



2019-20 Short Break Funding Schemes Report

Inclusion Support Scheme (ISS) Short Breaks

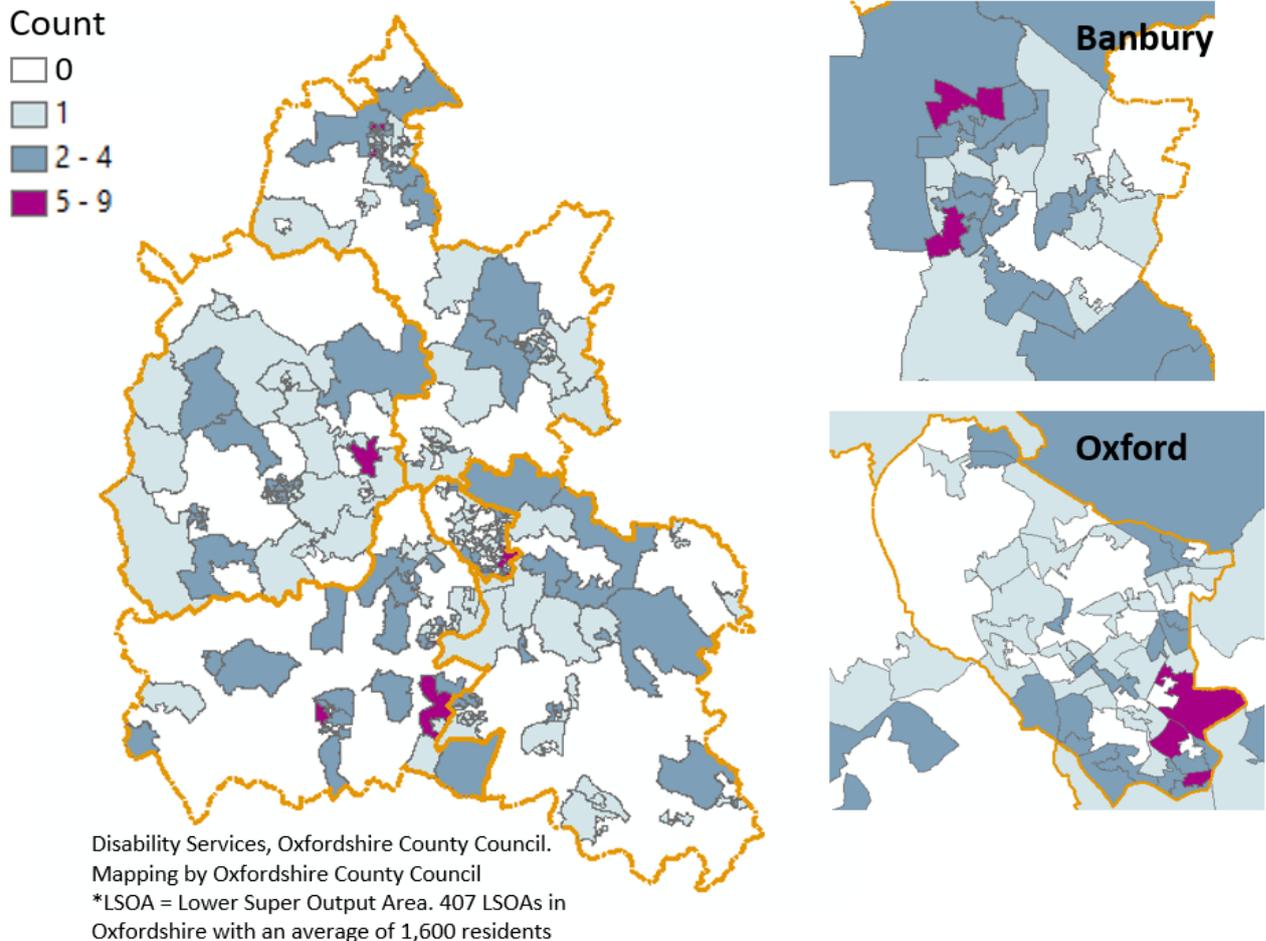
Short Break Transport Scheme

Enabler Support Scheme

Mapping of ISS Transport and Enabler Funded Children

This map shows the distribution of the Short Break funded schemes children within Oxfordshire. There are 419 children that have been mapped. The darker the colour (white, light blue, blue and purple) the more children there are in the area.

Short Break Funding Schemes Children 2019-20 ISS, Transport and Enabler Funding by LSOA*



The highest concentrations of children in the North area (which holds the biggest share of the spend) are in Banbury Hardwick (north part of town), Banbury Bretch Hill (west part of town) along with Hanborough in West Oxfordshire. The districts of Cherwell and West Oxfordshire are a sea of blue compared to the other three districts.

The highest concentrations of children in the Central area are in Lye Valley and Greater Leys (both in the south east part of the city).

The highest concentrations of children in the South area are in Grove (north of Wantage), Abingdon (south part of town) and Hendreds & Harwell (west of Didcot). The northern end of the South Oxfordshire district has far more blue areas than the southern end of the district. The eastern end of the Vale of White Horse district has only a few blue areas.

1. Introduction and Executive Summary

Short Breaks Funding Schemes, Inclusion Support Scheme (ISS), Early Years Inclusion Scheme (EYISS), Transport Funding and Enabler Support Scheme were developed in 2010 to help improve access to holiday play schemes and out of school activities for those children and young people unable to access these without additional support.

In 2019-20 (1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020) **425** individual children and young people have accessed the three Short Break Funding schemes. This is a 5.5% increase compared to last year.

- The budget for 2019-20 was £187,000 with actual spend of £147,157.26
- 341 accessed the Inclusion Support Scheme¹
- 120 accessed the Transport Scheme
- 83 accessed the Enabler Support Scheme

The table below shows that the number of children accessing the three schemes over the last three years has increased (380 to 425). Over the last year there has been an increase in the ISS number.

Funding Stream	2019-20 Children	2018-19 Children	2017-18 Children
All three	425	403	380
ISS	341	305	314
Short Breaks Transport	120	144	106
Enabler Support	83	90	74

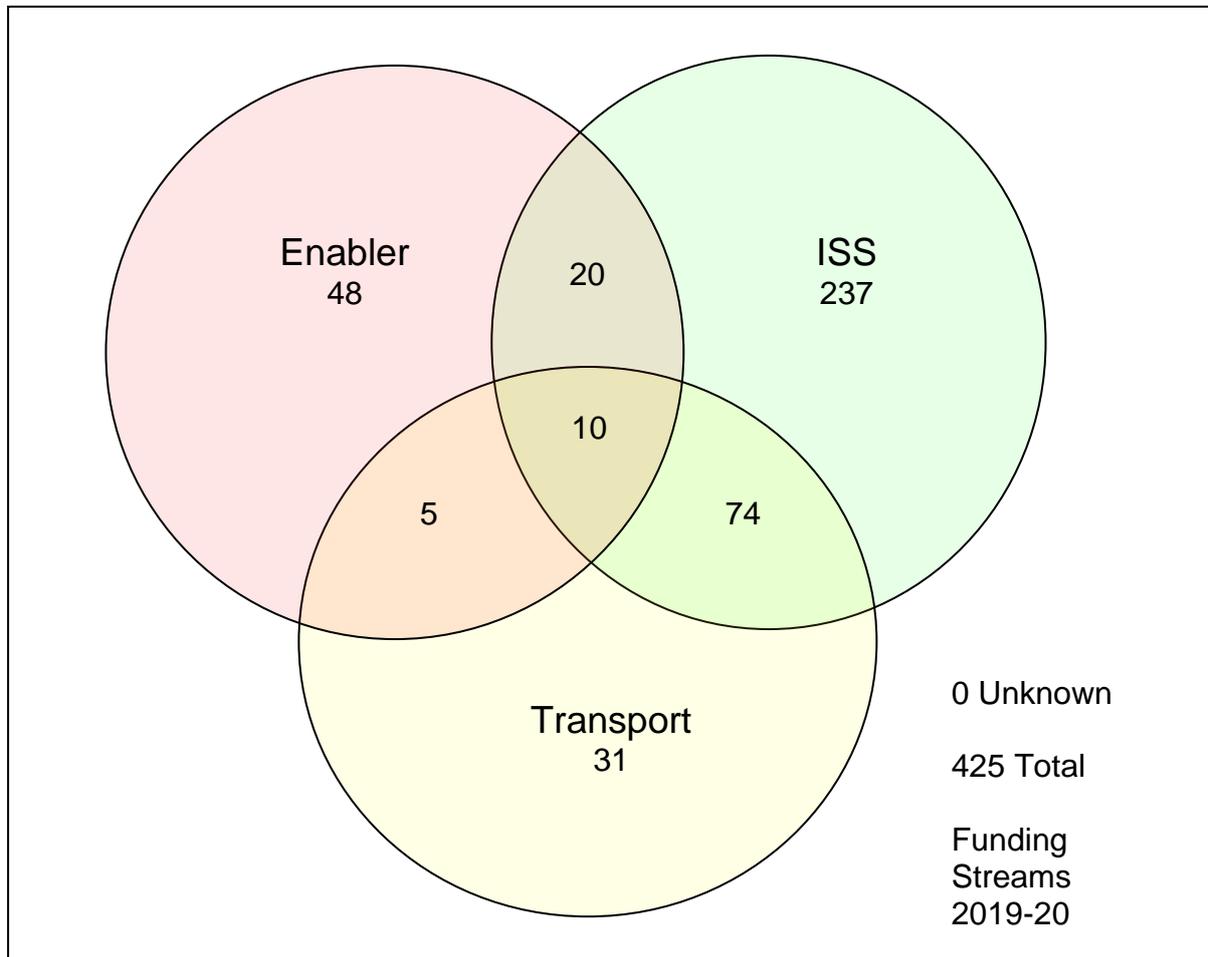
The table below shows an increase in the overall number of applications over the last three years (1285 to 1636). ISS applications have increased compared to last year whilst Short Breaks Transport and Enabler Support applications have decreased.

The number of applications is more than the number of children as applications are made per activity e.g. a request is made for a child to have help with fees to attend a holiday activity. This will be applied for at each holiday period to manage the budget but also to make sure the funding available is shared fairly and not just the most proactive supporters getting the funding.

