



## Short Breaks Forum – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### **In attendance**

Local Authority: Sam Ives, Beth Morgan, Johanne Brodrick, Andrew Meredith, Marie Hatton  
PODS: Jayne Stevens  
Parents: Tina, Caroline, Rachel, Karen

### **We're Listening**

The group discussed the frequency, dates, times, and location of the Short Breaks Forums in 2024. The meetings have been arranged for a Tuesday in February, May, September, and December and alternate between mornings and evenings to cater for a variety of parents. All forum's will be held at the PODS Hub. There was discussions about whether meetings should be held virtually to increase attendance. LA to produce a poll to gather opinions. LA will setup adhoc forums to discuss specific topics as and when required, alongside quarterly forums. Parents commented that not all parents are aware of the forums. They are included on newsletters, social media, the Local Offer and schools also inform parents where possible. LA colleagues would like to know other ways in which we can promote the forum to parents, please let us know.

Parents asked which meeting/forum they should be attending to discuss 18-25 year olds as they are not discussed at the Short Breaks Forum or the Making It Real Board. LA agreed to feedback the gap to Amanda Benton in Adult Social Care. The Short Breaks forum is targeted to parents of CYP up to 18 year olds. This is because 'Short Breaks' is a term under Childrens Legislation. Following the Forum, parents have been advised to attend the LD Partnership Board as this is the most appropriate forum.

### **Short Breaks Statement Review**

LA informed parents that the Short Breaks Statement is due for review. A survey is now live and has been shared with parents to request comments on the statement and the overall Short Breaks offer provided by Telford and Wrekin Council. The survey closes on 6th January. The Council will then publish a revised version based on feedback from the survey, PODS, and all other sources.

### **Commissioning iCan2 Activities**

Following parental request, Sam Ives confirmed that the iCan2 brand is being reinstated. The brand is positive, visible and highly valued.



My Options is the current provider of all iCan2 activities. In future, additional providers will be commissioned, operating under the iCan2 brand. A new Arts Club will



be commissioned early 2024, and we look forward to welcoming additional activities and choice that will be available as a result. This will be followed by commissioning an additional Youth Club.

Parents raised that there are children that attend My Options activities that may be able to access Universal and/or Universal Plus activities, preventing their children from attending more than once every two weeks as there are no places available weekly. Council colleagues clarified the eligibility of Targeted Activities (iCan2), which is children that meet the criteria of the 'Targeted and Preventative Level Support' within the Short Breaks Statement. This will be picked up as part of the iCan2 relaunch that will include a membership process.

## **Inclusive Leisure Developments**

Telford and Wrekin Council's Leisure Services have continued to develop their inclusive offer. There are a range of activities and SEND activities available, all detailed on the inclusive leisure website: [Inclusive leisure Information - Telford and Wrekin Leisure Services](#)

Parents commented that several staff members within Leisure Services have a huge positive impact on their children. Council colleagues said this is lovely to hear. They said that their children would feel more comfortable if there was familiar staff on reception so that they can be greeted by people they get to know. Council colleagues agreed to feed this back to Leisure colleagues for them to consider.

## **Overnight Respite Update**

Sam Ives updated on the development of respite units located at Lakewood Court. Despite going out 3 times, unfortunately the job advert for a Registered Manager has been unsuccessful. This role is an Ofsted requirement. Council colleagues will now consider next steps and are committed to ensuring there is overnight respite for our local families.

## **Next Meeting**

Date and time TBC following poll results.

## **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](mailto:shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk) and we will address it in the following forum. Individual case issues should be addressed to your allocated worker.