

Parents in Partnership Stockport

c/o Mr J Longman
19 Motcombe Road
Heald Green
Cheadle
Cheshire
SK8 3TP

13th November 2004

Dear Mr Boylan

We are writing to you with concern regarding the current Short Breaks Consultation and the impact the proposed cuts will have on Carer's and their families.

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011, says in section 3b

"In performing their duty under paragraph 6(1)(c) of Schedule 2 to the 1989 Act(3), a local authority must have regard to the needs of those carers who would be able to provide care for their disabled child more effectively if breaks from caring were given to them to allow them to—

- (i) undertake education, training or any regular leisure activity,
- (ii) meet the needs of other children in the family more effectively, or
- (iii) carry out day to day tasks which they must perform in order to run their household"

We would like to know how Stockport intends to meet the needs of carers by restricting the service only to those families receiving social care. Social care is primarily assessed on the needs of the child or young person, which is not the basis for the Short Breaks legislation. You could have a child with a significant disability and/or special educational need whose carers need no provision and vice versa. It is unsafe to rely on assessment of the child for allocating a service intended to meet the needs of carers.

In respect to Regulation 4(1) states that 'a local authority must provide, so far as is reasonably practicable, a range of services which is sufficient to assist carer's to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively'. These services must include a range of daytime care, overnight care and leisure activities (regulation 4(2)). How is Stockport MBC going to provide a sufficient supply of services to all carer's when some services will no longer be available to access for those who do not have Social Care intervention.

The Care Act 2014 gives an emphasis on the whole family approach and The Children and Families Act 2014 for the first time provides for a standalone right to an assessment for young carers. As with the adult assessment, a young carer now has the right to an assessment on the appearance of need.

With respect to the Children and Families 2014, the Act states

'A Local Authority in carrying out a parent carer's needs assessment must have regard to –

- a the well being of the parent carer, and
- b the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the disabled child cared for and any other child for whom the parent carer has parental responsibility.'

We would like to know how Stockport MBC's would be able to reconcile the duty of the Local Authority in the question of the well being of the Parent Carer and the immense impact the loss of the shorts breaks provision would have on the well being of the parent carer and also the potential welfare of the child / children.

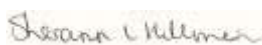
Carer's are able to use the provision of Short Break's to enable them to take a break from their caring role, which is usually to meets the needs of the rest of the family and or carry out the day to day needs tasks.

There will be a massive impact on the carer's and their families, if the support they receive through the short breaks provision are withdrawn. These are the families that are generally most vulnerable within our communities, are on low incomes and will not be able to afford to fund services etc that they received directly.

In respect to Carer's and their families who do not receive support through Social Care services, how are Stockport MBC proposing to meet the needs of the carer's and their obligations under the legislation? It appears from the information released on the Short Breaks consultation that the needs of the carer of this section of carers, that they will also loose the element of a break as well.

We looking forward to hearing from you in the near future.

For and on behalf of
Parents in Partnership Stockport



Sherann Hillman & Jeremy Longman
Co- Chairs

Cc Andrew Webb
Phil Beswick
Chris McLoughlin
Cath Millington