Funding Stream	2019-20 Applications	2018-19 Applications	2017-18 Applications
All three	1636	1609	1285
ISS	1108	935	928
Short Breaks Transport	365	476	201
Enabler Support	163	198	156

¹ The total of 341 for ISS includes 39 children on EY ISS

The Venn Diagram below shows the overlap between the three schemes



The Venn Diagram contains the 425 children supported by the three funding streams.

- ISS has the most children (341)
- The biggest overlap is ISS and Transport with 74 children (87 last year)
- The second biggest overlap is ISS and Enabler with 20 children (21 last year)
- There is less overlap for Enabler and Transport with 5 children (4 last year)
- 10 children have all three funding streams (12 last year)

The spread of these children across a map of Oxfordshire showing Lower Super Output Areas is in **Appendix 6**.

2. Inclusion Support Scheme (ISS and EYISS)

Inclusion Support Scheme (Short Breaks) is available for help with fees, ISS is for children (aged 5-17 years). EYISS is available to help with fees or extra support to access activities. EYISS is for early years children (aged 0-5 years). EYISS and ISS Funding can only be accessed by families on low income and / or benefits with disabled children.

The EYISS Funding Scheme (Early Years from 0 to 4) was taken on from the Early Years Team in 2017-18 as they no longer had a budget for this. £12,000 was ring fenced for this budget from the Short Break budget.

During April 2019 to March 2020

- 1108 funding applications were successfully granted.
- 341 children and young people have taken part in activities that they would not have been able to access.
- A total of £72,830.44 of funding was agreed.
- In November 2019 the ISS budget was increased from £60,000 to £70,000 due to the increased need for help with fees for children to attend activities.

The ISS budget is in two parts - Early Years ISS (0 to 4 years), and ISS (5 to 17 years).

The tables below show the number of ISS applications, children supported and costs over the last five years.

ISS data

Year	Number of Successful Applications	Number of individual children supported	Actual Cost of the Scheme	Budget for the year
2015-16	725	285	£51,695.86	£50,000
2016-17	764	298	£53,299.67	£50,000
2017-18	892	280	£60,967.06	£60,000
2018-19	895	275	£59,565.58	£60,000
2019-20	1063	302	£64,227.12	£70,000

EY ISS data²

Year	Number of Successful Applications	Number of individual children supported	Actual Cost of the Scheme	Budget for the year
2017-18	36	35	£6,893.05	£12,000
2018-19	40	31	£6,603.76	£12,000
2019-20	45	39	£8,603.32	£12,000

² EY ISS data recording started in 2017-18. Before that it was run by the Early Years SEN Team.

- The number of ISS children has increased from 305 last year (1 child in both ISS and EYISS) to 341 this year – an increase of 12.9%
- The number of ISS successful applications has increased from 935 last year to 1108 this year – an increase of 18.5%

For the EYISS budget, the proportion of it spent for 2019-20 is 71.7%. The first four months (April to July) has 46% of the budget spent – data up to 29/07/2019.

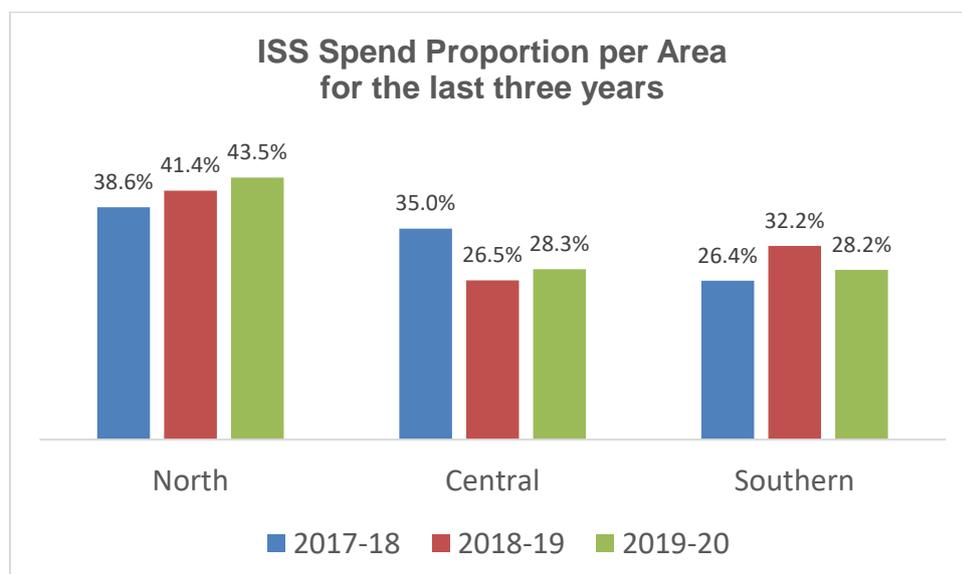
For the ISS budget, the proportion of it spent for 2019-20 is 91.8% on the £70,000 budget. The first four months (April to July) has 66.3% of the budget spent on the £60,000 budget – data up to 30/07/2019.

The table below shows the ISS spend, number of children, number of applications and spend proportion by area for 2019-20 (Both EYISS and ISS).

Area	£ ISS Spend	Number of Children	Number of Applications	Spend Proportion
North	£31,709.78	138	496	43.5%
Central	£20,600.40	98	331	28.3%
Southern	£20,520.26	105	281	28.2%
Total	£72,830.44	341	1108	100.0%

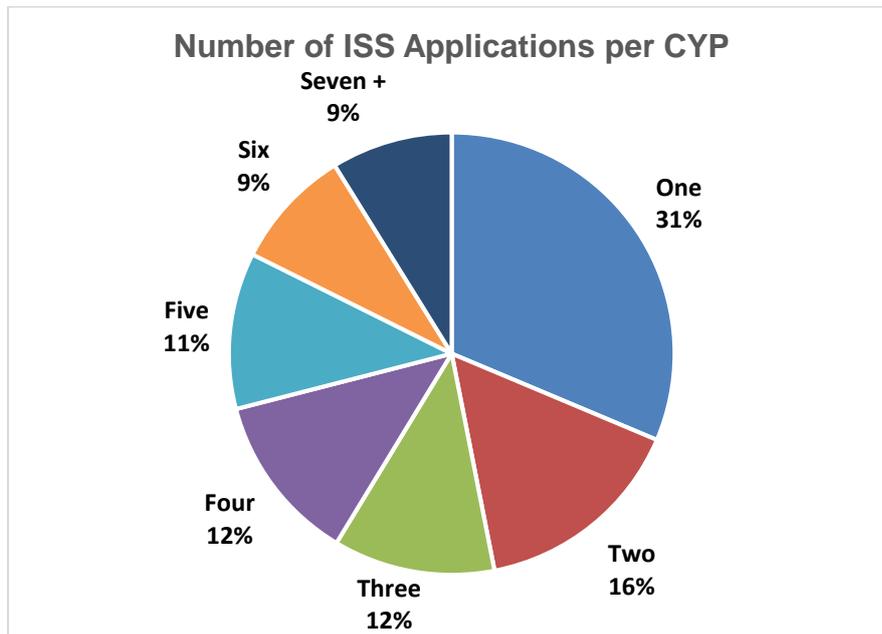
The ISS spend has increased from £66,169.34 in 2018-19 to £72,830.44 in 2019-20. This is an increase of 10.1%.

The graph below shows the proportion of ISS spend per area over the last three years (EYISS and ISS).



The share of the ISS spend in the North area is the highest for all three years and is increasing (38.6% to 43.5%). The Central ISS spend share has decreased (35% to 25.3%) and the Southern ISS spend share has increased (26.4% to 28.2%).

Number of applications per child – the chart below shows the number of ISS applications per child (EY ISS and ISS).



- 107 children and young people have one ISS application
- 53 children and young people accessed two ISS applications
- 40 children and young people accessed three ISS applications
- 42 children and young people accessed four ISS applications
- 39 children and young people accessed five ISS applications
- 30 children and young people accessed six ISS applications
- 16 children and young people accessed seven ISS applications
- 7 children and young people accessed eight ISS applications
- 6 children and young people accessed nine ISS applications
- 1 children and young person accessed ten ISS applications

For 2019-20, 31.4% of children had one application (29.8% last year)
68.6% had more than one application (70.2% last year)
53.1% had three or more applications (54.4% last year)

The number of applications per child can be explained by meeting the needs of a child. One child may really like one activity that they like to do throughout the year, and it is only the cost, which may not be high but is preventing them doing this. An application will be made for them to then have help with the cost of this so that they can attend. Another child may like to go to the holiday club every holiday so that would be 5 or 6 applications made for this purpose. Children may also like to access a variety of activities and an application will need to be made for each one.

The cost of attending activities is generally not high as most are either subsidised as commissioned service or community groups, but the cost would prevent a child from attending. There is a maximum amount per year for each child, £500 for ISS, however most children do not reach this amount and therefore more children are able to be supported. There is also no entitlement to this maximum amount and if all

children had the maximum, we would only be able to support 120 children (£60,000 budget) or 140 children (adjusted £70,000 budget). If the 341 children who received funding this year had £500 each, the budget would be overspent by £100,500³. We also ask parents to contribute to ISS requests and even a contribution of 10% of the activity cost can help to stretch the funding further. This year parental contributions saved £17,456, (£14,352 last year). A few parents will be unable to contribute or will be funding some other Short Break activity for their child.

