

0-25 SEND Commissioning

Children Services

Hertfordshire County Council

2nd Floor Farnham House

Six Hills Way, Stevenage SG1 2FQ

Postal Point SFAR204

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Dear provider,

Review of Hertfordshire's Overnight Short Break Services

We are writing to provide a brief update on the review that has been undertaken in 2015 of Hertfordshire's Overnight Short Break (OSB) services for children and young people with disabilities. This review forms part of the Hertfordshire 0-25 Integrated Commissioning Strategy which aims to give every child, young person and young adults (CYPA) with or without additional needs the opportunity to thrive in their families, in their schools and in their communities.

The integrated commissioning strategy also has the following strategic priorities for commissioning:

- **Personalisation** - Building on the strengths of the family and their community to find solutions through a person and family-centred planning approach.
- **Integration** - Working to keep children and young people with additional needs in education and care local to their home by providing coherent and joined up arrangements across services and the community.
- **Localism** - Based and developed with local communities by families, children and young people with additional needs.

The review of Overnight Short Break services was undertaken to analyse the current usage of these commissioned services and the factors that impact upon usage ahead of a future tender for these services. The following findings were identified:

- The current trends of usage for overnight short break services and future population predictions indicate that there will be less demand for overnight short break services to meet specific social care needs. Monitoring data of these services shows that usage of the social care commissioned services has decreased by 60% in Hertfordshire since 2011-12 and this is expected to continue to decrease further in the coming years due to population trends, an expected increase in take up of community and more personalised services.
- Based upon current trends and future population predictions there is not expected to be a decline in the number of children and young people with complex health needs

that are eligible to use overnight short break services commissioned by both HCC and the CCG's

- There are currently different processes for assessing need and determining access to commissioned overnight short break services within Hertfordshire. For instance health and social care services have separate processes for assessing a child and family's needs and their eligibility for these services. This may cause inconsistency in the decision making process and could also impact upon the choice of services available for children, young people and their families to meet their needs.
- Staff resource allocation and operational practice will need to be considered in more detail as part of the recommissioning process.

This review has identified that further work is required to inform future commissioning decisions. These tasks are outlined below:

- To consult with children and young people that use overnight short break services and their families about the service they receive and to understand the outcomes that these services bring to their lives
- To develop a joint assessment and decision making process between both CCG's and HCC where care planning decisions are personalised and made based upon a set criteria of need and children and young people are able to access the most appropriate service to meet their needs.
- To test the option or appraise the benefits of jointly commissioning overnight short break services and the viability of retaining the current delivery model i.e. a separate health provision.
- To co-produce the future model (including consideration for the personalisation of these services) and the volume of OSB services to be commissioned with children, young people and their families and key partners including both CCG's, HCC and Public Health.
- The HCC social care contracts to be reviewed and extended to enable the above processes to be completed before OSB services are re-commissioned.

Yours sincerely,



Patricia Walker
Children's Services



Liz Biggs
Herts Valleys Clinical
Commissioning Group



Kate Barker
East and North
Hertfordshire Clinical
Commissioning Group