



4th December 2014

Dear Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of Parents in Partnership Stockport, which is a parent carer forum representing families within the Stockport Area who have children with disabilities and or additional needs. We are a local forum providing a strategic voice for families within the various services that Stockport MBC provide across Children's and Adult services 0-25 years.

We are writing on behalf of Stockport families to highlight their concerns regarding the proposed budget cuts to Aiming High Short Breaks provision. In October and early November families were invited to be part of the consultation. If the proposals go ahead only those families who have a Social worker allocation i.e level 3 / 4 will be able to access the future shorts breaks service. We are very concerned at these proposals to the Short Breaks provision and the impact that this will have on some of the most vulnerable families within our community of Stockport.

We have raised a number of issues relating to the consultation, the processes relating to the decision making process and also the impact these cuts will have on carers as well. We have attached copies of the 2 letters we sent to the Chief Executive Mr Eammon Boylan and also the reply we received from him, although we feel that the reply we received didn't address the issues we raised.

We understand that now the consultation has concluded and a report with recommendations has been compiled. This report, we understand will be presented to yourselves the elected members for debate. Although we are not party to the report, we do hope that our concerns and issues raised within our letters have been addressed satisfactory.

We are very concerned that we will definitely see many more families entering into the need of crisis intervention, where they will require further support of the Social Care system because of the lack of break provision in their caring role. By cutting the funding to the Shorts Breaks provision, it will have the desired effect in terms of reducing the current budget. However, in overall terms in the future the costs will significantly increase. The Children's Social Care team are currently already overstretched and as it is would struggle to support any more families. The consequences of these proposed "Investing in Stockport" savings will be detrimental to many children, young people, parents' carers and family members in our community.

We do hope that voice of families will be heard, listened to and valued throughout your debate and the right outcome for families as a whole will be made.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact ourselves

Kind regards

Jeremy Longman & Sherann Hillman

Co-Chairs PIPS

Parents in Partnership Stockport

www.pipstockport.org