Children and young people were supported by ISS to access services from a variety of providers. In 2019-20 there were 69 different organisations attended by children and young people in and out of Oxfordshire (74 last year). The organisations include:

- Providers commissioned by the County Council to provide open access to after school activities, holiday activities and youth groups
- Special schools
- Leisure centres, community groups, local schools and pre-schools
- Sports clubs (includes football, gymnastics, horse riding, ice skating, rugby, self-defence, tennis and trampolining).
- Stage school and dance organisations such as Stagecoach
- Motor activities (TRAX)
- Uniform organisations such as Scouts and a Wildlife Club

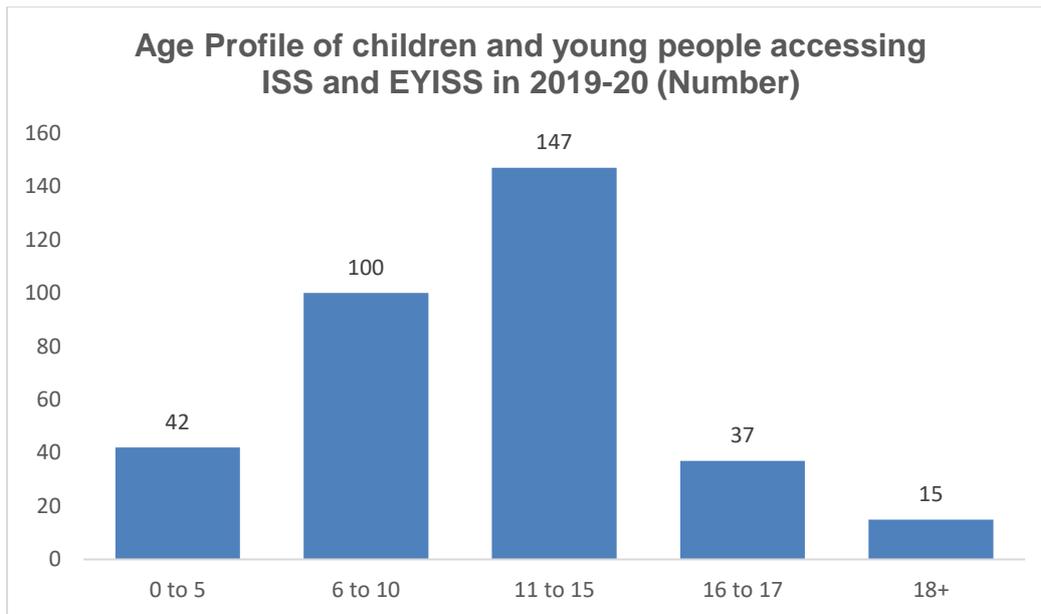
Other areas of support within the EYISS applications include equipment (special chairs, specialist toys and seating unit). The EYISS is limited to £250 per child per year and is generally spent to the maximum as it is mainly used for fees or 1:1 care to support an early years child prior to other funding being put in place. Applications are very much lower and the budget is £12,000. This is generally used to bridge the gap before statutory funding comes into place.

For the 1108 ISS accepted funding applications the highest proportion of activity type is holiday hours at 75.4% (71.6% last year), followed by after school hours at 17.4% (23.4% last year). This covers 92.8% of the funding applications (95% last year).

The remaining 7.2% of the 1108 applications is providing residential nights (25 applications), pre-school hours (17 applications), weekend hours (17 applications), youth hours (9 applications), childminder (5 applications), equipment (5 applications) and transport (2 applications).

Age Group - (age as at 31/03/2020) - the biggest age group for ISS and EYISS children is 11 to 15 with a proportion of 43.1% (147 children) followed by 6 to 10 with a proportion of 29.3% (100 children).

³ This includes the ISS budget of £70,000. It does not include the EYISS budget of £12,000



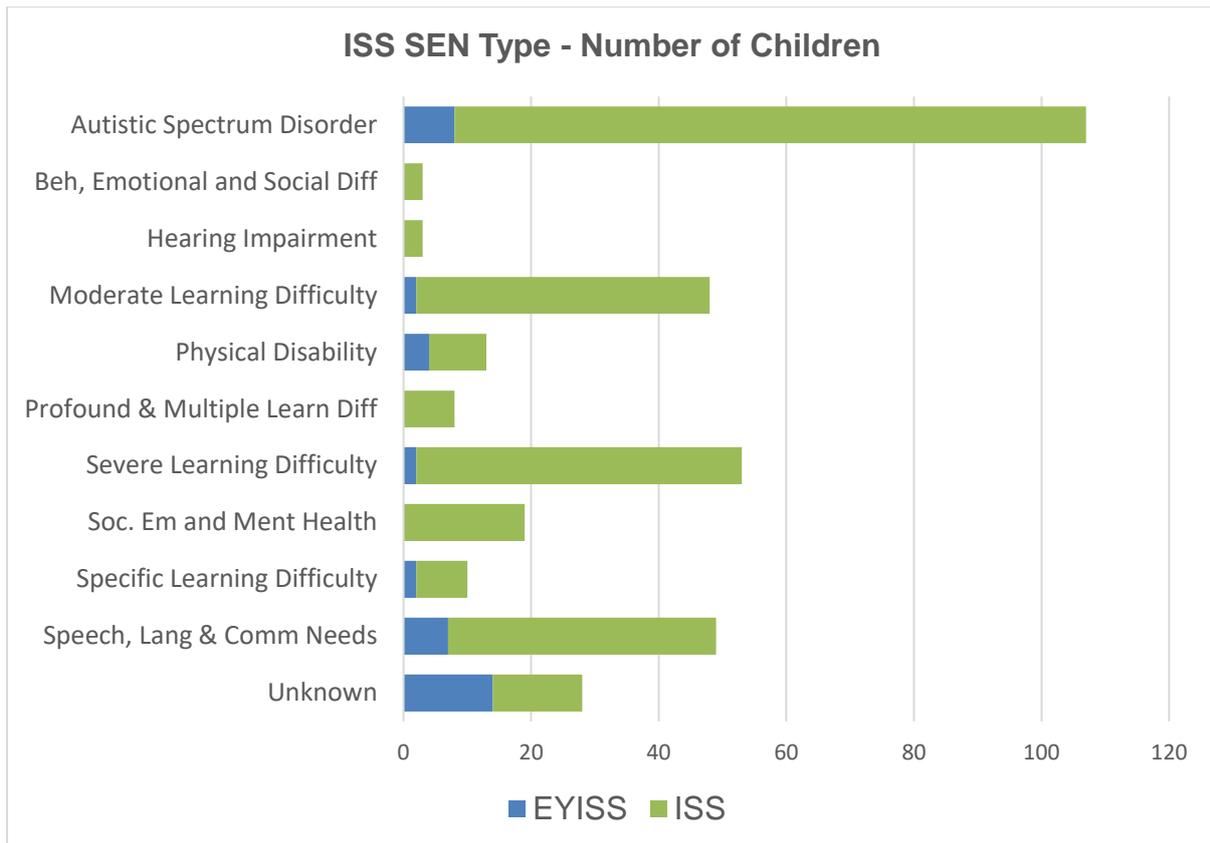
Gender – For the ISS and EYISS children 33.4% are female (114 children) and 66.4% are male (227 children). The proportion of females has increased from 29.8% last year to 33.4% this year.

Ethnic Group – For the ISS and EYISS children 20.5% are “BME” (70 children). This includes 4.1% Asian, 3.8% Black and 12.6% Other. The largest single “BME” group is “Any Other Mixed background” at 4.1% (14 children). The proportion of “BME” children has decreased from 23% last year to 20.5% this year. The Oxfordshire population of “BME” persons aged 0 to 17 is 13.5% (Oxfordshire Census 2011).

SEN ⁴ - The SEN is recorded in the following chart. The top four types are autistic spectrum disorder (107 children), severe learning disability (53 children), speech language and communication needs (49 children) and moderate learning disability (48 children).

There are 63 children who do not have a Primary SEN recorded. For these children 42 have an “Other” SEN recorded which has been added to the SEN bar chart. There are 25 children with no Primary or Other SEN recorded, 14 of these 25 children are aged 0 to 5, so have not yet been diagnosed with a SEN.

⁴ SEN = Special Education Need



There were no ISS children with a visual impairment this year (1 last year).

Free School Meals – in 2019-20 there are 58.4% ISS funded children recorded as being entitled to Free School Meals (199 out of 341). In 2018-19 this proportion was 61.8% and in 2017-18 it was 58.2%.

ISS funded children have a slightly lower proportion on Free School Meals (58.4%) compared to the Transport funding stream (59.2%) and a higher proportion compared to the Enabler funding stream (37.3%). The ISS and Transport funding is helping families with lower incomes so we would expect there to be a higher proportion of them on Free School Meals.

Survey results for Early Years ISS

Survey returns were sent out to 19 applicants who covered 39 children. Survey information has been returned from 15 applicants who covered 33 children. The Early Years ISS surveys were sent out in September 2019 and February 2020.

The return rate per EYISS survey applicant is 78.9% (15 out of 19). Last year this return rate was 60.0% (9 out of 15).

The return rate per EYISS survey child is 84.6% (33 out of 39). Last year this return rate was 57.1% (16 out of 28).

The EYISS funding has benefitted parents who are on a low income with small children who are often doing activities at their nursery school. The children are able to do extra activities in a safe and familiar environment with supportive staff. This is

especially important over the long summer holidays and for their move on to primary school. Some children need specialist equipment to help them (for example toys or seats).

The detail of the Early Years ISS survey results is in **Appendix 1**.

Survey results for ISS

Survey returns were sent out to 24 applicants who covered 274 children. Survey information has been returned from 12 applicants who covered 199 children. The ISS surveys were sent out in March 2020.

The return rate per ISS survey applicant is 50% (12 out of 24).
Last year this return rate was 57.7% (15 out of 26).

The return rate per ISS survey child is 72.6% (199 out of 274).
Last year this return rate was 95.1% (234 out of 246).

The ISS funding has been widely used this year and we had increased the budget by £10,000 to support this extra demand. This has enabled low income families to support their children to attend a wide range of activities. Both child and family benefit from the ISS funding.

One family has written the following:

“The majority of our family have no close friendships outside of school and activities. ISS has not only offered my SEN child the opportunity to get out the house but allowed me to “have” a reason and purpose to get out the house too. We are truly grateful for this ISS support. The past activities have definitely benefitted our interactive skills and my child has learnt new skills while also occasionally interacting with other children whilst at the activity.”

The detail of the ISS survey results is in **Appendix 2**.

An example of a successful ISS application is a young man who has done extremely well in an after school self-defence classes. This has had such a positive impact on his life. ISS funding helped him join the club.



This is Lewis proudly holding his trophy.

The detail of this ISS case is in **Appendix 5**.

3. Short Break Transport Funding

Short Break Transport funding pays for the provision of transport to get children to activities and services which they would otherwise miss out on because there is no other way to get them to an activity. The children are aged 5 – 17 years.

