Consultation Link:

[Short Breaks Consultation 2023 | Ask Bristol
Consultation and Engagement Hub](#)

For more information about
Short Breaks, please look at
The Local Offer website :

[Short breaks \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)