

Our ref: 101000619653
FOI response
Date: 30 April 2015



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Dear Ms Tyrrell,

Request for Information Reference Number: RFI/101000619653

Thank you for your request for information, received on 30 June 2015.
The information you have requested and the answers to your request are as follows:

1)What evidence do you have that the statement is accessible to families (i.e. unique visitors/ postal reach etc.)?

Feedback from families via consultation events and other ad-hoc meetings is that the current offer and statement is not as accessible to families as it should be. But there is no regular quality check made on the statement.

2)How often do you review the Short breaks statement? When was the last time you revised it and for what reason?

The short breaks statement was reviewed in 2014 as a result of the overall review of short breaks provision. It will be reviewed as part of the work ongoing to revise the short breaks offer to families. This work is to be completed by the end of the current financial year.

3)How many children have been refused short breaks services because of eligibility criteria in the last twelve months? How many of these had an assessment?

Short Breaks in Medway is currently accessed through direct referral by families; providers are expected to manage referrals to their provision, the Council does not monitor the numbers of children whom providers feel do not meet their eligibility criteria

4)How often do you consult families on the content of the short breaks statement? When did this last happen and how many families were involved?

Medway is currently revising its Short Breaks Offer; this includes the Short Breaks Statement. Consultation is taking place via consultation meetings with families and via Medway Parent Carers Forum, it is difficult to determine how many families are involved in this process as we don't have records of the numbers of families who are in touch with the Parent Carers Forum. However 27 families attended the recent consultation events

5)What evidence do you have that you deliver short breaks to children and young people as outlined in your statement?

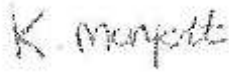
The offer of short breaks is being revised currently. This is because, as a result of a review of short breaks provision that was carried out in 2014, feedback from families was that the current offer did not provide sufficient flexibility and/or did not allow then as much choice and control over provision

6)How many children do you have records of that you consider to be currently eligible for short breaks?

Accurate records of number of children accessing are not available

If you are unhappy with the information we have provided and wish to request an Internal Review please put your request in writing to customer.relations@medway.gov.uk
For further information regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 please refer to our website at
www.medway.gov.uk/thecouncilanddemocracy/performanceandpolicy/freedomofinformationact.aspx

Yours sincerely



Kyle Maryott
Customer Relations Team