During April 2019 to March 2020:-

- 120 children have been supported
- 365 transport applications were agreed
- £43,124.98 for transport was awarded

Over the past five years the number of applications, children supported, and costs are as follows:

Year	Number of Successful Applications	Number of individual children supported	Actual Cost of the Scheme	Budget for the year
2015-16	230	104	£43,649.31	£45,000
2016-17	282	100	£62,649.25	£45,000
2017-18	201	106	£37,074.70 ⁵	£55,000
2018-19	476	144	£67,154.38	£55,000
2019-20	365	120	£43,124.98	£55,000

The number of children supported has decreased from 144 in 2018-19 to 120 in 2019-20. Spending has also decreased compared to the previous year.

Compared to last year there has been a large reduction in transport spend relating to the following providers:-

Two providers (Bardwell School and Yellow Submarine) have reported reduced demand. Young adults have left the Transport funding scheme on reaching the age of 18. These have not necessarily been replaced by new families coming in. Some members who regularly used transport in the past have moved and no longer require support.

Capacity at Yellow Submarine sessions may mean that young people are only offered one session a week whereas in the past they may have been offered more which may have reduced the amount of transport required.

One service (Bardwell School) has reported a reduction in the use of taxis and an increase in the use of mini buses so children are grouped together and the costs reduced. One child who no longer has to be transported from Banbury to Bicester has also reduced costs for this provider.

⁵ Lower transport spends in 2017-18 could be due to inaccurate billing by Fleet. Some charges for Fleet Services, an internal service had not been charged until 2018-19

Some families fund their own transport through Personal Budgets and privately.

Providers are careful with the way the Transport funding is requested, a comment from one of them is as follows: *“We only request for the families that truly require it”*

For the Transport budget, the proportion of it spent for 2019-20 is 78.4%. The first four months (April to July) has 49.6% of the budget spent.

Over the last three years there have been changes to the Transport budget:-

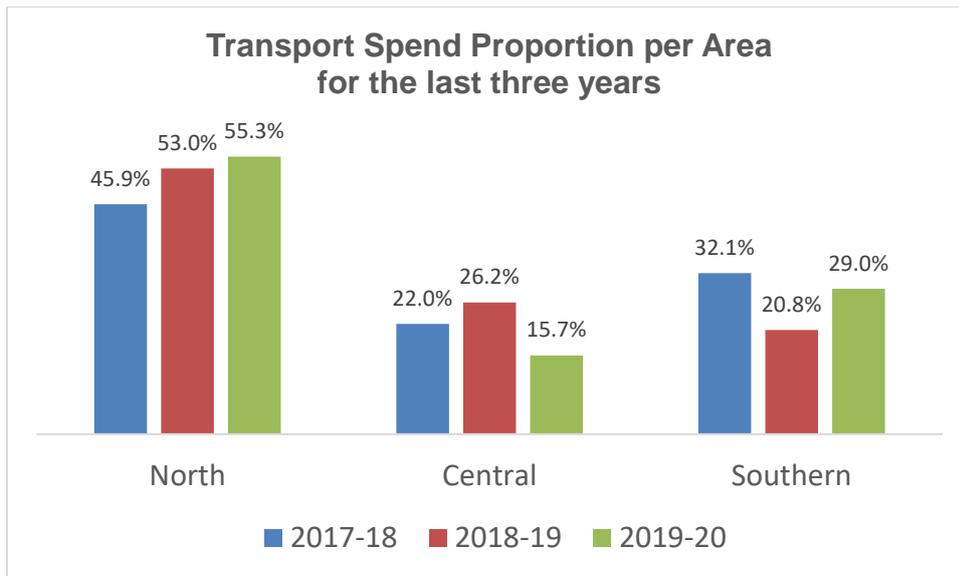
- The Transport budget was increased to £55,000 in 2017-18 as it had been overspent in 2016-17.
- Stricter criteria for after school transport requests were brought in soon after because of escalating costs. These criteria were for exceptional circumstances for a child to have transport requested for an after school activity through the Short Breaks Transport budget to help reduce the demand on the transport budget. :-
- In 2018-19 the spend on the budget was significantly higher as Fleet services charged late and was slightly higher to the Short Breaks budget than had been estimated. The budget was overspent.
- In 2019-20 close communication ensured that Fleet charged after each holiday period in order that the budget spend was accurate.

The following table shows the Transport budget spend, number of children, number of applications and spend proportion by area for 2019-20:-

Area	£ Transport Spend	Number of Children	Number of applications	Spend Proportion
North	£23,854.12	70	231	55.3%
Central	£6,776.83	20	37	15.7%
Southern	£12,494.03	30	97	29.0%
Total	£43,124.98	120 ⁶	365	100.0%

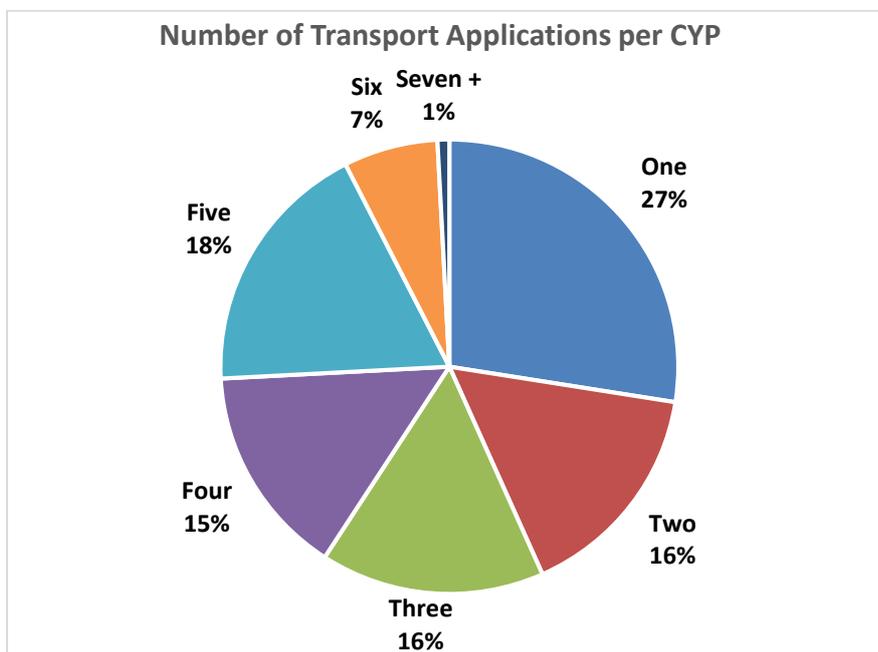
The chart below shows the proportion of Short Break Transport spend per area:-

⁶ Area information is based on where the child lives



The share of the Transport spend in the North area is the highest for all three years and is increasing (45.9% to 55.3%). The Central Transport spend share has decreased (22% to 15.7%) and the Southern Transport spend share has also decreased (32.1% to 29%).

Number of applications per child – the chart below shows the number of Short Break Transport funding applications per child:-



- 33 children and young people have one transport application
- 19 children and young people accessed two transport applications
- 19 children and young people accessed three transport applications
- 18 children and young people accessed four transport applications
- 22 children and young people accessed five transport applications
- 8 children and young people accessed six transport applications

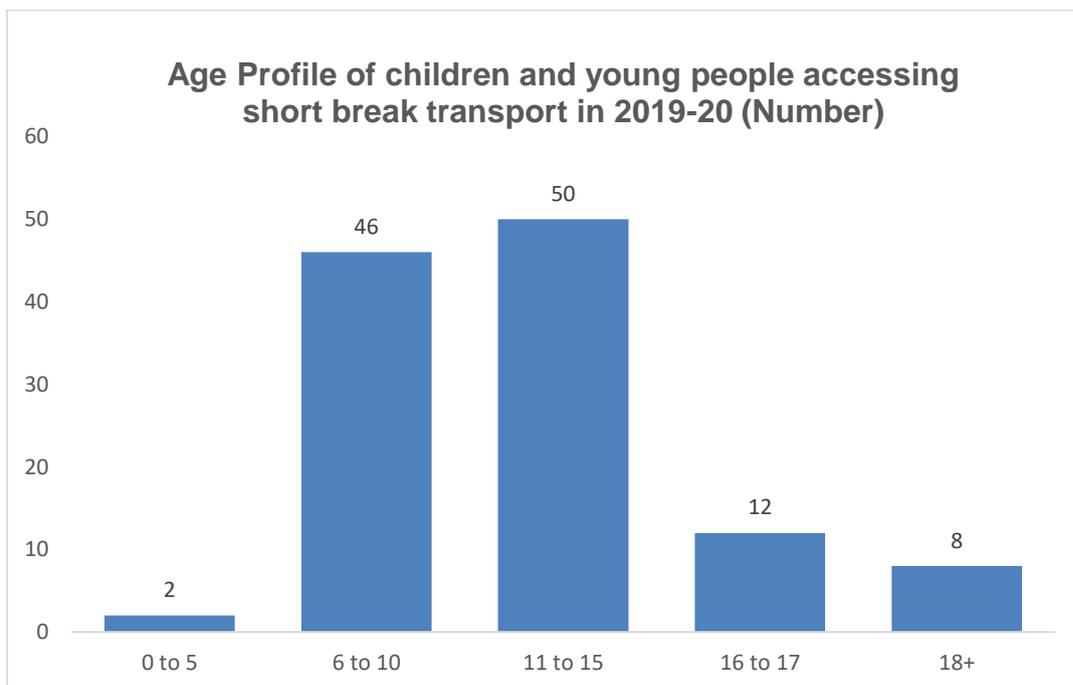
- 1 children and young people accessed seven transport applications

There has been a decrease in the number of applications per child from 3.31 in 2018-19 to 3.04 in 2019-20. This year only one child has had seven or more applications. Last year 14 children had seven or more applications.

For 2019-20, 27.5% of children had one application (31.3% last year).
72.5% had more than one application (68.3% last year).
56.7% had three or more applications (54.2% last year).

For the 365 Transport Funding applications the highest proportion of activity type is holiday hours at 97.5% (90.8% last year). This is followed by after school hours at 1.9% (5.7% last year). This covers 99.5% all the funding applications. The remaining 0.5% is youth hours.

