Report on Short Break Services for disabled children, young people and families. Executive Summary

1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020
1 Map of Short Break Service Users in Oxfordshire

This map shows the distribution of the Short Break service users within Oxfordshire. There are 1192 children that have been mapped. The darker the colour (white, light blue, blue, purple and dark purple) the more children are in the area.

Short Breaks Service Users
April 2019 to March 2020 by LSOA*

The South area has the highest number of dark purple LSOAs in areas around Abingdon, Wantage and Didcot.

The North area has no dark purple LSOAs with their highest concentrations in areas in and around Banbury / Bicester.

The Central area has high concentrations of Short Breaks children in Oxford City centre.
2 Executive Summary

The Short Breaks programme collects data on a quarterly basis from all funded Short Breaks services commissioned in Oxfordshire. There will be other services and activities accessed by families with disabled children provided by mainstream Providers not funded by the Short Breaks budget. We do not normally collect the data on these unless children are funded through one of our funding programmes that help with fees or transport or are supported by an Enabler.

- This year 1240 children and young people accessed Short Break activities and services.
- Last year the number was 1141 children.
- This is an 8.7% increase from 2018-19 to 2019-20.
- 341 children accessed the Inclusion Support Scheme
- 120 children accessed the Transport Scheme
- 83 children accessed the Enabler Support Scheme

Data is collected from the 9 Short Break commissioned providers providing Short Break activities for children and young people. Data is also collected from two Short Break overnight services, Direct Payments, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Children and Family Care Services, Flexicare a sitting service supporting families with children with complex needs and Health and funding schemes that support access to services.

Support to access services is provided through the Short Breaks Funding Schemes - Inclusion Support Scheme (ISS), Early Years Inclusion Scheme (EYISS), Short Break Transport Funding and Enabler Support Scheme which were developed to help improve access to holiday playschemes and out of school activities for those children and young people unable to access these without additional support.

- 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). The priority for these schemes is to support disabled children of families on a low income to access short break opportunities in ‘out of school activities’ and/or holiday activities.

- 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.

- 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. Some children will always need some extra support.
Please see the full report **2019-20 Short Break Funding Schemes Report** on our Short Break webpage. [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortbreaks)

### 2.1 Daytime Provision - Hours

For 2019-20 there are 146,223 hours of daytime provision.

The daytime provision has decreased by 2.1% compared to last year from 149,355 hours in 2018-19 to 146,223 in 2019-20.

Despite the decrease in hours the number of children and young people with daytime provision has increased from 1136 in 2018-19 to 1229 in 2019-20.

For 2019-20 data has reduced for group hours significantly due to the loss of a professional to provide this information as well as to run and support actual activities. Some actual group hours will not have happened however there will be some hours that have happened but have not been collected.

The Coronavirus at the very end of 2019-20 has had an impact on the number of hours with approximately 1,500 group hours missed during the last two weeks of March 2020.

The graph below shows the number of daytime provision hours over the last three years by group based\(^1\) hours and individual based\(^2\) hours.

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\(^1\) Group based activities includes after school, youth, weekend and holiday activities.

\(^2\) Individual family based care hours include care in the child’s home, outreach support and individual care outside the home.
Compared to last year the number of group and individual hours has decreased. (See Sections 4 and 5 for more detail).

2.2 Overnights Provision

For 2019-20 there are 3,668 nights of overnight provision.

The overnight provision has decreased by 8.0% compared to last year from 3,985 nights in 2018-19 to 3,668 nights in 2019-20.

Despite the decrease in nights the number of children and young people with overnight provision has increased from 167 in 2018-19 to 191 in 2019-20. The number of children having residential holiday nights has increased from 61 to 85.

The graph below shows the number of overnight provision over the last three years.

2.3 Support to Services

Support for children, young people and families to access services is offered in a variety of ways.

- Direct Payments which are awarded to a family through a Care Package agreed at Panel. Direct Payments are only available for families whose children have a Children’s Disability Social Worker and have been agreed a Care Package.
- The Disability Information Officer (DIO) from the Oxfordshire Family Information service can support families to access childcare, play and leisure and identify and support applications to any funding schemes that may help them. The DIO can also provide a bespoke service to help a family source childcare, play or leisure by offering a brokerage service to the family.
- An Out of School Liaison Officer (OSLO) is available at some of the Special Schools. They are funded by the schools and their role is to support children attending the school and their families to access childcare, play and leisure
activities. Some OSLOs also arrange actual activities for the children to attend. For those Special Schools without an OSLO or other Professional to offer this support the DIO from the Oxfordshire Family Information Service can be contacted.

- Funding schemes to support children to access provision where without this they would otherwise be unable to attend. These include EYISS, ISS, Short Break Transport and the Enabler Support Scheme mentioned earlier.

### 2.4 Medical Need Group

The number of children with Complex Health Needs accessing Short Break activities has decreased from 20.8% (237 children) in 2018-19 to 16.8% (208 children) in 2019-20 (Group B). The highest proportion is in Group A (Challenging Behaviour / ASD) followed by Group O (Other) and Group B (Complex Health Needs).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Medical Need Group</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Other</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1240</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2.5 Number of Services

The number of services attended by each child is shown in the pie chart below.

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3 Group A = Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (who have severe learning disabilities or behaviour which is challenging) OR those children and young people whose challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments such as severe learning disabilities.

Group B = Children and Young People with complex health needs including this with disability and life limiting condition, and/or those who require palliative care and/or those with associated impairments such as cognitive or sensory impairments and/or have moving/handling needs and/or require special equipment/adaptations.

4 For this report a “service” is taken as activities provided by an individual organisation or funding stream. Where individual organisations provide a wide variety of activities across the county each individual location is counted as a “service”.

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- 838 children and young people accessed one service
- 251 children and young people accessed two services
- 100 children and young people accessed three services
- 38 children and young people accessed four services
- 10 children and young people accessed five services
- 5 children and young people accessed six services

More children accessed one service compared to last year (730 last year to 838 this year). The number of children accessing three or more services has fallen from 178 last year to 153 this year.

For 2019-20 there is a lower proportion of children with 3+ services
67.4% of children attended one service (64.0% last year)
32.6% attended more than one service (36.0% last year)
12.3% attended three or more services (15.6% last year)

The table below shows that most of these 3+ number of services children are in Group A (autism / learning disabilities) primary medical need category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Medical Need Group for 3+ Services Children</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>69.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Other</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.6 **Key points on Short Break services**

- The number of children accessing holiday activities and youth activities has both increased compared to last year.

- Most children and young people access a variety of activities provided by one service (67.4%)

- There has been an increase in girls accessing Short Break activities from 30.3% last year to 32.5% this year. Nationally more boys than girls are disabled.

- The proportion of ethnic minorities accessing Short Break activities has decreased from 16.6% last year to 15.6% this year.

- The percentage of ethnic minorities accessing services is higher than the Oxfordshire average for population.

- There are 14 more children and young people accessing Short Break activities and services in Special Schools compared to last year.

- 46.9% of children and young people accessing Short Break activities and services attend a Special School.

- The number of children eligible for Free School Meals accessing services has increased from 403 last year to 416 this year.

- The proportion of children who have accessed Open-Access Short Break Group activities with a commissioned provider requiring 1:1 or more support has reduced from 32.1% last year to 29.1% this year

- The overnight provision has decreased by **8.0%** compared to last year from 3,987 nights to 3,668 nights.