

# Overview & Scrutiny

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Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: Next Steps in implementing the strategy to improve the quality, accessibility and range of short breaks for children and young people with complex needs arising from disability

Wards Affected: All Wards in Torbay

To: Health Scrutiny Board      On: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>  
December 2011

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## 1. Introduction

This report provides an update to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the next steps in implementing the strategy to improve the quality, accessibility and range of short breaks for children and young people with complex needs arising from disability.

## 2. Details of the service development

At the meeting of the Torbay Care Trust Board on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011, it was agreed that further work would be undertaken with families to explore the potential of securing a short-breaks provider within the catchment area of Torbay Hospital, through the use of their personal budgets. To take this forward, all the families that currently access the John Parkes Unit were sent a letter to inform them of the outcomes of the procurement process and were invited to express their interest with the Care Trust if they wished to participate in the personal budget work.

In the letter we gave our commitment to work with families to:

1. Facilitate and enable them to explore how they can directly commission services from providers located within the catchment area of Torbay Hospital
2. Provide commissioning knowledge and expertise to set quality and assurance standards with providers
3. Allocate an NHS resource to each family based on the assessed needs of the child and family to enable them to commission an appropriate number of short breaks bed days based on their existing use of the John Parkes Unit

Some parents have expressed an interest in moving to alternative providers already in situ and this transition is taking place at the pace which each family feels is appropriate.

Work has begun with the small number of families who want to pursue the personal budget opportunity; and person-centred plans have been developed by each child's Lead Professional in conjunction with the families. The plans will inform the scale and scope of the commission that would be required and will inform discussions with providers. We have also undertaken market soundings from the main providers of specialist children's short breaks to identify whether any of them would be interested in working with families in this innovative way.

So far, two providers have expressed an interest in working with the families; and we will be facilitating initial discussions with the providers about their service offer, quality standards, pricing and timelines. We are continuing to meet regularly with parents as a project group to enable this work.

#### **4. Next Steps:**

##### **Documents available in members' rooms**

None

##### **Background papers**

- Commissioning Short Breaks for Children and Young People with Physical and Learning Disabilities- HOSC 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010
- Commissioning Short Breaks for Children and Young People with Physical and Learning Disabilities- HOSC 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010
- Commissioning Short Breaks for Children and Young People with Physical and Learning Disabilities- HOSC 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010
- Next Steps in implementing the strategy for short breaks for children and young people with complex needs arising from disability- HOSC 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011