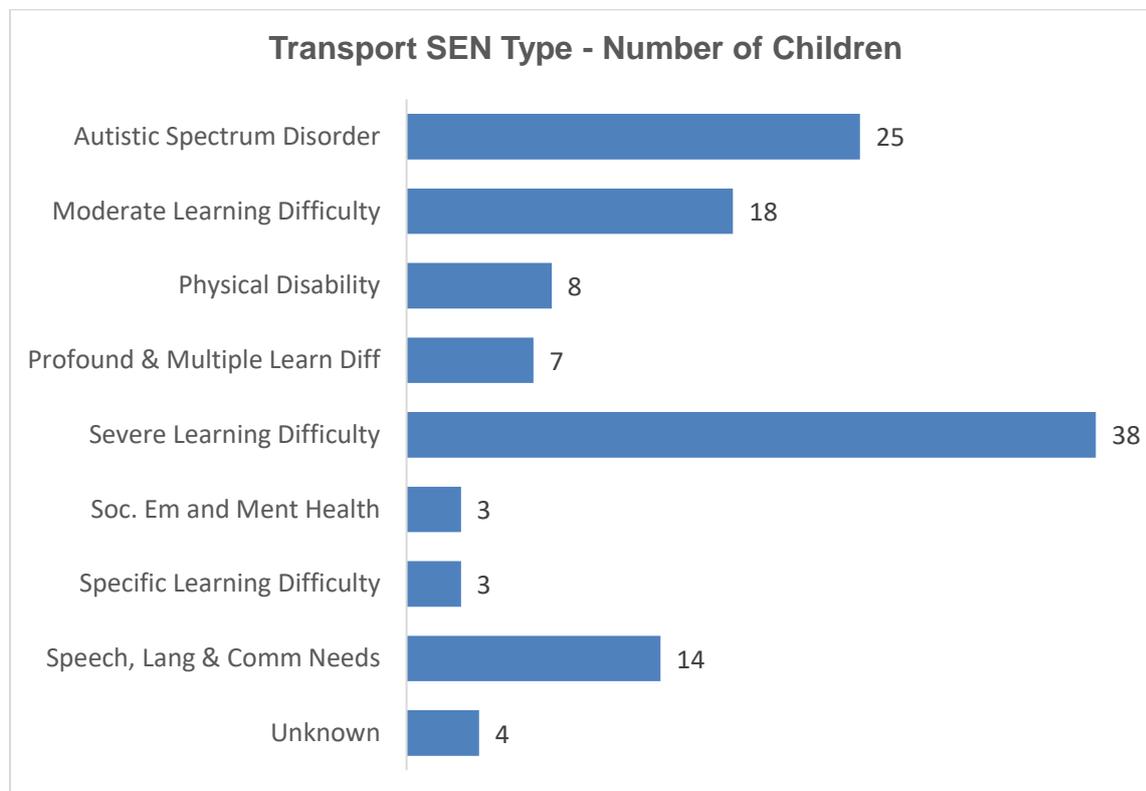
Age Group (age as at 31/03/2020) - The biggest age group for Short Break Transport children is 11 to 15 years with a proportion of 41.7% (50 children) followed by 6 to 10 years with a proportion of 38.3% (46 children). Two children have an Unknown age group.



Gender – for the Short Break Transport children, 40.8% are female (49 children) and 59.2% are male (71 children). The proportion of females has increased from 31.9% last year to 40.8% this year.

Ethnic Group – 28.3% are “BME” (34 children). This includes 8.3% Asian, 6.7% Black and 13.3% Other. The largest single “BME” group is Black African at 5% (6 children). The proportion of “BME” children has stayed almost the same from 28.5% last year to 28.3% this year.

SEN – The SEN is recorded in the following chart. The top three disability types are severe learning disability (38), autistic spectrum disorder (25) and moderate learning disability (18).



Free School Meals – Of the 120 Short Break Transport funded children 59.2% are recorded as being entitled to Free School Meals (71 out of 120)⁷ In 2018-19 this proportion was 61.8% and in 2017-18 it was 59.4%.

Transport is booked through the Local Authority School and Social Care Transport Team. Applications can only be made by identified Professionals. Once costed approval is sent for to the Development Manager/Officer.

Survey results for Short Break Transport

A survey was sent out to all applicants requesting transport for children. The survey was sent out in May 2020 and June 2020. Summary information has been received by 10 out of the 20 applicants (50% return rate). This covers 82 of the 117 children covered by the transport survey (70.1% of them).

Transport funding has been vital to many families, enabling their children to access holiday provision services. Without this many of them would not be able to get to Short Break activities, either due to a lack of transport in the family or children with behaviour needs requiring the regular routine of transport. This would mean less respite for families and less independence for children.

The detail of the Short Break Transport summary information is in **Appendix 3**.

⁷ This high proportion of Free School Meal children helps to confirm that the short break transport funding is supporting the most vulnerable children.

4. Enabler Support Scheme

Enabler Support provides one to one support for disabled children and young people to access a wide range of activities, primarily mainstream or a specialist service that they would otherwise be unable to engage with without someone to support them. The Enabler Support funding can also support specialist equipment or staff training to take part in the activity. This support is generally time limited with the aim that as children settle and staff in the group gain better awareness, the one to one support can be withdrawn. It is recognised some children will always need some extra support.

During April 2019 to March 2020

- 83 children have been supported
- 163 applications were agreed
- The total cost of these applications is £31,201.84
- We have seen a significant decrease in one area with the departure of a professional who both provided activities and supported families to access other activities that would have needed Enabler Support. This has led to a large reduction of expenditure in this area from £13,326.81 last year to £2,358.81 this year
- In November 2019 it was decided to reduce the Enabler budget from £60,000 to £50,000, due to reduced demand and increased demand on the ISS budget by increasing this by the £10,000.

The Enabler Scheme started in September 2016. Over the past two full years the number of applications, children supported, and costs are as follows:-

Year	Number of Successful Applications	Number of individual children supported	Actual Cost of the Scheme	Budget for the year
2017-18	156	74	£32,112.77	£60,000
2018-19	198	90	£50,757.94 ⁸	£60,000
2019-20	163	83	£31,201.84 ⁹	£50,000

For the Enabler budget, the proportion of it spent for 2019-20 is 62.4%. The first four months (April to July) has 38.2% of the budget spent – data up to 29/07/2019. Previous years have a proportion budget spend of 84.6% for last year and 53.5% for the year before.

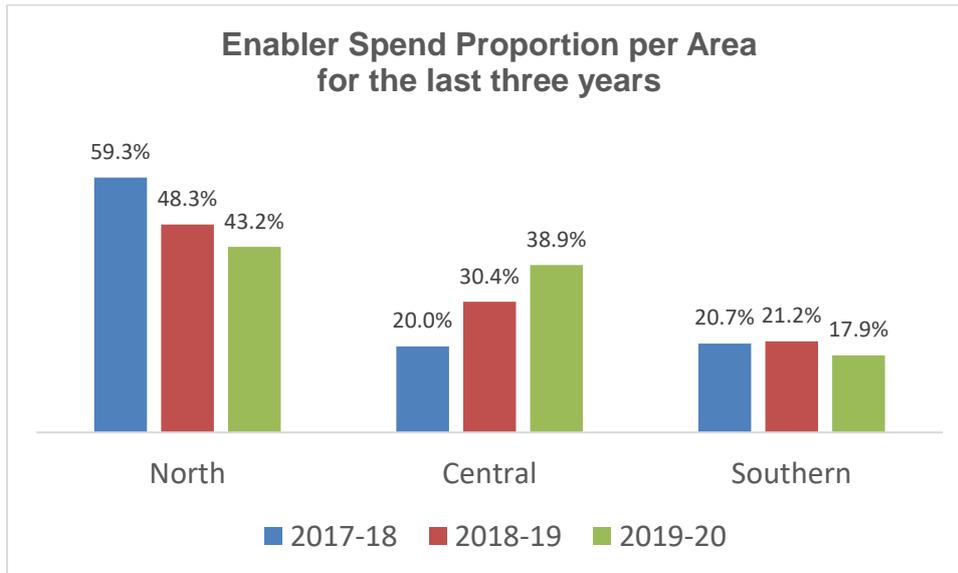
The following table shows the Enabler budget spend, number of children, number of applications and spend proportion by area for 2019-20:-

⁸ The 2018-19 Enabler spend includes £600 spent on childminder training (£200 per area). Childminder training was to provide childminders with the right skills to support more disabled children.

⁹ The 2019-20 Enabler spend includes £440 spent on Heart to Heart practitioner training (equal share per area)

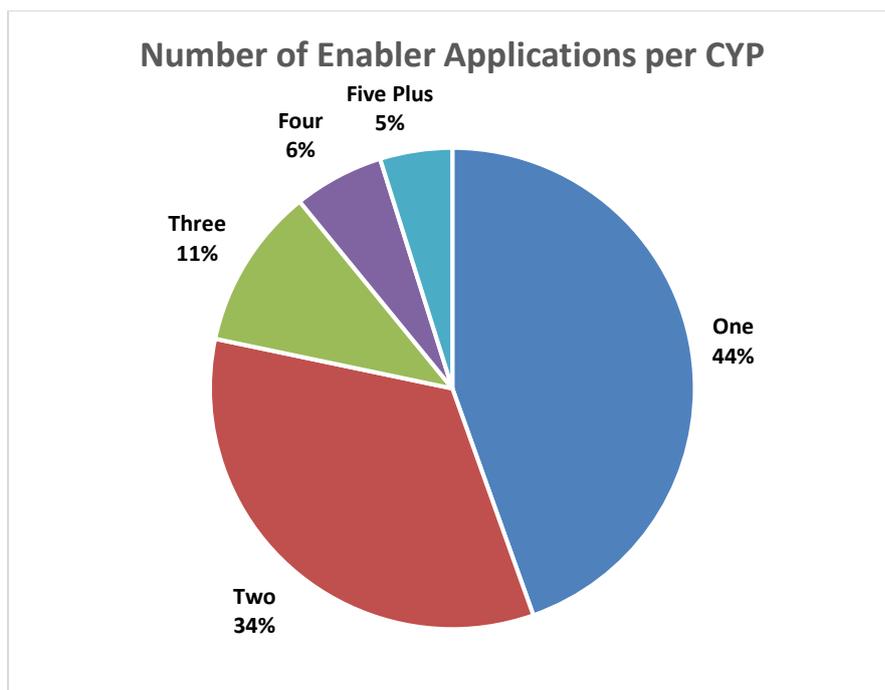
Area	£ Enabler Spend	Number of Children	Number of applications	Spend Proportion
North	£13,469.06	38	67	43.2%
Central	£12,138.29	33	72	38.9%
Southern	£5,594.50	12	24	17.9%
Total	£31,201.84	83	163	100.0%

The chart below shows the proportion of Enabler spend per area:-



The share of the Enabler spend in the North area is the highest for all three years and is decreasing (59.3% to 43.2%). The Central Enabler spend share has increased (20% to 38.9%) and the Southern Enabler spend share has decreased (20.7% to 17.9%).

