

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	12 January 2023
Title:	Short Break Activity Grant
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services for Short Break Activity grants for the period 01 April 2023 – 31 March 2025.

Recommendation(s)

That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services:

2. Approves the Short Break Activity grant recommendations to voluntary organisations, private organisations and charities for 2023-25, totalling £1,046,000 to the organisations as listed in Appendix 1 for 24 months from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2025;
3. Approves the Short Break Activity grant recommendations to Schools supported by Hampshire County Council for 2023-25, totalling £33,000, as listed in Appendix 1 for 24 months from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2025;
4. Approves the parental participation grant to be paid to Hampshire Parent Carer Network of up to £17,500 to cover 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024;
5. Delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve the parental participation grant for the period 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 in consultation with the Executive Lead Member, up to the total value of £17,500;
6. Delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve all Exceptions Fund grant applications for 2023-2025 in consultation with the Executive Lead Member, up to the total value of £20,000 per annum.

Executive Summary

7. The Short Break Activity grant budget is £1,079,000 for 2023-2025. The budget has remained the same as the previous grant period (2021-2023) with no reduction in funding. Previous reports will have referenced the Buddy Scheme grant; this is now provided in-house to the same value.
8. The Short Break Activity grant allocation is made up of three elements and Table 1 below shows how the total budget for the full period is calculated:

Table 1 Short Breaks Grant Budget 2023/25

	Total Budget 2yrs
Short Break Activities	£1,079,000
Parent Participation	£35,000
Exceptions Fund	£40,000
Total	£1,154,000

9. The purpose of this paper is to seek the approval of the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services for Short Breaks to award grant to the value of £1,079,000. This is comprised of:

Amount:	To be paid:
£1,046,000	To voluntary sector and other organisations in Hampshire for short break activities (see appendix 1 for detailed breakdown).
£33,000	To Schools for short break activities (see appendix 1 for detailed breakdown).
	Total: £1,079,000

10. Delegated authority is also sought for the Director of Children's Services to approve future Exceptions Fund grant applications for 2023-2025 in consultation with the Executive Lead Member up to the total value of £20,000 in each financial year.
11. Twenty-five providers submitted applications for Short Break Activities grant funding 2023-2025. These applications totalled £1,782,264.63. It is recommended that funding is granted to 21 Short Break activity providers.

Contextual information

12. The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 bring into effect Paragraph 6(1)(c) of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 (inserted by section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008), requiring local authorities to

provide services to assist individuals who provide care for disabled children to continue to do so, or to do so more effectively, by giving them breaks from caring so far as reasonably practical.

13. The Childrens Act 1989 S17 (11) and The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 state that “a child is disabled if he is blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from mental disorder of any kind or is substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disability as may be prescribed”.
13. The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 also define short breaks with the caveat that provision shall be made, in so far as is reasonable and practicable, for a range of services which are sufficient to assist carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively. In particular the local authority must provide, as appropriate, a range of:
 - day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere;
 - overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere;
 - educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes.
 - services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays.
14. The grants referred to in this report are proposed as part of the whole range of provision for children with disabilities via the short break services (including specialist social care services such as care support). This range of services is detailed in the County Council’s Short Breaks Service statement:
[Short Breaks Service Statement \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/short-breaks-service-statement)

Criteria

15. The purpose of the Short Breaks Activity grants programme is to support the County Council’s duty under the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children regulations 2011 described in paragraphs 14-17.
16. Short Break Activity grants are awarded to a range of organisations providing safe, fun and interesting activities for disabled children and young people aged 0-17 years, who have a valid Gateway Card+ and who live in the Hampshire County Council authority area. These activities take place outside of school time (for school-aged children); during evenings, weekends, and holidays. Further information about eligibility to apply for Short Break Activity grants is available at the Hampshire [grants webpages](#).
17. Grant applications for 01 April 2023 – 31 March 2025 have been invited against the following core priorities:

- Holiday clubs
- Weekend activity clubs
- Youth clubs

18. These core grant priorities were reconfirmed by parents and carers in a survey issued in June 2022 with holidays being a key time when parents and carers require respite. Parent representatives from Hampshire Parent Carer Network reconfirmed these grant priorities in July 2022 as the best approach to ensure that there is a viable county-wide offer that can be commissioned effectively within the funding available.

