



Short Breaks Forum – 10th September 2024

In attendance

Local Authority: Sam Ives, Beth Morgan, Johanne Brodrick, Catherine Harryman

Other: Jayne (PODS), Matt (PODS), Emma, Rachel, Lisa, Charlotte (4 All Foundation), Lianne (The Bridge)

iCan2 Scheme

Arts - The local authority carried out a consultation in 2021 which showed that parents had a lack of clarity about which activities were included under the iCan2 scheme and whether or not their children were eligible to attend. The local authority then made the decision to re-establish iCan2 with brand-new activities and membership scheme. The local authority informed parents that their children must be registered to be able to access the activities and hire the activity passes. The funding for short breaks is ring fenced for children (5-17) that have a diagnosed disability.

The local authority have sent out communication to the local community informing them of the new iCan2 Arts club. There are three sessions a week being held at Admaston House, on Monday (Dance), Wednesday (Music) and Friday (Drama) evenings, 4.30-6.30pm. This club is being run by 4 All Foundation. Parents can register their children with iCan2 by emailing shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk, or if they are already registered, they can book a place on the arts club by emailing info@4all.foundation. Charlotte from the 4 All Foundation attended the forum and parents felt reassured that the staff had the required experience and enthusiasm to carry out these sessions. Parents of the forum were excited for the new opportunities their children were being offered. Parents commented that it is important for children with disabilities to be able to access activities that are ring fenced for them.

Youth Club - The local authority informed the group that a youth club will be commissioned later in the year. This will be for iCan2 members. There may be a primary and secondary aged youth club. Club 17 will not be changing as it sits within Adult Social Care.

Sports & Leisure – The local authority advised that there will be changes to the iCan2 sports and leisure club, but there are no definite details yet and they will be communicated as soon as possible. Feedback from parents has been considered and new sessions will be for three hours to ensure parents have respite whilst children are at the activity. Parents suggested that all communication states ‘up to 3 hours’ to ensure that parents know that their child does not have to stay for the full-time. These sessions will only be accessible for iCan2 members.

Inclusive Leisure

The disability swim has now been moved from My Options to Telford and Wrekin Council leisure services and has been well received by families. Questions and suggestions from the last forum have been shared with leisure services, and they have agreed to all suggestions and have taken the feedback on board. Sam agreed to speak to leisure about holding a disability skiing session.



Frequently Asked Questions

The Children with Disabilities team have been working on a frequently asked questions document to be shared with families to address questions around direct payments, support plans, etc. Jo spoke to parents about the importance of financial monitoring when they have a direct payment and informed them that they will be asked to provide receipts and/or bank statements every six months. The evidence is then reviewed alongside their support plan to ensure that all spends have been agreed by the local authority to meet the needs of the child. Parents reviewed the questions and suggested that there is a question regarding mileage and how far a PA can travel with the child and who is responsible for funding it. The document will be finalised, shared with PODS, and then published.

We're Listening

Parents gave positive feedback on the monthly Short Breaks newsletter and emphasised that they find it really useful. Parents raised concerns about attending venues and being asked to show their DLA letters to prove that they are eligible to have a free companion ticket. The group discussed their recent experiences at the Cavalier centre, where their children have been turned away due to the staff not being able to meet their needs. Sam agreed to follow this up with the Cavalier centre. Parents were recommended to contact Pony Pals as their feedback has been positive. The group agreed to hold another forum in October to discuss the iCan2 changes, and for parents to share feedback on their experiences at the activities.

Next Meeting

23rd October 2024 1pm – 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.