Number of applications per child – the chart below shows the number of Enabler applications per child. Some of the applications were for the same service with a different period.



- 37 children and young people have one enabler application
- 28 children and young people accessed two enabler applications
- 9 children and young people accessed three enabler applications
- 5 children and young people accessed four enabler applications
- 2 children and young people accessed five enabler applications
- 1 children and young people accessed six enabler applications
- 1 child and young people accessed seven enabler applications

For 2019-20, 44.6% of children had one application (53.3% last year)
55.4% had more than one application (46.7% last year)
21.7% had three or more applications (33.3% last year) – a decrease

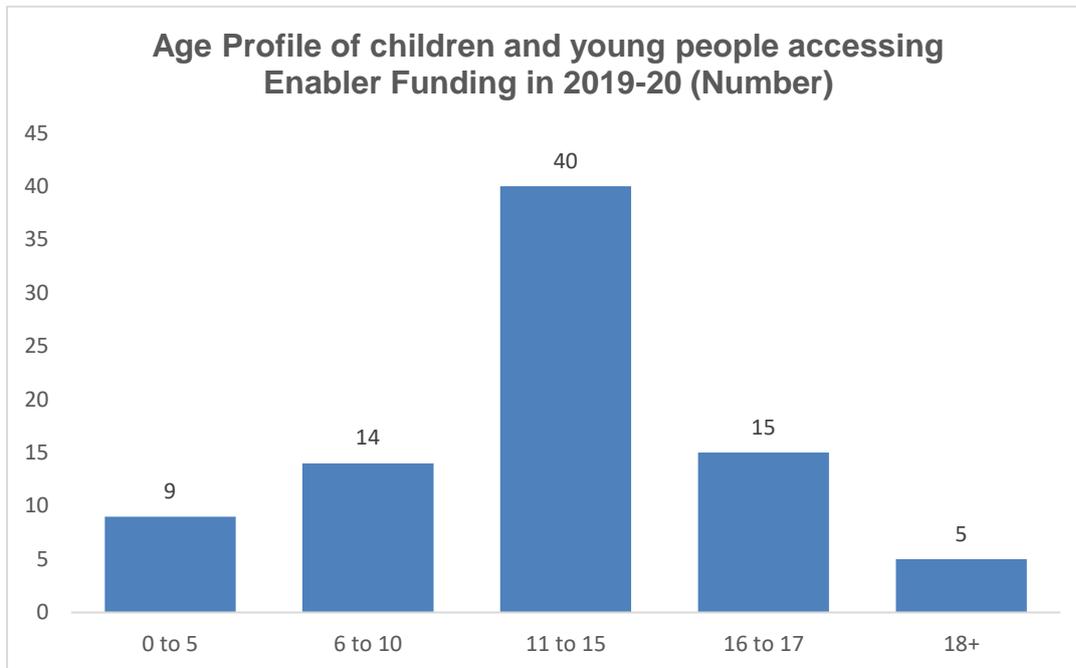
Type of Activity (applications) - For the 163 Enabler applications the biggest activity group are holiday activities at 66.9% (109 applications). Last year this was 77.8%. This is followed by weekend activities at 13.5% (22 applications) and after school activities at 12.9% (21 applications). The remaining eleven applications are residential (5), youth (4), pre-school (1) and equipment (1).

Children and young people were supported by the Enabler fund to access services from a variety of providers. In 2019-20 there were 24 different organisations attended by children and young people. The organisations include:

- Providers commissioned by the County Council to provide services to more able children, not funded for 1:1 support.
- Other mainstream providers including Adventure Plus, Cherwell Holiday Hub and Tudor Hall Camp.
- Leisure centres, community groups, local schools and pre-schools including Windrush Leisure, Comper School and Grandpont Nursery.
- Craft clubs including Artworks.

- Stage school, music and dance organisations such as Pegasus Theatre and Oxfordshire County Council Centre for Music.

Age Group - (age as at 31/03/2020) - The biggest age group for Enabler support children is 11 to 15 with a proportion of 48.2% (40 children) followed by 6 to 10 with a proportion of 16.9% (14 children).

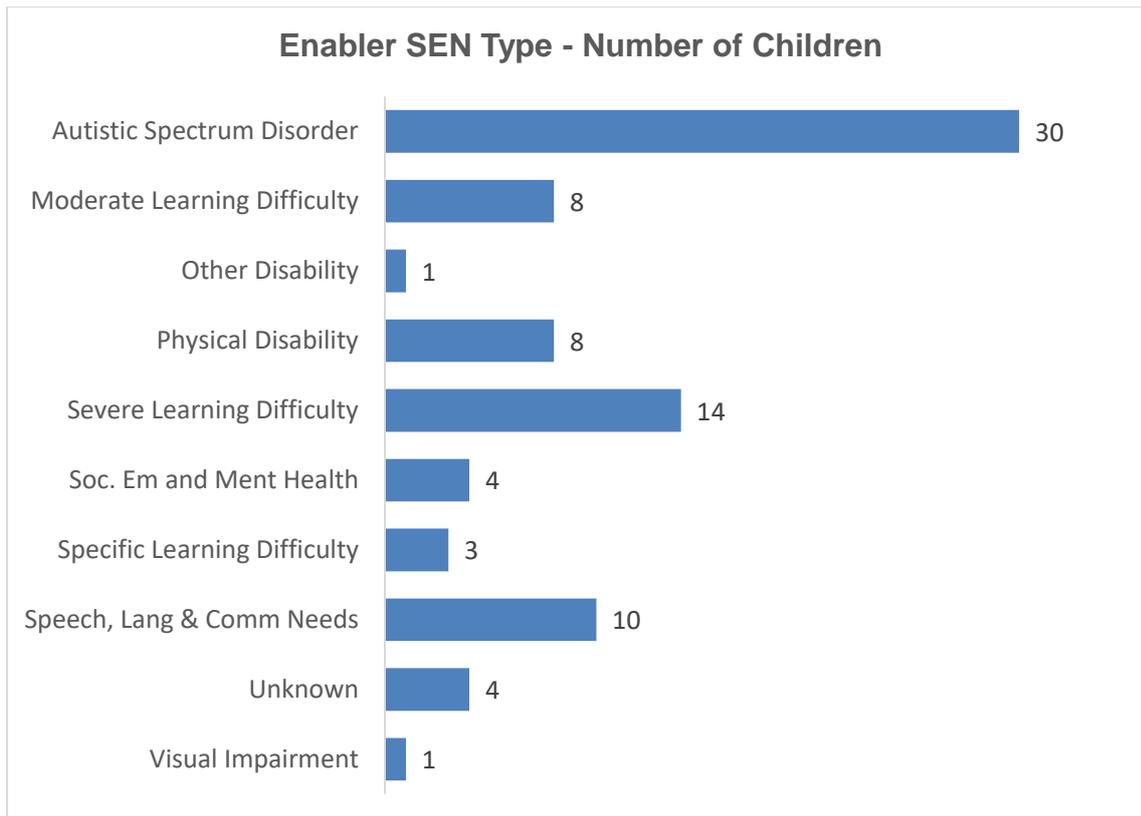


Gender – For the Enabler Support children, 33.7% are female (28 children) and 66.3% are male (55 children). The proportion of females has increased from 32.2% last year to 33.7% this year.

Ethnic Group – 18.1% are “BME” (15 children). This includes 1.2% Asian, 4.8% Black and 12% Other. The largest single “BME” group is “Any Other Mixed background” at 4.8% (4 children). The proportion of “BME” children has increased from 12.2% last year to 18.1% this year.

SEN – The SEN is recorded in the following chart. The top three types are autistic spectrum disorder (30), severe learning difficulty (14) and speech language and communication needs (10).

There are 9 children who do not have a Primary SEN recorded. For these children 5 have “Other” SEN recorded which has been added to the SEN bar chart. There are 4 children with no Primary or Other SEN recorded, 3 of these 4 children are aged 0 to 5 years, so have not yet been diagnosed with a SEN.



Free School Meals – Of the 83 Enabler Support funded children 37.3% are recorded as being entitled to Free School Meals (31 out of 83)¹⁰. This is an increase from last year where the proportion was 28.9%. Enabler funding is not related to low income families but is about needing some type of support to attend a group they would otherwise be unable to attend.

Enabler Form Reviews – All Providers are asked to complete a review form as part of their funding. There are **100** Enabler form reviews which have been completed and returned for 2019-20 Enabler applications. Some of the Enabler form reviews cover more than one person. The 100 Enabler form returns cover 133 of the 163 applications. This is a return rate of 81.6%. The main non-returns were where a member of staff has left (17 applications) and OCC Centre for Music (9 applications) where a member of staff had been on sick leave.

The Enabler funding is shown to be a huge benefit for the child and the family. An enabler plays a key role to the child or young person to attend an activity, building their confidence, supporting new friendships and promoting growing independence.

The following paragraph is a providers account of the progress made by one child:-

“The child is becoming part of the group and is now used to the setting and learning lots of new skills. The child still requires the one to one support workers total attention, but he is beginning to accept help from other tutors. This requires the child to be patient and to occasionally work independently. This is something we are

¹⁰ Free School Meals information from ONE database header records, children who receive a Free School Meal now or in the past

working towards. I know if we suddenly removed the one to one support the child might find this a challenge.”

The detail of the Enabler Form Review results is in **Appendix 4**.

Plans for future Enabler development will include:-

- Ensuring a higher rate of return of review forms.
- Encourage greater use of the scheme and promote it further.
- Encourage greater use of the scheme in the Central and South areas.

5. Conclusion

The Short Break Funding schemes for 2019-20 has been successful with:-

- Increased numbers of children in ISS.
- Increased numbers of children across all three funding streams.
- EYISS and ISS spend are higher than last year.
- None of the budgets have been overspent.