Exception Fund

19. The Exception Fund is available for applications that are received outside of the main grant round to provide flexibility to support applications from new providers who may be piloting a Short Break activity scheme, supporting individuals to attend a Short Break activity, or supporting mainstream providers to deliver training to make their club more inclusive.

20. Providers will be able to apply for the Exceptions Fund grants throughout the 24-month funding period, and applications will be considered on an ad-hoc basis. The criteria for this funding will be published on Hantsweb, prior to this grant round going live in April 2023.

21. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services delegates authority for grant awards from the Exception Fund to the Director of Children's Services for 2023-2025 in consultation with the Executive Lead Member, up to a total value of £40,000.

Short Break Activity Grant Evaluation

22. Grant applications for Short Break activities were evaluated by parent and service user representatives from Hampshire Parent Carer Network and representatives from Hampshire County Council's Disabled Children's Teams. The evaluation was completed via the County Council's procurement portal.

23. Individual evaluations were moderated by a panel of Hampshire County Council Children's Services Officers and a representative from both Hampshire Parent Carer Network and Hampshire County Council's Disabled Children's Team. The recommendations for this grant round were challenging due to the high quality of the applications received and the total value far exceeding the grant budget available.

24. The evaluation framework used by the evaluators and the moderation panel to recommend grant awards included:

- Evidence that applications have met the specified priorities in paragraph 17.
- Ensuring a mix of specialist and inclusive mainstream activities.
- A proportionate spread of Short Break Activities throughout the county with increased coverage to fill gaps in provision in these specified districts; Basingstoke, East Hampshire, Hart, New Forest and Winchester.
- Broad coverage of activities in all quadrants, that support children and young people aged 4-17yrs with different disabilities and support needs.
- Applications that showed they are good value for money and sustainable via additional sources of funding, in-kind support or parental contributions.
- Parental contributions must align with the [Charging and Concessions Policy](#).

25. An Equality Impact Statement has been completed for this Short Break Activities grant round (see page 11). The Short Break Activities Programme proactively supports access to a range of activities and opportunities for disabled children and young people.

Finance

26. The proposed grant allocations for Short Break Activities span two financial years. The recommended grant awards for parental participation and running the Community Buddy Scheme are aligned to the same time period.

27. Table 1 Short Breaks Activity Grant Budget 2023/25

	2023/24	2024/25	Total budget 2yrs
Short Break Activities	£539,500	£539,500	£1,079,000
Parent Participation	£17,500	£17,500	£35,000
Exceptions Fund	£20,000	£20,000	£40,000

28. The budget available for grant funding Short Break Activities has been apportioned across four geographic quadrants using a combination of data: deprivation, rurality, numbers of children with Special Educational Needs and Education, Health and Care Plans, Disability Living Allowance recipients and Gateway Card+ holders, to give an indicative total against which bids were invited. Please note that the quadrant budgets are indicative only and the recommendations made in this report are based additional factors outlined in paragraph 24 above and the need in the quadrant the application is aligned to, value for money, performance data and accessibility.

Table 2 Short Breaks Activity Grant Recommendations by Geographical Quadrant

Geographical Quadrant	Indicative budget allocation	Recommendation
Winchester, Basingstoke, and Test Valley - Andover	£291,480	£253,529
New Forest, Eastleigh, and Test Valley – Romsey	£276,298	£295,500
Fareham, Gosport, and Havant	£284,312	£274,609
East Hampshire, Hart and Rushmoor	£226,910	£255,362
Total	£1,079,000	£1,079,000

Gateway Card and Performance

29. The Gateway Card System has been in operation since October 2018 and has enabled the County Council to have up to date information on all registered holders and their attendance at Short Break Activities.

30. The information gathered by the Gateway Card system enables accurate monitoring of attendance which can then be used to cross reference with the agreed number of sessions that have been funded, giving an accurate picture of Short Break Activity usage. Accurate reporting has been invaluable in ensuring that the grant funding is being used to deliver what has been set out in the grant agreement. To ensure that the grant funding is being used effectively there may be occasions where grant payments may be suspended or reclaimed should the benefits or number of sessions be less than planned. This in turn ensures that the grant is being used in the most effective way for public funds.

