

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

24 OCTOBER 2012

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN

BCBC SHORT BREAKS STATEMENT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide information to the Cabinet Committee on the development and implementation of the Bridgend Short Breaks Statement.

2. Connection to Corporate Plan

- 2.1 The Council has key responsibilities for the provision of services to disabled children and their families which fall within the following community strategy themes:
- Young Voices
 - Strong Communities

3. Background

- 3.1 The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (Wales) Regulations 2012 came into force on 28 June 2012. The Regulations can be found at Appendix 1, along with Best Practice Guidance – Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (Wales) Regulations 2012, which can be found at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The Regulations state that a Local Authority must prepare a 'short break services statement' setting out details of:
- a) the range of services the local authority provides;
 - b) any eligibility criteria for assessment for services;
 - c) how the services are designed to meet the needs of carers in its area.
- 3.3 The local authority must publish its short break services statement which includes placing a copy on its website.
- 3.4 When preparing and revising its short break services statement, the local authority must consider carers in its area.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The Regulations require that a Short Breaks Statement be published on Bridgend County Borough Council's web site by 27 September

2012. In order to meet this requirement, the Corporate Director - children has exercised her delegated power under Scheme B2, Paragraph 4.13 which states:

“To take any steps necessary to ensure that the Council complies with its statutory obligations to children and adults.”

- 4.2 A Short Breaks Statement has been established and published on the BCBC website on 27 September 2012. A copy of Bridgend’s short breaks statement can be found at Appendix 3.
- 4.3 An information event for parents and carers of disabled children and young people took place on 9 October 2012, whereby the Acting Principal Officer for Disability and Early Intervention, author of the Statement presented it.
- 4.4 As required by the Regulations, the Statement will be reviewed annually and updated accordingly.
- 4.5 A task group will be established involving all key stakeholders in order to further develop the 2012 Statement, with an aim to improve the participation of parents/carers and disabled children and young people.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 As the publishing of the Statement does not impact on current policies, procedures or service provision, it has not been deemed necessary to complete an Equity Impact Assessment.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 Raising awareness of the rights of carers of disabled children to a short break service may lead to an increase in demand for such services. The most significant financial implication, therefore, could be in relation to requests for specialist short break services e.g. direct payments. However, the Statement does clearly specify how the provision of such specialist short break services is subject to an assessment of need which will be undertaken in response to an appropriate referral to the Disabled Children’s Team. This will ensure that any specialist short break service is provided in response to a robust assessment of need.
- 7.2 There will be associated costs with the required ongoing publishing of the Statement, i.e. design, translation and print and postage.
- 7.3 In addition, in order to effectively review and further develop the Statement, it will be necessary to establish a stakeholder group which

will need to include the participation of parents, carers and disabled children and young people. Funding will need to be considered in order to support this work.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Committee endorses the Statement of Short Breaks Services and considers how it would wish to be involved in any review of the Statement.

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Background Documents

Appendix 1 – Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (Wales) Regulations 2012

Appendix 2 – WG Document, Best Practice Guidance, Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (Wales) Regulations 2012

Appendix 3 – Bridgend Short Breaks Statement