



Short Breaks Forum – 6th March 2024

In attendance

Local Authority: Sam Ives, Beth Morgan, Johanne Brodrick, Marie Hatton
PODS: Cas, Louise, Genie
Parents: Hayley, Lisa, Karen

We're Listening

LA advised that this is a strategic meeting and are unable to discuss individual cases. Parents asked whether A2A trips are going to return. LA confirmed that there are no plans for them to return but looking into alternatives.

Short Breaks Statement

Following the consultation in 2022, LA produced a Short Break Statement in Spring 2023. A survey was conducted in December 2023 to gather feedback before the annual review. Draft 2024 version has been produced based on the survey results. The group discussed where the Short Breaks Statement will be available, and parents suggested it being distributed at the point of diagnosis as parents aren't aware of support available. LA confirmed that they will distribute the statement as widely as possible, including schools, GPs, libraries, leisure centres, etc. The new statement will include additional information on the eligibility criteria, early help offer, iCan2, community based activities and alternative services. Parents made positive comments on the content statement and said how useful it is.

iCan2 Launch

LA informed parents that iCan2 will be relaunched in April 2024 and shared registration documents with the group for comments. Parents were happy with the documents and commented that the registration form is straightforward and easy to complete. Parents acknowledged that Telford have a huge offer of activities for children with disabilities.

Parents of 18-25 year olds have concerns about skiing not being available to adults. Additional concerns about the My Options booking system as slots are allocated on a first come first served basis and parents aren't able to book if they are at work. Sam Ives agreed to feedback to Leisure Services and My Options.



Frequently Asked Questions

Children with Disabilities Team are working on a FAQs document to be shared with parents, addressing eligibility criteria, personal budgets, local activities, etc. These should address the questions that PODS parents have raised. If there are any additional questions, parents can email shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk for answers.

Commissioning Update

LA informed parents that the tender for a new iCan2 arts club is currently open and agencies are applying to provide more choice in community support. Securing an overnight provision is difficult as LA could not recruit a manager for Lakewood Court. Fitzroy School are able to offer overnights to eligible children. Stourbridge House may also have availability. LA are looking into foster carers and childminders offering respite. LA encouraged parents to research upcoming HAF play schemes for the school holidays. LA will be running the specialist playscheme over summer.

Next Meeting

21st May 2024 – 5-7pm – PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Rd, Telford, TF2 9TU

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 allocated worker.