

Short Breaks Forum - 3rd July 2023

In attendance

Local Authority: Beth Morgan, Johanne Brodrick, Marie Hatton, Amardeep Grewal, Andrew Meredith

PODS: Jayne, Elaine

Parent Carers: Elsa, Andy, Vicky, Tina, Simon, Mandy, Louise, Zoe, Kerry, Denise

We're Listening

The forum started with parent carers sharing their stories and experiences with the LA:

- Parents are experiencing confusion about how they can clearly find out what support is on offer, whether or not their child is eligible and how they can access it.
- Marie clarified the eligibility for a DSR and explained that the meetings are held by Health, not the LA, although LA representatives can be present. The DSR enables Health to identify children that require extra support to ensure they are not admitted to a mental health hospital.
- Parents raised concerns as they have heard that the LA are no longer utilising Taylor Support. This is not true, Taylor Support are not on the LA's framework as they have chosen not to be. Parents can still choose to use them for care and support if they are in receipt of a direct payment.
- There are ongoing struggles recruiting personal assistants as the applicant numbers are so low.
- Parents highlighted the positive experiences with My Options PAs and how they spend the time with the child in a useful and meaningful way.
- Parents raised that they have had to pay for admission in a specifically SEND session but not in a mainstream session at Inflatation. SEND Commissioner to look into this and raise directly with Inflatation.
- The group discussed the comms strategies of local activities as not all parents are aware. Beth clarified that SEND activities are shared on the Local Offer webpage, Short Breaks Newsletter, Short Breaks Facebook page and in the SEND Activities booklet. There is now an accessible leisure webpage where all sessions are listed. Leisure have developed a booklet and shared it at the Market Place Event.
- Parents emphasised the importance of finding out in advance whether or not their child has a place on the Specialist Playscheme in order to arrange transport or alternatives.

Overnight Respite Update

Marie informed parents that we have secured 2 overnight respite beds at Lakewood Court. Staff are currently being recruited and an opening date will be confirmed once they are in place. The flats are separate but will be knocked through so that children can socialise if they would like to. Parents asked Amardeep about residential options for adult's or those in transition. Amardeep agreed to look into emergency care provided by Adult's Services as parents had been told that it is no longer available.

Next meeting

12th Sept 4-6pm PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU
7th Dec 9-11am PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU

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Getting in touch

We would love to see as many of you as possible in the forum. If that is not possible, and you wish to ask a Short Breaks service question please get in touch via the Short Breaks email: Shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk and we will address it in the following forum. Individual case issues should be addressed to your case worker.

Useful Links:

Childminders [Live Well Telford Childminders](#) or Family Connect on 01952 385385

Childrens Autism Hub - [About Children's Autism Hub | Telford Autism Hub](#) 01952 262062

SEND Activities & Events page [Activities & Events](#)

PODS [Home - PODS \(podstelford.org\)w](#)

My Options [My Options - Activity, Wellbeing & Care - Home | Facebook](#)

SNAC (Special Needs Activity Centre) [SNAC Telford: Special Needs Activity Centre | Facebook](#)