

## YOUR VIEWS?

Please tick the services that you would use:

- Overnight stay away from the home
- Overnight stay in the home
- Nursing staff
- Day Care away from the home
- Day Care in the home
- Trained care staff
- Emergency respite
- Ventilation
- Palliative care
- Holiday schemes
- Day trips
- Sensory room/ sensory toys
- Hydrotherapy access
- Computer access
- Young teen facilities
- Activities and play workers

These services could be bought with your direct payments. Would you change the way that you currently use your direct payments to buy any of these services if they were at or provided from the JPU?

If yes, why?

If no, why not?

## Further comments?

Please use this area for any additional thoughts or further comments on what you would like to see?

To receive updates on the short breaks work, please provide an email address or a postal address:

Name:

Email address:

Address:

Postcode:

**This document is available in other languages and formats. For more information telephone 01803 210510**

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## Short Breaks — supporting children and young people with Complex Needs



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## Short Breaks Services

A short break provides an opportunity for a young person to develop new skills and gain independence through activities and socialising, in a safe environment with the appropriate medical support on hand.

They also give parents and carers a valuable break from their caring responsibilities and can allow them to spend quality time with any other children in the family.

Short breaks can take place at home or in a different location, and can range from a few hours to overnight care.

Following the launch of the Aiming High for Disabled Children change programme Torbay Children's Trust commissioned a Short Breaks Review in 2008 to look at current services and develop plans to meet families' needs now and in the future.

We now need your help to shape these plans further.

Your comments will have a direct impact on the way in which local services are designed and delivered so please take a few moments to read and complete this leaflet.

## What has happened so far?

So far, working with parents and carers we have developed:

- a contract care scheme to enable care to be provided in the child's or carers home
- the extension of day care facilities and family-based short breaks
- a Fair Access to Carers Breaks scheme — a system which hands families more control about the care they receive and when and where they receive it
- more support to enable children and young people with complex needs to access mainstream activities, such as sports clubs and play facilities

## The John Parkes Unit (JPU)

Some children with complex needs access day care and overnight breaks from the John Parkes Unit (JPU) in Torquay. The JPU caters for children with complex care needs, who have physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities and/or life-limiting conditions, located on the Annex site next to Torbay Hospital.

The Unit offers activities to provide children with a break as well as the medical support they need. There is a well-equipped sensory room, playroom and dining area as well as individual bedrooms. It is staffed by a rota of trained nurses and healthcare assistants. Children access the Unit via referral from paediatrician.

With the introduction of other short breaks options and direct payments, fewer families are choosing to access the John Parkes Unit for short breaks and if numbers continue to fall the Unit will not be sustainable.

We would like to develop the range of services on offer at the John Parkes Unit so that it benefits more children.

We have worked with parents and carers to identify a range of possible exciting opportunities for the Unit. We would like to know whether you would use any of the services listed overleaf.