

Hertfordshire County Council

Children's Services - Overnight Short Breaks Consultation

Overnight Short Breaks (OSB) is a residential service for Hertfordshire children and young people (CYP) with disabilities, including complex health needs. The service provides respite in a safe and suitable setting for the child/young person away from home to allow parents or carers to have a break from caring responsibilities.

Overnight short breaks may be available during evenings, weekends and throughout the day during school holidays. The service is provided to CYP with disabilities only when a successful referral or package has been agreed by the 0-25 Together Service.

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) is recommissioning the Overnight Short Breaks Service and wants to hear what you think about the proposals.

There will be no changes to the service during the consultation period nor will the outcome of the consultation affect the amount of support that families currently receive. HCC is **not** proposing to reduce the number of OSB settings, of which there are three.

The proposed OSB Service Model:

The proposed new service model has been discussed and developed with representatives from Hertfordshire Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI), Carers in Herts, Young Commissioners, Health colleagues and professionals within the County Council. Together with our own analysis and performance of the current service, we have also run surveys of parent views and a well-attended stakeholder event.

All three provisions will operate to the same service specification in order to care for CYP with disabilities and complex health needs who live in Hertfordshire and/or have a Hertfordshire GP.

There will continue to be three OSB provisions across Hertfordshire:

- The Pines, a Hertfordshire County Council building in Hertford.
- West Hyde, a Hertfordshire County Council building in West Hyde near Rickmansworth. This building has been extended to help meet the needs of CYP with complex health needs.
- A central Hertfordshire Location – building and service provider to be procured. Currently this service is provided by Jubilee House Care Trust at the Peartree short break project.

The OSB Service will be for¹:

- CYP aged 8-18 years with disabilities who live in Hertfordshire.
- CYP who do not sleep regularly through the night and need supervision to stay safe;
- CYP who have complex needs and regularly need attention during the night;
- CYP with challenging behaviour who require a safe and secure setting within which to receive support;
- families who have reached or are reaching a crisis point, where the CYP needs have such a significant impact at home that the parent/carer needs a longer break. OSB supports the needs and resilience of the whole family;
- occasions where other possible options have been fully explored by the case worker but found to be inadequate. This includes any impact of interventions such as sleep training and/or challenging behaviour training.

Proposed Service Capacity:

The new service model will look at commissioning three OSB providers. HCC has identified ways in which to deliver OSB services that will ensure that the service continues to provide the same amount of support as is currently available to CYP and their families. The services will run using a staff ratio of 1 member of staff to 1 child. The service providers will need to ensure that at any time at least 85% of the service or the beds in the service are fully occupied, ensuring that the maximum number of OSB nights can be delivered for CYP and beds not left empty unnecessarily.

How will this affect me, or the person I care for, should the proposed changes be made?

Any decision that is made following the consultation will not affect the allocation of support that you receive. Through these proposals HCC is **not** reducing the number of OSB settings nor the number of beds or places available.

The procurement process may result in a change of organisations that are commissioned to run the three OSB provisions and may result in a change in the Peartree building to another central Hertfordshire location.

What are the next steps?

The consultation is open from 12th February **2020 until midnight on 30th April 2020**

All feedback and suggestions provided will be considered by County Councillors before a final decision is made.

How do I take part in the consultation?

¹ CYP will be referred to access OSB via a social care assessment

You can complete the consultation questionnaire online here:
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/shortbreaksconsultation under the ‘Open Consultations’ section.

We will be sending the consultation link to all parent/carers of CYP that currently use the OSB service.

If you need the consultation in a different format (for example an easy read version or paper), you can find these online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/shortbreaksconsultation (consultation section), or they can be requested using the details below:

Email: csfcommissioning@hertfordshire.gov.uk or telephone 01438 843936

We will also be holding a meeting to discuss the consultation, the details of which are below. This is another way that you can feedback on the proposals.

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 17 th March 2020	6-7.30pm	Sportsman Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield, AL10 0AN. Onsite parking available.
Thursday 19 th March 2020	10-11.30am	Large Meeting Room, Welwyn Garden City Library, Campus West, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6AJ. The library has two disabled parking spaces which operate on a ‘first come first served’ basis. There is a nearby public pay and display car park.

How do I get help responding to the consultation?

If you need help responding to the consultation, please contact:

Email: csfcommissioning@hertfordshire.gov.uk Or telephone 01438 843936

Thank you for taking the time to provide your responses and feedback