Consultation and Equalities

31. A questionnaire was sent out to all Gateway Card and Gateway Card+ holders in June 2022 to seek their views on the core priorities for Short Breaks for the 2023-5 grant round. The vast majority (97%) of parents and carers agreed that; Holidays, Weekends and Youth Clubs were still a priority for respite via Short Break Activity Grants.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

32. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
33. The carbon mitigation tool and climate change adaptation tool were not applicable for this service because this is a financial report recommending grant awards for individual providers to deliver Short Break Activities and therefore does not require a climate change assessment or a carbon mitigation assessment. Consideration is being given as to how best to support Short Break providers to mitigate their carbon and climate impact in future grant rounds.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
Short Breaks Grant Award	17 October 2011
Short Breaks Statement of Future Provision and Grant Awards	
Short Breaks for Disabled Children	06 April 2011
Short Break Grant Awards	18 January 2012
Short Breaks Grant Allocations for 2012-13	01 February 2012
Short Breaks Grant Allocations for 2012-2013	17 July 2012
Short Breaks for Disabled Children: Service Statement Review	06 December 2012
Short Breaks for Disabled Children – Grant Allocations 2013-14	23 January 2013
Short Breaks grant awards: Specialist playschemes in Basingstoke (2013-14)	25 March 2013
Short Breaks activities for Disabled Children – Grants for the remainder of 2013-14	12 June 2013
Short Breaks for Disabled Children – Grant Awards for 2014-15	22 January 2014
Short Breaks for Disabled Children – Grants for 2015-16	23 March 2015
Short Breaks for Disabled Children – Grants for 2016-17	18 March 2016
Short Breaks for Disabled Children – Grants for 2018-19	13 March 2017
Proposed changes to the Short Break Activities Programme and consultation outcomes	12 July 2018
Short Break Activities Commissioning Strategy	08 May 2019
Short Break Activities for Disabled Children – Grants for 01 October 2019-31 March 2021	10 July 2019
Proposed changes to the Short Break Activities Programme and consultation outcomes	11 November 2020
Short Breaks Activity Grants	24 February 2021
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	

Revenue Budget report for Children's Services for 2015/16	21 January 2015
Transformation to 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals	16 September 2015
Revenue budget report for Children's Services 2016/17	20 January 2016
Revenue budget report for Children's Services 2017/18	18 January 2017
Cabinet: Revenue Budget and Precept 2015/16	01 February 2015
Cabinet: Transformation to 2017: Consultation Outcomes	21 September 2015
Cabinet: Medium Term Financial Strategy Update and Transformation to 2017 Savings Proposals Integral Appendix A	05 October 2015
Children and Young People's Select Committee Respite Task and Finish Group	23 July 2014
Children and Young People's Select Committee Consideration of Request to Exercise Call-in Powers	12 September 2014
Serving Hampshire – Balancing the Budget Consultation	Summer 2017
Cabinet: Medium Term Financial Strategy Update and Transformation to 2019 Savings Proposals	16 October 2017
Full Council: Medium Term Financial Strategy Update and Transformation to 2019 Savings Proposals	02 November 2018
Medium Term Financial Strategy Update and Transformation to 2021 Savings Proposals	15 October 2019

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

Equality DutyThe County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- *Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);*
- *Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;*
- *Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.*

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- *The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;*
- *Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;*
- *Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.*

[Equality Impact Assessments for Children's Services | About the Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\) – reference 0331](#)

Appendix 1 – Details of Grant Awards

SHORT BREAK GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS BY GEOGRAPHICAL QUADRANT

Quadrant 1 – Basingstoke, Winchester and Test Valley – Andover			
Grant Providers	Grant Name	Summary of Activity	Amount Proposed
Disability Challengers	Challengers Hampshire Short Breaks Services 2023-2025	Challengers provide play and leisure services to disabled children and young people in Basingstoke and Winchester during the holidays and weekends.	£113,332
Maple Ridge School	Play at Maple	Play at Maple is a specialist out-of-school scheme for children with autism and additional needs delivered from Maple Ridge School in Basingstoke.	£33,000
Purple Oak Support	Saturday Playscheme and Youth Group Life Skills	Activities will be delivered from The Wellington Centre in Andover, supporting children and young people aged 8-17 years for Playscheme activities and 12-17 years for Youth Group activities.	£65,309
Swings and Smiles	Short Break sessions to provide opportunities for social interaction for disabled children and young people	At both the Saturday and holiday clubs the children and young people are able to take part in a variety of activities from Swings and Smiles in Thatcham.	£7,014
YMCA Fairthorne Manor	Short Breaks – YMCA Fairthorne Manor	YMCA Fairthorne Manor in Curdridge is a mainstream activity delivering programmes to over 450 children each day in the summer. These programmes support children and young people with a range of needs.	£34,874