ISS – Compared to last year there has been an increase in spending of the ISS budget. This would have been overspent had there not been a transfer of £10,000 from the Enabler Support budget. ISS spend per child of over £500 has been carefully monitored this year.

Transport – This funding is an area of on-going discussion between providers and transport funders. Currently forms are being used to request transport as the new software system has not yet been implemented for Short Break Transport requests.

- We need to increase access to the Transport budget in the Central and Southern areas - work to be done with Disability Teams, Providers and Community groups.
- Close liaison with the Transport Team Officer in order to ensure all applications are discussed, approved and monitored.
- Work with the Central Disability Team to ensure all their Short Break transport is funded through this budget.

Enabler – We need to find a way to promote this funding stream to a wider number of providers across a wider area. Propose new publication and promotion in particular to the areas where we would like to see an increase such as schools, community groups and parent groups.

All applicants are expected to complete an evaluation as part of the agreed funding, where an applicant had changed jobs or retired this was not possible.

A focus for next year for the three funding streams is to encourage greater use of them in the Central and Southern areas. The Northern area has continued to have

the largest share of spending for all three funding streams. Providers in Oxford City, Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire will be contacted about this.

The challenge to meet seasonal “spikes” in demand will always be there with the lead up to the Easter, Summer and Winter holiday breaks being the most concentrated areas of activity. All applications have to be made within an agreed timescale in advance to allow time for review and approval prior to processing for payment.

From March 2020 onwards the Covid-19 pandemic has and will pose an enormous challenge for us. The way the Short Break funded activities are carried out has had to change. Within the last two weeks of March 2020 many activities had to be cancelled and an “Emergency Covid-19” budget was made available for funded places for vulnerable or key worker families rather than using ISS funding. This will be reflected in next years report and it is likely budgets will be underspent. From June 2020 normal fee charges will be made to families and/or applications for ISS will be made.

Each year we are able to show that this funding not only makes a positive difference to each child but also to each child’s family.

Danny Hearn
Disability Services Development Officer
23/07/2020

Appendix 1 - Survey results for Early Years ISS (2019-20)

The return rate per EYISS survey applicant is 78.9% (15 out of 19).

The return rate per EYISS survey child is 84.6% (33 out of 39)

Last year returns from 9 applicants were received.

The main themes from the answers to the questions are listed below:-

Question 1 - What has the Early Years ISS funding been used for?

Allowing children to attend nursery during holidays is a key issue for this funding. The funding was also used for one to one support, equipment and training.

- Children with disabilities could continue to visit familiar educational settings during the summer holiday break.
- Equipment (including alternative seating and specialised play equipment and a communication aid)
- To have in-house training for “Making Sense of Autism”,

Question 2 - What difference did the Early Years ISS funding make to the families?

The children, the parents and the wider family all benefit, especially over the long summer holiday period.

- It provides consistency for the children and some respite for the parents
- Allowed parent to spend more quality time with child’s older siblings
- The families were so very grateful for the scheme as they had found little provision for their children over the summer period
- Gave child and parent time to be away from each other
- Helped single parent where the child has challenging behaviour

Question 3 - What difference did the Early Years ISS funding make to the children?

There is a whole host of benefits for a child’s skills, development and transition from nursery to school.

- These opportunities can broaden the child’s world view by exposing them to other children, animals, sports and activities.
- Gives the child time to interact with other children
- Developed communication and interaction skills
- Able to access the learning environment through the summer which has supported their development
- The children benefit emotionally and physically when they are outdoors and running around.
- It helped child to have a good transition to school where the child was involved in school readiness activities

Question 4 - What would happen if Early Years ISS funding was not provided?

- Child would lose out on critical interaction with peers.
- Families would have been more stressed and less able to cope throughout the summer period when so much is closed.
- Parents on low income would have been left out.
- Parent would have not been able to spend the time with child's older siblings and family members.
- The funding has helped provide stability (for example - children with seriously unwell parent who had to attend lots of medical appointments)

Question 5 - How successful do you think the Early Years ISS funding arrangements have been?

All respondents have answered positively with "very successful" (8), "successful" (2), "very good" (2), "extremely successful" (1), "fine" (1) and "helpful" (1).

- *"It gives families who would not otherwise be able to afford it, access to short term funding for children to be nurtured by familiar adults during a very difficult period."*
- *"We know the families are very hopeful the scheme will run next year."*

Question 6 - Was the Early Years ISS funding application process easy to understand and access?

Twelve applicants answered "Yes". The other three were - applied for by OCC member of staff (1), used to work for OCC so not difficult (1) and yes after correct documentation had been found (1).

There is an issue over posting the forms:

- Yes although it should not state that forms can be posted when it was preferred that they were sent electronically

Question 7 - Did you receive a decision about Early Years ISS funding within a reasonable time?

Twelve applicants answered "Yes". The other three were - applied for by OCC member of staff (1), "No" (1) and Not completed (1). The one "No" response is as follows:

- *"There was some miscommunication and I had to make an enquiry again before we got any confirmation letter. It took nearly two months to receive the confirmation."*

Question 8 - Any further comments you would like to make

Six applicants answered this question

- I believe this funding is invaluable to families and children in need.
- We are very grateful that we have received this funding.

One respondent has made the following suggestion

- *“I still think it’s a shame that the ISS funding and the enabler funding cannot be combined so that you just need to fill out one form as they both need nearly the same information and often I need to apply for both for a child with additional needs to come to our holiday playscheme. It did work really well for this particular family especially as they had a social worker who coordinated things so they could get both children into different playschemes on the same day but with different times for drop off and pick-ups.”*

Appendix 2 - Survey results for ISS (2019-20)

The return rate per ISS survey applicant is 50% (12 out of 24).

The return rate per ISS survey child is 72.6% (199 out of 274).

Last year returns from 15 applicants were received.

The main themes from the answers to the questions are listed below:-

Question 1 - What has the ISS funding been used for?

The ISS funding is used across after school, holiday and youth activities. A large amount of different activities take place.

- To enable disabled children from low-income families to attend.
- Used to include disabled children and young people in mainstream play, social and leisure activities alongside their non-disabled peers.
- The variety of activities include - boat trips, water sports, group meals out, horse riding lessons, football, rugby, multi-sports, karate; tae kwon do, small group swimming lessons, tennis, gymnastics, singing, dancing, drama, ice skating and trampolining.

Question 2 - What difference did the Early Years ISS funding make to the families?

The need to help vulnerable families on low income is a key issue, along with the need for respite and the reassurance of having a safe place for the child.

- This is a particular help to vulnerable families on low income.
- Parent was able to go to work to provide for the family.
- The funding allowed families to receive much-needed respite.
- The school holidays, particularly the long summer break can prove particularly challenging and respite is essential for the wellbeing of all.
- Allows families to have a break from their caring role.
- To have a provision that is a safe environment for their children and young adults to be able to go where they are secure in the knowledge that they will be well cared for is paramount for families.
- Rest of the family also benefits by siblings having more time with their parent(s).

Question 3 - What difference did the ISS funding make to the children?

Child development is a key issue in the activities funded by ISS:-

- It allowed children to engage, play and learn during the school holidays.
- Allows children to make new friends and join in with activities they would not otherwise have the opportunity to do.
- Opportunity to practice social skills and communication skills.
- Enables children to do fun things outside of school and family.
- Develop a greater sense of freedom and independence from their families.
- The children were able to have fun in a safe and supportive caring environment.
- Have the freedom and confidence to be themselves.
- Would be socially isolated without this.
- We encourage young people to challenge themselves, take risks and try new things; we use a public spa.
- Holiday activities give young people something positive to look forward to and have fun.

On a residential holiday, children had the chance to learn important group skills:-

- Without exception all the young people experienced opportunities they had not previously. A number had never been away from home before.
- Learning to share time and space with others.
- Respect other choices values and decisions.

Question 4 - What would happen if ISS funding was not provided?

The main issue is the children would not have been able to attend the ISS funded activities. Other members of the family – parent and siblings would also be impacted.

- Children would be unable to attend activities without this subsidy.
- They would be isolated from their peers and spend the majority of the holidays within the family home.
- There were no other means of enabling the young people to experience these activities without funding.
- Some of our families are near crisis point and without us would not have any opportunity to access leisure activities.
- Parent would be unable to go to work.
- Increases stress of finding childcare to enable families to work, emotional stress of caring responsibilities and meeting the needs of non-disabled siblings in the family.
- The charity would be forced to raise additional funds to cover the cost of their inclusion.
- There would be an adverse effect on low income families, especially those who are deprived and vulnerable.

Question 5 - How successful do you think the ISS funding arrangements have been?

All applicants have responded that the ISS funding has been successful:-

- A great system as it gives us a chance to support the families.
- It is evident a great deal of time and effort is put into securing such funding which in my view significantly enhances the quality and experiences of life for the young people able to access them.

Two applicants have added these additional comments:-

- *“Administration of the fund was initially problematic with social workers struggling to manage the necessary paperwork. In liaison with the Disability team we arranged to take on all ISS applications and have found the system to work well.”*
- *“The only negative is lack of communication in one aspect regarding child’s funding. I had no idea that the child was receiving funding for Barnardo’s which meant we had a shortfall for after school care.”*

Question 6 - Was the ISS funding application process easy to understand and access?

Eleven of the twelve applicants answered “Yes”

- Yes - Although online application would be much better.
- Yes - There has been some confusion over who is applying for the funding, but once this has been cleared up, it is a straight-forward process.

The response from the one applicant who did not answer “Yes”

- The process is fairly complicated but the support available has been helpful.

Question 7 - Did you receive a decision about ISS funding within a reasonable time?

All applicants have responded with a “Yes”

- The administration of the ISS fund is very well organised. We get immediate responses to applications and queries.
- The decision for the ISS funding has always come back quickly.

Question 8 - Any further comments you would like to make

Five applicants answered this question

- This is a crucial provision and supports us to ensure we meet our contractual obligations of providing access to those most in need.
- Families could not provide safe and secure places for their children with Special Educational Needs to attend.
- Being able to access and experience opportunities should not be based on circumstance. Having a disability can often mean opportunities have a higher cost. This may be due to accessibility or may be due to resources such as

staffing needed. ISS funding helps to break down barriers and give these opportunities.

