

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Front Cover Report

Committee:	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date:	15 January 2018
Title:	Overnight Residential Respite Homes
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Amber James

Tel: 01962 845973

Email: amber.james@hants.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Children and Young People Select Committee support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in section 1 (paragraph 1.1) of the attached report.

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 Hampshire County Council's strategic approach to meeting the needs of disabled children and their families who meet the need for overnight respite is to develop a wider range of options than purely support from overnight residential respite provision. The strategy has been developed through engagement with parents, carers and providers to provide a sustainable offer to disabled children and their families now and in the future.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services of the outcomes from the consultation of the proposal to close two of Hampshire's residential respite homes, Merrydale and Sunbeams. The report outlines the contextual position in relation to current and proposed overnight respite services delivered by Hampshire County Council, the impact on the cohort of children currently receiving respite from Merrydale and Sunbeams and the feedback from the consultation.
- 2.3 On 17 July 2017, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gave permission to commence a public and staff consultation on the proposal to close Sunbeams and Merrydale.
- 2.4 Feedback received during the consultation has indicated that the majority of respondents disagree with the proposals to close the homes and a clear view that residential overnight respite provision was necessary.

2.5 Hampshire County Council has considered the views expressed through both the public and staff consultations. The County Council recognises there is strong feeling against the proposed closure of the two homes which are valued by families using them. The proposed overnight respite provision is predicated on offering families a more flexible choice of services, within the current financial constraints.