

Consultation Comments, key messages

| | Parents | Professionals |
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| Why the current service is important | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It enables families to work and not rely on benefits. • Working helps financially but also with mental health and wellbeing of carers • It allows families to have time to themselves and spend time with the rest of their families • It gives families time to socialise • It gives children a wider circle of friends • It brings families together and leaves them feeling much less isolated. • It is important for disabled children to have time away from their families to take part in activities, and spend time with their peers. • It is the only way a lot of disabled children can have regular, affordable activities outside of school that keep them mixing with others, being independent, building self-esteem, social confidence and staying fit and healthy in a safe and supported way • Many children cannot be cared for in any mainstream provision • Some children would not be able to live at home with me with their complex needs without these vital services. • Many children live in a rural location and without activities would be isolated and lonely. • The care provision is vital • It is important that children maintains social contact with other children during the school holidays, and enjoy doing different activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialised activities have specialised staff, who nurture the young people, helping them to build confidence and to believe they can. At a later stage they may feel able to access a mainstream activity having tried activities beforehand with specialists to guide them in the first instance. • Out of school activities support the basic need of 'sense of belonging' • Out of school activities provide carers and parents with much needed respite, as well as providing valuable and transformative opportunities for young people to make friends, learn skills, have new experiences • Important for young people to feel part of a peer group - that should mean children with disabilities as well as local community, school, etc. • important to have differentiated activities for development of wide range of independence, social, communication, physical and other skills • Important for families - parents. carers. siblings - to see their disabled young person as independent • Because it's fun • It is a lifeline to working families and lone parents. It prevents isolation, family stress and crisis. • The current service helps families stay together, without these services so many families would really struggle. • To give children independence to develop themselves as a whole and experiences outside the home and school environment |

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| Future Service Design | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We still need support for parents • Please make the services more widely available • Both after school clubs and activities in the school holidays are vital for working parents • "the ""inclusion support"" funding is SUCH a great idea and has been a real help to many families... So please kindly take into consideration what a big help this grants scheme is!!! • Please ask parents to help. Many of us would help with delivery of services, given a structure and venue and many are able to contribute more to costs. We just need these services to continue • Further cuts to services will impact very seriously on our ability to continue to work. I am happy to pay for care. • the focus should be in income generation to develop services and improving provision • Future service design should find out what parents need, when and where and what the children want. • Parents need to know what is available in their area. • Many Parents would be willing to pay more for out of school activities and transport, rather than have the provision removed. • It should be made much easier for families to find out about what is available. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please involve the children in young people in the design • more families may be prepared to pay some towards services if they are given payment plans that can be broken down to small instalments • Need to take account of differing disabilities and management needs • Parents in partnership • A way to save the money which is needed could be to charge parents slightly more for sessions, reduce after school clubs by one hour, run 3 days per week during the main holidays and not run activities during half term holiday as there is less of a need for this service. • If more disabled children could access 'universal services' it would limit the demand on specialist services. It would however require some intensive input over a short period to introduce and support disabled children and young people into this provision. • Rather than using commissioned providers that a school could apply for funding to run their own clubs. • Short regular breaks are more effective for families than just a project that runs in the school holidays. • Use of local facilities to save on long and costly transport are essential • If afterschool clubs were provided by schools, which already have staff/transport and a relationship with the young people, this would free up funding for youth clubs and activities during the school holidays. |

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| Residential short break and respite Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service is fantastic • The staff are lovely and you can trust them • Communication is really good • It is an amazing service that gives a break and gives a child a break from family. • quality service • Staff are extremely supportive • Excellent communication. • They know him well he really enjoys going and they help chose activities he can take part in • Staff are well trained and we are confident in their abilities. • Having transport taken care of also helps to relieve the burden • Timings could be better. • Families were generally unsure about the Short Break Foster Care model as an option. Clear information would need to be provided. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many families need overnight care for disabled children so they can catch up on sleep • There are periods of stress in families and if this can be relieved in a timely fashion it can minimise any long lasting effects • Flexibility of overnights - I do not agree with the proposal to change the way it is done at the moment - these overnights are not given out lightly and the families rely on knowing when the nights will be to work through the week. • Fostering - I am not sure what this entails so have not commented. |

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| Children's Home for Disabled Children | Parents were not asked about this | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family feel. Good staff. Happy and healthy children • Small enough to have a homely feel. Space for individual differences. Very suitable for some young people with specific needs who either can't cope with family based care or whose needs are too complex to be be met in a family home. • It is key that this service in within Oxfordshire and it is always seems open to integrated working and communication to allow children to transition into |

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| | | <p>residential living smoothly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• they provide continuity or care and you see a marked improvement in the Childrens especially those on the autistic spectrum• Pupils that have (or are using) this service are happy and flourishing. |
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