

**Name of Service/Policy/Function to undergo Impact Analysis:**

**Proposal for Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People**

**Key contact person & others involved including Members:**

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Matthew Look (Lead Commissioner, Children’s Services)  
Stuart Hall (Vicechair, Wiltshire Parent Carer Council)

**Date Completed: July 2013**

**Review date: October 2013**

**Identify aims:**

The purpose of the Proposal for Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People is to achieve better outcomes for disabled children and young people by:

- Ensuring equity of access across Wiltshire to overnight short breaks for families with a disabled child;
- Providing parents and carers with a choice between different types of overnight short break provision;
- Ensuring the funding available for overnight short breaks is used effectively, avoiding tying up resource in any provision that is not well utilised;
- Reinvesting any savings back into short breaks services (a cost neutral approach) so that families with disabled children can be assured that they will continue to receive effective support.
- Identifying benefits for disabled children and young people and their families.

The Proposal addresses the following key areas:

- Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People
- Support services relating to Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People
- Deployment of funding and resources

**Collect and use evidence:**

The Proposal has been informed by national and local policy, best practice and developments which are relevant to disabled children and young people in Wiltshire. This includes:

**National Policy and Developments**

- The Green Paper Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability, 2012
- Aiming High for Disabled Children
- An increase in the range and quantity of short breaks provision
- A trend of moving towards a mixed model for overnight short breaks and a reduction in specialist overnight residential provision.

**Local Policy and Developments**

- Children and Young People’s Plan 2012-15
- Draft Joint Commissioning Strategy Framework
- 11-19 Commissioning Strategy
- Children in Care Commissioning Strategy
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Commissioning Strategy

- Family & Parenting Support Commissioning Strategy
- Draft Review of Services for children and young people in Wiltshire with autistic spectrum disorders
- Strategic Priorities Statement
- Review of Overnight Short Breaks
- An increase in the range and quantity of short breaks provision and support services

To support development of the Proposal the following tasks were undertaken:

- Analysis of the overall resource across Wiltshire for overnight short breaks;
- Analysis of activity and use of overnight short breaks provision;
- A survey to ascertain the views of parents and carers who currently use overnight short break services;
- Analysis of similar provision in other authorities.

To further inform any decision a three month consultation will take place between July and October.

### Assess the impact:

#### Service users covered

Service users covered by the Proposal are Children and Young People with SEN and/or Disability age 0-18 and their families, in particular those who use or may use in the future overnight short break services. The five Wiltshire children and young people and their families who would be using Hillcote from April 2014 are the most directly affected by the proposal.

#### Benefits to service users

Service users would benefit from the Proposal in the following ways:

- Increase the amount of locally based provision.
- Improve support services to address issues parent carers have highlighted as key reasons for needing overnight short breaks (and thereby improve outcomes for children and families)
- Improve choice for children and young people and their families in terms of overnight short breaks.

#### Impact to Hillcote Service Users

Families of children who would be using Hillcote from April 2014 may be concerned by the Proposal because it would mean a change in their service provision. This will be addressed in the following ways:

- Individual meetings with each family to explain the Proposal and reassure them that if the proposal is approved an alternative package of care will be offered.
- Care plans to be developed with each family to ensure the needs of the children and families continue to be met. This will include ensuring any health needs of the children continue to be met in full. Where transport is an issue this will also be considered.

Some disabled children and young people find change particularly difficult and any change in service would need to be managed with care. For the five families directly affected transition plans to any new services would be developed for each child.

## Ensure fairness:

### Geography

The usage of overnight short break provision in Wiltshire has been analysed and it was found that families who used the residential units (Hillcote and Canon's House) tended to live within the local area of those units. Families who did not live close to a residential unit were tending not to use overnight residential units. This indicates that a model of provision which is bias towards residential unit provision is not equitable for families who do not live near the units.

The Proposal would reinvest savings from closing one residential unit (Hillcote) into more family based care, meaning that there would be a greater provision of locally provided overnight short breaks. This would be more equitable for families throughout the county. It is possible that for some of the five families who would be using Hillcote from April 2014 that alternative provision would not be as local for them. Transport will need to be considered in the care planning for these families.

### Eligibility

Overnight short breaks are currently available via social worker assessment of need. The proposal would not change this approach.

### Complex Needs including Health Needs

The complexity of needs of children using both residential units has been analysed and Hillcote and Canon's House can both cater for complex needs, including complex Health needs). Under the Proposal Wiltshire would continue to be able to offer overnight short breaks to children with the most complex needs.

### Developing the Proposal

The development of the Proposal has been coordinated by the Overnight Short Breaks Steering Group, which reports back to the Children's Trust Commissioning Executive and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The Steering Group consists of a range of stakeholders ensuring a balance of views:

- the Joint Head of Commissioning for Children's Services for NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council;
- Wiltshire Council's Lead Commissioner for children with disabilities;
- representatives of Wiltshire Parent Carers Council (a group of approximately 600 parents);
- the Head of Specialist Services with responsibility for Hillcote from Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
- the service lead for Canon's House and the Council's Children with Disabilities Teams;
- representatives of the Council's Family Link service.

### Consultation

The consultation on the Proposal has been widely communicated to a range of stakeholders and hosted on the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council website. Feedback can be submitted by a range of methods to ensure fair access and participation, this includes online, by telephone or by letter. Individual feedback meetings will be held with each of the five families whose current use of Hillcote would be directly affected by the Proposal.

## Finalise your decision:

The decision on whether to implement the Proposal will be made by the Clinical Commissioning Group following the 3 month consultation. The Clinical Commissioning Group will be provided with a report summarising the feedback received from the consultation including the views of the public and the views of the service users.