One comment on the ISS application forms:

- The forms can be somewhat repetitive, particularly when making applications for members who come each holiday and whose needs haven't changed. Flexibility with deadlines is much appreciated, as we frequently have late applications/changes to bookings. Often it is our most vulnerable families who make late requests and are in most need of funding.

Appendix 3 – Summary Information for Short Break Transport (2019-20)

This year summary information has been asked for

The return rate per transport survey applicant is 50% (10 out of 20).

The return rate per transport survey child is 70.1% (82 out of 117)

Last year returns from 11 applicants were received.

The year before returns from only 2 applicants were received.

Applicants have been asked the following: How the Short Break Transport funding has worked for you and those you support this year? Has it made a difference?

A selection of the ten applicants responses are as follows:

From social workers

Need for transport funding

- All of the children that have transport would not be able to access the activities without it – mainly holiday activities.
- Child would not have been able to access the holiday provision without transport as the parent (single carer) does not drive.
- The families are particularly vulnerable with children with a wide range of needs. These families require support and a break from their caring role.
- Some of these parents are impacted by their own physical and mental health problems.
- Without the support they would significantly struggle especially during the school holidays.
- This is welcomed support that is invaluable to the families.
- The children get a change of scene, new people to interact with including social interaction with peers. This provides them with stimulation that they would not be able to get within their home environment.

From holiday providers

Benefits of Transport Funding

- Our service users gain massive benefits from attending sessions.

- For young people they are given a chance to play, socialise and enjoy leisure opportunity equivalent to their mainstream peers that they may not be able to access in ordinary circumstances.
- For families, the chance for respite is important for the whole family wellbeing. Lots of our parents use this time to spend time with their other children, to work, or to complete weekly activities like a food shop.
- Enabling attendance at clubs via providing transport is especially vital in the long holiday periods which families can find a huge challenge, but also helps families to cope week by week.

How the Transport funding has worked

- The children who have had taxi transport this year all come from vulnerable families where there is either just one parent or the child is a carer for a parent.
- They are on Pupil Premium and are from low income families.
- The families either do not drive or do not have a car.
- All the families have an assigned social worker.
- The children look forward to Holiday Club and the benefits to their social and emotional wellbeing are huge.

- Transport has worked well in most cases.
- There have been occasional communication breakdowns when a taxi has not turned up or they have not brought a car seat for a child, but this has been followed up and rectified.

- The vast majority of them (transport providers) are knowledgeable, reliable and interact with our young people. On the odd occasion that we have put in a complaint, if we feel that the standard of care isn't good enough, this has been dealt with promptly.

- Could the administration team double check the requests when they enter them into the system as we have had safeguarding concerns arise in the past due to mistakes in addresses and contact numbers.

- Overall, we are happy and grateful for the Transport service. Many of our young people who access the budget are those who need to use the service the most, for family wellbeing and safeguarding reasons and it is with thanks to the budget and Transport Team that we are able to support these families.

- The process of applying for transport is even more time consuming than ever now the portal has been removed and at times reliability can be a bit hit and miss.

From Disability Team Manager

If the transport funding was not available:-

- These children could not attend the activities without the Short Break Transport scheme because their carers could not take them, and they could not get there by themselves.

Benefits of transport funding for the children: All the children have really benefited from it. The Short Breaks themselves give them:

- Enjoyment
- Opportunities to make friends
- Trusted adults with whom they can make relationships
- Opportunities to develop their independence and social skills
- Time away from their primary carers and vice versa – this helps family relationships

Appendix 4 – Enabler Review Form results (2019-20)

The 100 returned and logged Enabler form returns cover 133 of the 163 applications. This is a return rate of 81.6%.

On the Enabler Review Form most questions require a written answer. Here are these questions with examples of feedback.

Question 1 - How did Enabler Support Scheme funding help the child / young person?

- X had a chance to explore the park at his own pace with the support of his enabler.
- Practical help from the enabler to get Y in and out of the swimming pool. Opportunity for Y to push her enabler off the giant floats and finding this hilarious.
- Funding for a support worker enables Z to socialise and interact with her peers while having support to deal with emotional difficulties.

Being part of a group is important for a child. Having fun is also important especially for a child with movement difficulties.

Question 2 - How did Enabler Support Scheme funding help the family?

- X's parents were both able to work and were not forced to take annual / unpaid leave.
- Seeing Y do so well and being praised his mum told me had made her day.
- It allowed mum to have some time in the holidays for her the other children as well as giving Z the chance to meet with other children in a familiar context and keep his routines going over the long break.
- Mum was able to complete some last minute Christmas shopping.

The family being able to work and have respite time especially during the long holidays are the key benefits. Seeing a child do well is very positive for a parent.

Question 3 - How was the funding used by the setting / childminder and what impact did it have?

- The additional funding was used to cover the cost of 1:1 staffing for those young people who otherwise would not be able to attend.
- The funding has been used to pay for Y to have his own chair to support independent sitting at preschool.
- Some of the funding was used to purchase some extra resources to support Z's development.

The funding is primarily used to pay for one to one support without which the child would not be able to participate.

Question 4 - The Enabler Support Scheme is time limited funding: will the child / young person continue to access the services / activities in the setting?

For the 100 returns – 53 are a “Continue” type answer and only 3 are a “Not Continue” type answer. A further 28 are a “Reduce” (continue with reduced support) and 4 are a “May Need”. There are 12 more returns where the question is not directly answered.

- 1:1 support from someone who is confident in their abilities is essential in keeping W safe and calm, as well as keeping his peers safe.
- X is a flight risk which means that 1:1 support is essential for his safety, especially when out in the community.
- Y's support has been reduced from 2:1 to 1:1, at this time we feel this is sufficient for his needs and further reductions could be problematic and produce anxiety.
- Z is now attending school full time so he will no longer be attending.

Challenging behaviour and risk factors are key reasons for wanting to maintain one to one support.

Question 5 - Please identify for each child if they will continue to need 1:1 support

For the 100 returns – 63 are a “Yes” type answer and only 13 are a “No” type answer. A further 4 are a “Reduce” and 1 is a “Review”. There are 19 more returns where the question has been left blank.

Here is a selection of reasons that have been given for the need for 1:1 support to continue, these are mainly centred around the child's behaviour:-

- Cannot always verbalise feelings and no awareness around personal safety.
- Inappropriate interactions with males and babies.
- Lacks impulse control, struggling with waiting and boundaries.
- No sense of danger and behaviour can be un-predictable.
- Over-excitement can escalate to behaviours of concern.
- Seizure activity, propensity to wander and reluctance to join in with planned activities.

- Needed for toilets and changing room support.

Here are responses for the children who no longer need 1:1 support:

- 1:4 support will be required in the future.
- It will be a much smaller group of children.
- Plan for 1:2 or 1:3 ratio depending on the type of activity day and the other young people in attendance.

On the Enabler Review Form several questions are asked which require a yes or no answer. Here are these yes or no questions:-

Question 6 - Was Enabler Support Scheme easy to understand and access?

For the 100 returns 93 have answered "YES" and 4 have answered "NO" This question has not been completed for 3 returns.

The "NO" answers came from two new providers - Artworks and Tudor Hall School, the latter of which said it will be easier to do second time around.

Question 7 - Did you receive a decision about Enabler funding within five working days?

For the 100 returns 95 have answered "YES" and 0 have answered "NO" This question has not been completed for 5 returns.

Question 8 – Comments

One response has an issue with the security software we have to use:

- I find the Egress system, although necessary, very tricky.

Another response highlighted the positive impact an Enabler Funded child has had on a group:

- He is a very valuable member of the group (for both staff and peers) and quite simply a joy to work with throughout each term.

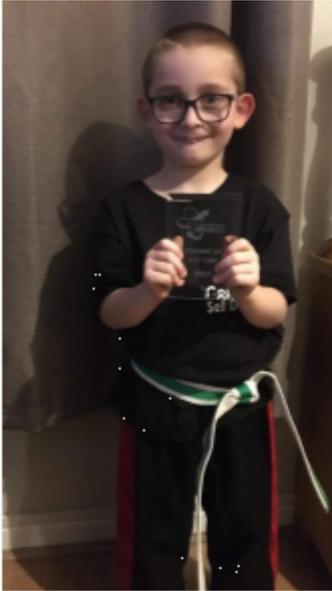
Here is a selection of comments which stress the importance of the funding:

- The support of the Enabler Support Scheme is very much appreciated and valued. It is essential to ensure local disabled children are able to socialise with wide variety of children living in their community.
- The funding is a lifeline for families with children who would not otherwise be able to attend.
- This funding means a huge amount to our families.
- This has been great for the family and continues to allow the child to integrate and experience all aspects of school life.

- Without this funding many disabled children would be unable to access local facilities, make new friends with children living in their community and much more.

We would like to thank all providers for the completion and return of the monitoring forms, these are a valuable resource for us.

Appendix 5 – Case Study ISS Funded child in self-defence classes



Lewis' Success!!

This is Lewis...he is aged 6, has ASD, ADHD, Hypermobility with joint pain, Pica, toileting issues, sensory issues that can distract and upset him as well as physical disability with his joints. Lewis also has huge amounts of energy and struggles to sit calmly and concentrate.

As his parents we wanted to try to engage him in an activity that would improve his muscle strength, co-ordination and motor skills as he has always struggled and been behind his peers with these. We decided a form of martial arts may help Lewis to learn spatial awareness, concentration skills, team work and self-discipline.

We joined a local group on a 2-week trial however the class was loud and noisy which Lewis found very hard due to his sensory issues. He was unable to engage with the instructor due to the size of the class and became upset when I tried to take him to the second taster class. We decided that the martial arts concept was perfect for Lewis but just not this class. We then contacted Combined Self Defence, discussed Lewis' SEN needs and was delighted at the level of understanding the new instructor had of Autism and ADHD.

Over the course of the next few months, thanks to the help of the Inclusion Support funding for making the lessons possible and also Lewis' instructor who took the time to gain a friendship with Lewis, he always stays calm even when Lewis' behaviour has been a struggle and a distraction to other students.

Lewis is making great progress in the areas he finds challenging and we were very proud when he was awarded Student of The Year 2019! As many SEN parents know these achievements are extra special because it takes much more effort from the child and their supporting roles around them.

We are so glad that we tried out another class for Lewis because we have found the perfect support for him to achieve the same goals as his peers.



**** Well done Lewis - keep up the training! ****