Quadrant 2 – Eastleigh, New Forest and Test Valley – Romsey			
Grant Providers	Grant Name	Summary of Activity	Amount Proposed
Disability Challengers	Challengers Hampshire Short Breaks Services 2023-2025	Challengers provide play and leisure services to disabled children and young people in Eastleigh during the holidays and weekends.	£110,000
Rose Road Association	Short Break Activities	A continuation of 5 existing activity schemes which run throughout the year during the school holidays and on Saturdays from the Bradbury Centre in Southampton.	£100,000
SCARF	Scarf Multi-Sports and Youth Clubs	Scarf will run a multi-sports club and a youth club in the New Milton area– both clubs exclusively for children/young people with additional needs/disabilities, offering fun and social opportunities, as well as respite for parents/carers	£23,000
SenseCere	Saturday Sensory Club	To provide a sensory activity club for children 0-15 years in Pavilion in the Park in Eastleigh.	£30,000
Solent Youth Action	Supported Social Provision	Solent Youth Action wish to continue to deliver supported social provision for disabled young people aged 10-17 from their youth club in Eastleigh.	£27,000
Youth In Romsey	Allsorts Youth Club	Allsorts is a youth club that meets once a week during term times from their base in Romsey.	£5,500

Quadrant 3 – Fareham, Gosport and Havant			
Grant Providers	Grant Name	Summary of Activity	Amount Proposed
Chaos Support	Riverside Holiday Scheme	Providing holiday day care for children with disabilities based at Riverside School in Waterlooville.	£30,000
Disability Challengers	Challengers Hampshire Short Breaks Services 2023-2025	Challengers provide leisure services to disabled young people in Havant during the holidays and weekends.	£85,000
Enable Ability	Hampshire Junior Club	Hampshire Junior Club is a social group for 5-12 year olds with mild-moderate disabilities. The club meets in various locations across Havant, Fareham and Gosport.	£32,000
LUPS (Let Us Play)	LUPS Holiday Playscheme 2023-25	LUPS provides holiday playschemes for children and young people with complex needs. LUPS runs from St Francis School in Fareham.	£90,000
Making Space	Reach Out 4	Making Space organises high-quality creative activities in a dedicated craft venue in Leigh Park for children and young people with additional needs.	£12,778
The Rainbow Centre for Conductive Education	Holiday Club for Children with Neurological Disabilities	Providing Conductive Education throughout the holidays to children with neurological conditions from their base in Fareham.	£20,000
Y Services for Young People	FOCUS	FOCUS (special needs) Youth Club, a weekly youth club for young people with additional needs to meet, build skills and enjoy time with peers. The youth club runs from Genesis Centre in Locks Heath.	£4,831

Quadrant 4 – East Hampshire, Hart and Rushmoor

Grant Providers	Grant Name	Summary of Activity	Amount Proposed
Disability Challengers	Challengers Hampshire Short Breaks Services 2023-2025	Challengers provide play and leisure services to disabled children and young people across Hampshire during holidays and weekends. This scheme will be run from Challengers Farnham	£146,055
Parkside (Aldershot & District Learning Disability)	Saturday Zone	An opportunity for children & young people with a learning disability and/or autism to have fun in a secure environment in Parkside's base in Aldershot.	£40,000
Stopgap Dance Company	Inclusive Youth Dance Club	Stopgap Dance Company's disabled and non-disabled dancers will run weekly youth dance clubs. The dance clubs from West End Arts Centre in Aldershot.	£15,000
The Kings Arms Youth Project	Supersonic Youth Club	A weekly 2 hour youth club targeted at young people who are on the autistic spectrum, have Down Syndrome or Learning Difficulties. The clubs will run from The Kings Arms dedicated youth clubs in Alton and Petersfield.	£32,307
The Oaks Playscheme	The Oaks Holiday Playscheme	A specialist holiday playscheme in Froxfield village hall to be held during Easter and Summer Holidays, providing a safe and stimulating environment.	£22,000